**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

**Michael Pennington**

 *Executive Director*

OVS Newsletter

December 29, 2021

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Credits towards VOCA/RASA/VOJO training requirements are available for all sessions (unless indicated otherwise in the session description).  To receive training credits:  1) you must be logged into the session and 2) the WebEx application must be on your computer for the entire duration of the session.  As the OVS recognizes that emergencies may arise and you may not be able to attend the entire session, there is no prohibition against attending part of a session (although training credits will not be given in that instance).

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# Revised Consolidated Victim Service Program Standard

At the November 9, 2021 Victim Services Advisory Committee, all sections of the revised of the Program Administration were approved and updated to Consolidated Victim Service Program Standards.

*The Program Administration Standard* ensure programs maintain and regularly review plans and processes that allow for successful services to be developed and delivered, identifies funding sources and aligns those resources and services with established program performance measures.  Program administration shall provide adequate resource supports and necessary guidance to program staff to effectively support victims of crime.

The revised standard has been updated in the Consolidated Victim Service Program Standards and can be located at [Consolidated Victim Service Program Standards](https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Consolidated%20Victim%20Service%20Program%20Standards%20-%20CURRENT.pdf) or on the PCCD [website](https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/Victim-Services--Rights%2C-Services%2C-Technology-and-Training.aspx).

OVS staff will begin to review the new standards during the July-December 2022 monitoring visits. All Victim Service Providers are encouraged to review the applicable standard and ensure their policy(ies) conforms to the standard. If you have any questions, please contact the program contact that is associated with your grant in Egrants.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact Brian Swoyer at bswoyer@pa.gov or 717-265-8724.

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# Upcoming STOP Competitive Solicitations

The Office of Victims’ Services anticipates the release of two separate competitive solicitations for STOP Formula Grant Funding in early 2022. We anticipate awarding one to two projects for each of the competitive solicitations. The call for these solicitations originates in [Pennsylvania’s current STOP Implementation Plan](https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/STOP%20Final%20Version%20for%20Website.pdf), which sets the goals and priorities for use of the funding from 2022-2025. OVS is providing this information to the field to encourage the cross-system conversations and planning critical to writing successful applications.

The focus of one solicitation is culturally specific populations. During the STOP Implementation Planning Process, the Statewide STOP Planning Committee emphasized the importance of listening to and learning from the experiences of culturally specific populations. This includes taking time to identify the barriers victims face in obtaining services and supports and developing solutions in partnership with organizations whose mission includes serving such populations. Of particular concern to the Statewide Planning Committee was the need to develop accessible high-quality victim services and supports for racial/ethnic minority victims; victims with limited English proficiency and immigrants, refugees and undocumented individuals. The solicitation for culturally specific projects will require the development and/or enhancement of meaningful collaborations between mainstream victim service agencies and culturally-specific, community-based organizations to provide services in a culturally appropriate manner.

The focus of the second solicitation is to improve coordinated responses to sexual assault in communities across the commonwealth. Survivors of sexual violence are more likely to share their experiences and seek assistance from law enforcement, courts and other systems if the processes they encounter are victim-centered, trauma-informed and culturally responsive. One of the most promising approaches for improving victim experiences is the multidisciplinary Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Model, which provides an organized and community-based response to sexual assault. This competitive solicitation will encourage the development or enhancement of SARTs in local communities through training, support personnel (e.g., SART Coordinators) or improved coordination with existing multidisciplinary teams.

Potential applicants are encouraged to read through Pennsylvania’s STOP Implementation Plan for the context and detailed information used by the STOP Implementation Planning Committee in recommending these targeted solicitations.

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# Deposits In Federal Crime Victim Fund Up Under New Law

Since Congress expanded the category of eligible deposits in the federal crime victims fund (VOCA), it received its largest monthly deposit in the last four fiscal years, says Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta.The so-called VOCA Fix provided that deferred and non-deferred prosecution deposits could be accepted by the fund. Previously, only federal court verdicts and settlements could be used for crime victim aid. The total deposited into the fund since Congress acted has been $224 million, which Gupta called "very encouraging news."

Please click [here](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.reply.asu.edu%2F%3Fqs%3D5b23f787fefb3345af04061248ca20a28096c10c8a4df6756876f95d4970facf7be3a436d187101efb1ba7022f7f15d8d98c1cd1e7e05a74&data=04%7C01%7Cledorsey%40pa.gov%7C4dfc4c59cfc5483c580e08d9c0bf85b3%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637752751106678822%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=AO1cIEgZfFGBjgoIYUQU47LgN39taPIXNJFGOZNipCo%3D&reserved=0) to read.

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# PCADV Podcast

PCADV is launching its brand-new podcast, “Beyond Closed Doors,” in January!

Please click [here](https://www.instagram.com/p/CXtewCeKLwO/) to read more.

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# In Focus

WGAL’s recent *In Focus* segment, examined the causes of domestic violence and featured a survivor who shared her story.

Please click [here](https://www.wgal.com/article/dec-11-2021-wgal-in-focus-domestic-violence-awareness/38486294?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=adbd05ca-611b-4652-99a4-01a831597f32) to view.

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# ****Firearm Restriction Laws And Intimate Partner Homicide: Protective Effects By Race****

In this webinar participants will hear from researchers Charvonne N. Holliday, PhD and April Zeoli, PhD about their recent study examining whether domestic violence firearm restriction laws were associated with reductions in intimate partner homicide and firearm intimate partner homicide in Black and White populations, separately.

Please click [here](https://www.bwjp.org/resource-center/resource-results/firearms-restrictions-laws.html) to view.

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# The Pandemic Mental Effect On Kids

The U.S. Surgeon General recently warned that the pandemic has had negative mental health impacts on youth.

Please click [here](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/surgeon-general-vivek-murthy-pandemic-mental-health-youth_n_61c8ea30e4b0d637ae8de831) to read.

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# US Gender-Based Violence National Action Plan: A Civil Society Forum

The National Network To End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) President remarks at the development of the Gender-Based Violence National Action Plan.

Please click [here](https://nnedv.org/latest_update/remarks-of-deborah-j-vagins-informing-the-development-of-the-us-gbv-national-action-plan/) to read.

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# The Path To Progress: Five Priorities For Police Reform

From the Council on Criminal Justice, is a new report with recommendations on police reform.

Please click [here](https://counciloncj.foleon.com/policing/assessing-the-evidence/five-priorities/) to read.

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# Transformational Collaborations: Considerations To Apply A Racial Equity

There is a strong interest and movement towards collaboration in the victim services field. A critical analysis of collaboration efforts that involve culturally specific organizations, however, show they often amount to little more than a referral network, function independently, and centralize leadership and control. Traditional collaboration concepts fail to critically examine how power is conceptualized, activated, and institutionalized in the United States. This leads to a frequent and pervasive exclusion of culturally specific organizations that perpetuates inequities; even in projects intended to address them. The Transformational Collaborations: Considerations to Apply a Racial Equity Lens will help expose the subtle, yet insidious mechanisms that lead to the marginalization of people of color and culturally specific organizations, offer strategies to resist these mechanisms, and provide recommendations to transform collaborations into equitable partnerships.

Please click [here](https://reachingvictims.org/resource/transformational-collaborations-considerations-to-apply-a-racial-equity-lens/) to read.

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# 12 Major Cities Hit All-Time Homicide Records

At least 12 major U.S. cities have broken [annual homicide records](https://abcnews.go.com/US/gunviolence/) in 2021 -- and there's still three weeks to go in the year. Of the dozen cities that have already surpassed the grim milestones for killings, five topped records that were set or tied just last year.

Please click [here](https://abcnews.go.com/US/12-major-us-cities-top-annual-homicide-records/story?id=81466453) to read.

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# Eldercaring Coordination: Abuse Intervention In Guardianship

Though burgeoning research in the area of elder mistreatment has advanced our understanding of the field, the literature has also exposed significant gaps in our knowledge base. A subject of continuing concern is interventions, specifically, the paucity of available remedies, the inadequacy of person-centered resolutions, and the lack of an evidence base to assess the effectiveness of existing abuse prevention strategies.[i] One evidence-informed practice with the potential to mitigate mistreatment has gained national prominence and increasing traction. In the topical and much-discussed arena of guardianship, a setting rife with the possibility of abuse, Eldercaring coordination has emerged as a meaningful intervention.

Please click [here](https://ncea.acl.gov/NCEA-Blog/Nov-18-2021.aspx) to read.

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# Planning For Sustainability, Diversifying Funding, And Writing Complex Grants

Victim serving organizations often struggle with fluctuating funding sources and levels of support. The first session will explore two critical domains of sustainability planning—effective resource and partnership development—and will help participants apply strategies that build strong support for their programs, potentially leading to new funding opportunities. The second session will explore the essential ingredients of complex grant applications: compelling statements of need, detailed budget justifications aligned with project goals and objectives, and quality outcome measures. Implementing these plans and using these tools will improve the odds of success in finding strategic and sustainable funding.

**Wednesdays, January 12 and 19, 2022, from 2:00–4:00 p.m.**

Please click [here](https://icf.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_qGLg4NUgTuaSq12jKDWJ4Q) to register.

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# Collaborating To Advance Survivors’ Voices And Rights In Criminal Justice, Winter 2022

Crime victims who interact with criminal justice may find the experience empowering and an aid in their healing journey, or they may experience re-victimization and new traumas from the interaction. What explains the difference in outcome? Survivor empowerment. When survivors are empowered with knowledge of their rights and have the ability to activate them they will have better personal outcomes. Integral to empowering survivors are front-line advocates – system-based and community-based – working together to support victims. This four-week, 10 hour course will teach the fundamentals of advocate collaboration necessary to meaningfully protect survivors’ rights and enhance survivor agency. The course is designed for community- and system-based advocates who serve survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking and dating violence as they interact with criminal justice.

Live online sessions are scheduled for four consecutive Thursdays at 2:00-4:00PM Eastern / 11:00-1:00PM Pacific on the following dates:

January 20, 2022

January 27, 2022

February 3, 2022

February 10, 2022

Please click [here](https://law.lclark.edu/centers/national_crime_victim_law_institute/events/#!view/event/event_id/333334) to read more.

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# Foundational Academy

The first Academy of 2022 will be held as follows:

**March 23 – 25, 2022**

The Graduate Hotel

125 South Atherton Street

State College, PA 16801

*This is an in-person training only; there is no virtual or hybrid option.*

There is no charge for Academy, and single hotel rooms, parking, and lunch are included. Participants are on their own in the evenings.

Registration will be open January 24 – 26, 2022 under the PDAI Training Calendar at <www.pdaa.org>. Trainings are listed by date; you will need to scroll down to March to find the information.

**There is a NEW registration process for 2022:** Registration will be open for the above three days only. During this time, those who wish to attend the March Academy will be asked to ***apply*** for a spot. Information on funding and length of time at Agency must be completed as part of this process. Registrations will no longer be automatic and accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Instead, applications to attend will be prioritized by, but not limited to, length of time at agency, number of spots filled by the agency in 2021, etc.

Once prioritized, the top 60 applicants will be notified of their acceptance into Academy. All others will be placed on the waitlist and notified of such. The selection process will take up to 2 weeks. All pending applicants will be contacted as soon as the lists are finalized. We ask for your patience during that time period; as a reminder, **we will contact you** either way.

As a reminder, Academy spots are only for those VOCA, VOJO, and RASA-Funded individuals for whom attendance is required per PCCD’s Consolidated Victim Services Standards. Additionally, only a maximum of 8 staff members per agency may apply for each Academy.

Finally, applicants must be able to attend all 3 days of Academy in its entirety, as well as complete an additional supplemental online training requirement.

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# ****Trauma-Informed Strategies To Address Victim And Witnesses Intimidation And Retaliation****

[**Project Safe Neighborhoods**](https://victimsofcrime.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=db5de61499b6cf77db23bb1ca&id=87fefcf1f4&e=80b790999c) Training and Technical Assistance team will host a webinar focused on trauma-informed strategies to address victim and witnesses’ intimidation and retaliation. This webinar will be led by [**the National Center for Victims of Crime**](https://victimsofcrime.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=db5de61499b6cf77db23bb1ca&id=ad6a10f601&e=80b790999c) on **Thursday, January 13th, 2021 at 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM EST. “**A deep understanding of victim and witness intimidation and retaliation is crucial in any agency’s violent crime reduction strategy. Jurisdictions across our country seek training and technical assistance to inform their policies and approaches when engaging with victims, witnesses, families, and communities experiencing violent crime. You should attend if you are a member or a partner of a PSN team, law enforcement agency, prosecutor’s office, parole and probation agency, or other related community organizations or service providers.”

Please click [here](https://victimsofcrime.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZIyxdIdKTYGX01OeJ1aY8g) to register.

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# Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings

The following trainings will be held on January 5, 2022.

* Stolen Benefit Cash Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Transportation Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on January 11, 2022.

* Crime Scene Cleanup Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Medical Expenses Clinic = 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on January 19, 2022

* Motor Vehicle-Related Crime Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Funeral & Burial Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on January 25, 2022.

* Relocation Expenses Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Loss of Support Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on February 1, 2022.

* Basic Compensation - 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The following trainings will be held on February 8, 2022.

* Counseling Cash Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Loss of Earnings Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

All trainings count towards 1 hour of the required RASA/VOCA/VOJO training hours, except Basic Compensation which counts towards 2 and DAVE training which counts towards 2.15.

Please click [here](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=pccd&service=6) to register.

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# Women’s Resources Of Monroe County Inc. – Employment Opportunities

Women’s Resources of Monroe County is a nonprofit, community based agency in Monroe County, Pennsylvania that provides free and confidential comprehensive support services to victims of domestic and/or sexual violence, their families and significant others; prevention education and risk reduction programs in schools and the community, and training to the professionals who work with the victims of these crimes.

Please click [here](https://www.wrmonroe.org/who-we-are/employment-opportunities-page/) to view current job opportunities.

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#  Crime Victims Council Of The Lehigh Valley – Employment Opportunities

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley provides counseling, court accompaniment, medical advocacy, and prevention education at no cost. We want survivors and community members across the Lehigh Valley to know if something happens, we will be there every step of the way in any way possible.

Please click [here](https://cvclv.org/employment/) to view current job opportunities.

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# PAAR – Employment Opportunities

Pittsburgh Action Against Rape was incorporated as a non-profit entity in 1972 and has been providing essential no-cost services to victims of sexual violence in Allegheny County for over 49 years, and is the only agency solely devoted to the issue of sexual violence.

Please click [here](https://paar.net/jobs/) to view current job opportunities.

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If your program is offering new or extended services, or implementing new initiatives that you would like to highlight, please submit your news article to Lea Dorsey at ledorsey@pa.gov.

The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **January 12, 2021**.  If you would like any training events, fundraisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Lea Dorsey at ledorsey@pa.gov  by Wednesday, **January 5, 2021**.

You have signed up to receive the OVS Newsletter from the Office of Victims' Services.  This newsletter will be sent to you on a biweekly basis via email.  If your email address changes or you would like to be removed from the OVS Newsletter distribution list, please contact Lea Dorsey at (717) 265-8733 or via email at ledorsey@pa.gov.

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Pennsylvania’s [Office of Victims’ Services](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/default.aspx)  |  3101 North Front Street  |  Harrisburg, PA  17110 |  (717) 783-0551

[www.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov)

**PA Crime Victims Website**

[www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov)

**Twitter:** [@PaCrimeCom](https://twitter.com/PaCrimeComm)m.