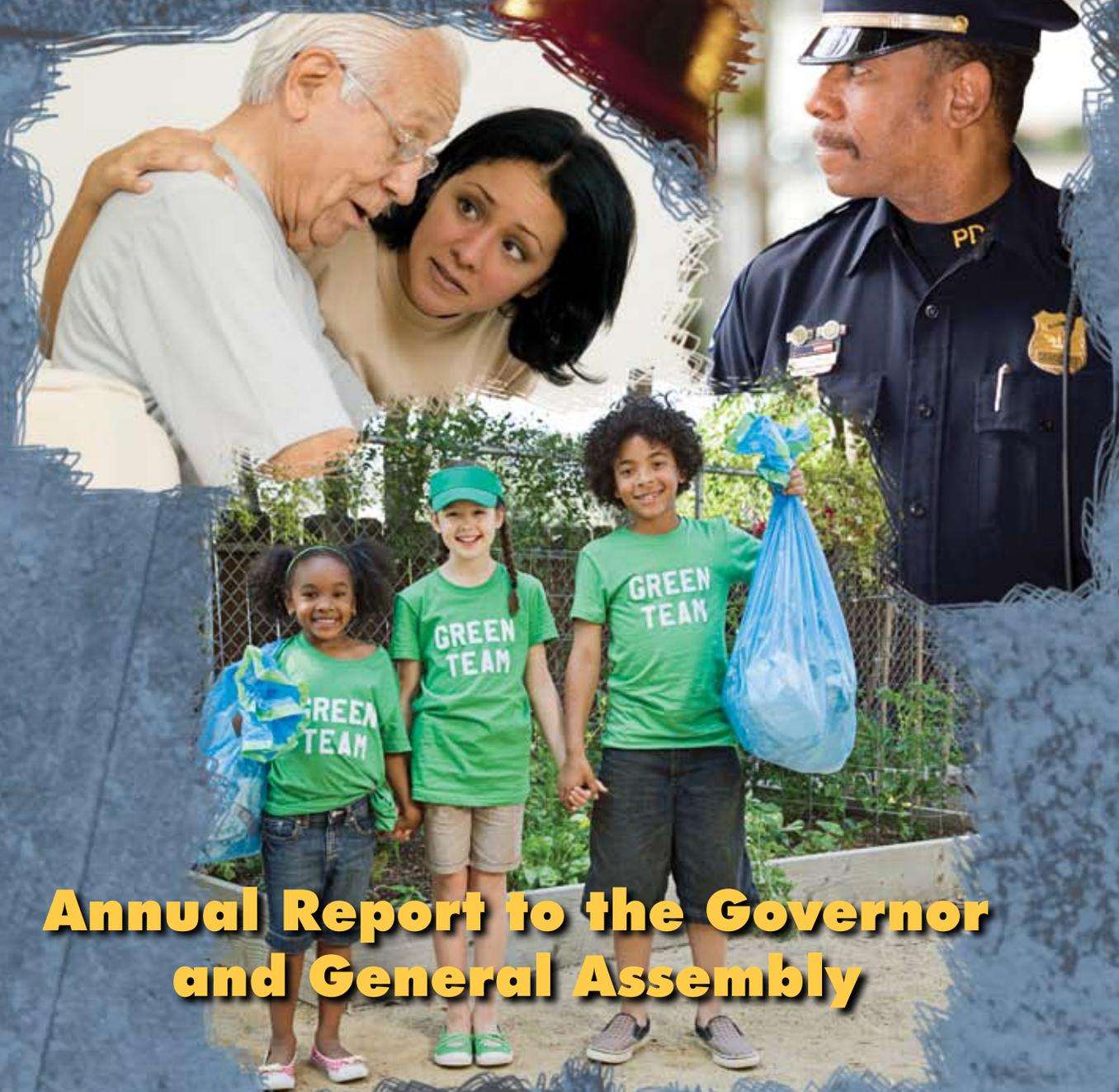




**pennsylvania**  
COMMISSION ON CRIME  
AND DELINQUENCY



# **Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly**

**Fiscal Year 2009-2010**

Walter M. Phillips, Jr., Esq.  
Chairman

Michael J. Kane, Esq.  
Executive Director



***Mission:***

The mission of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency is to enhance the quality of criminal and juvenile justice systems, facilitate the delivery of services to victims of crime and assist communities to develop and implement strategies to reduce crime and victimization.

***Vision:***

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency strives to be a state and national leader by providing innovative services and programs that promote justice for all citizens and communities of Pennsylvania.



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**pennsylvania**  
COMMISSION ON CRIME  
AND DELINQUENCY

## **Walter M. Phillips, Jr.**

was appointed Chairman of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency by Governor Edward G. Rendell on March 22, 2004.



Mr. Phillips spent ten years as a prosecutor at the federal, state and local levels, serving as assistant district attorney in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York and special prosecutor/deputy attorney general for police and official corruption in Philadelphia.

For the last two years that he was in the United States Attorney's Office, Mr. Phillips served as chief of that office's narcotics unit, where he prosecuted international narcotics traffickers and major organized crime figures.

For three years, Mr. Phillips served as chairman of the Philadelphia Ethics Board under former Mayor William Green. Currently, Mr. Phillips is of counsel to the law firm of Obermayer, Rebmann, Maxwell & Hippel, LLP, in Philadelphia, where his areas of practice include white collar criminal defense, employment and commercial litigation.

Mr. Phillips received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University and his law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

## **Michael J. Kane**

was appointed Executive Director of the Commission on June 20, 2005. As Executive Director, he provides overall direction to the Commission's staff in the performance of their duties and responsibilities to assist the Commission in its work.



Mr. Kane previously served as Deputy Secretary for Enforcement at the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. Prior to that, he served more than 18 years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, Senior Deputy Attorney

General in the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, Chief Deputy District Attorney in Denver, Colorado, and Special Deputy District Attorney in Boulder, Colorado.

Mr. Kane is a 1975 graduate of St. Joseph's College (now University) in Philadelphia and a 1979 graduate of the University of Colorado Law School in Boulder.

He is married to Cathy Kane and has two daughters, Kathleen and Madeline.

## **Errika Fearbry Jones**

has served as Vice Chair of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency since May 28, 2003.

Ms. Jones is director for the Pittsburgh Youth Intervention Project (PYIP) for the Pittsburgh Board of Education. This United States Department of Justice Project is one of four in the country.



The PYIP initiative is a collaborative strategy that focuses school district staff, law enforcement personnel, government officials and community members on solutions to address gang/youth violence. In addition, Ms. Jones

has worked with the U. S. Department of Justice as a national trainer on the Comprehensive Gang Model, has served as a C-SPAN panelist discussing alternatives to gangs and as a panelist for the Department of Justice's nationally telecast "Preventing Gangs in our Communities" series.

Prior to her current position, she worked with former Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy as the city's youth policy director. In that position, she spearheaded Pittsburgh's Serious Juvenile Offender Initiative policies that affected young people throughout the city. She is the first African American and the first woman named as vice chair. She is also the chair of the Research, Evaluation, Data Collection and Analysis Advisory Committee.

## *Dear Governor Rendell and Members of the General Assembly:*

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency remains committed to strengthening communities, empowering citizens to prevent crime, ensuring public safety and providing support to victim service agencies across the commonwealth.

Despite continued financial challenges, both state and national, PCCD has provided assistance and support to communities and their residents, including life-saving services to victims of crime, proven community-based crime prevention programs and assistance to law enforcement and judicial systems. To that end, the Commission received \$53 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to support activities designed to prevent crime and improve the criminal justice system, while creating and retaining criminal justice system jobs.



In addition, PCCD has implemented performance measures in all program areas to ensure that federal and state dollars are wisely and prudently spent on proven, evidence-based programs and services.

In the 2009-10 fiscal year, PCCD was the joint recipient of a national award from the Council of State Governments for Egrants, our innovative and comprehensive Web-based program, which is used to announce funding opportunities, submit grant applications, manage grant awards and report grant-related activities. Egrants has streamlined the overall grant application process, thus increasing efficiency and accountability and leading to significant improvements in customer service.

PCCD also embarked on a statewide outreach campaign, ensuring that all Pennsylvanians are aware of the free and confidential services available to them, should they become a victim of crime. This endeavor included the launching of a new Web site, [www.pacrimevictims.com](http://www.pacrimevictims.com), which provides information and resources to help victims in the aftermath of the crimes committed against them.

The Commission has worked with the General Assembly to reduce prison population and curb recidivism, with reentry programs and problem-solving courts being a focus of this effort. These programs have proven successful in diverting offenders from the prison population, while at the same time ensuring that ex-prisoners receive intensive supervision and sanctions coupled with treatment programs and services, all designed to ensure a successful reintegration into a community setting.

PCCD is playing an important role in the statewide effort to reduce witness intimidation. Both PCCD's chairman and its executive director were asked to serve on the first Judicial Initiative Committee, chaired by Supreme Court Justice Seamus McCaffery. They are also assisting in drafting a bench manual for use by trial judges to address witness intimidation in and around the courtroom.

On behalf of the entire Commission, I respectfully submit this report of our continued ongoing efforts to maximize resources and continue our efforts to prevent and reduce crime in Pennsylvania, with the ultimate goal of making our communities safe and vibrant places to live and thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter M. Phillips, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Walter M. Phillips, Jr., Esq.  
Chairman

## *ARRA Funds Impact Prevention and Enforcement Efforts*

PCCD received more than \$45 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or ARRA, funds to use toward improving and enhancing public safety, preventing and reducing crime, and responding to the needs of victims. After careful deliberation and discussion, PCCD developed a comprehensive, strategic plan to ensure the distribution of funds would meet those objectives.

### **Improving the Criminal Justice System.**

PCCD received \$45 million in ARRA Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program funds. These funds were designated to maintain and increase public safety statewide, while creating or retaining jobs within the law enforcement community. The funds can also be used to support criminal justice activities that work toward preventing crime and improving the criminal justice system.

*“These dollars will not only fight crime by assisting law enforcement and victim service providers, but they will also support alternatives to incarceration, such as problem-solving courts, services for at-risk youth and efforts to revitalize vacant and blighted properties across the state,” said PCCD Chairman Walter M. Phillips, Jr.*

- **Training Victim Service Providers.**

PCCD distributed \$250,000 in ARRA JAG funds to support and encourage the development of specialized training programs for direct victim service agency staff and allied professionals. The training will enhance providers’ abilities to respond to victims of crime in a proficient and culturally sensitive manner.

- **Providing Services to Individuals in the Criminal Justice System.**

More than \$400,000 of Pennsylvania’s ARRA JAG funds was allocated to provide certified forensic peer support services to individuals within the criminal justice system who are suffering from mental illness, psychiatric issues and substance abuse disorders. These services provide support in wellness and recovery, education and employment, housing and crisis. This effort is part of Pennsylvania’s long-term commitment to reduce the number of individuals with mental health and substance abuse disorders in the criminal justice system.

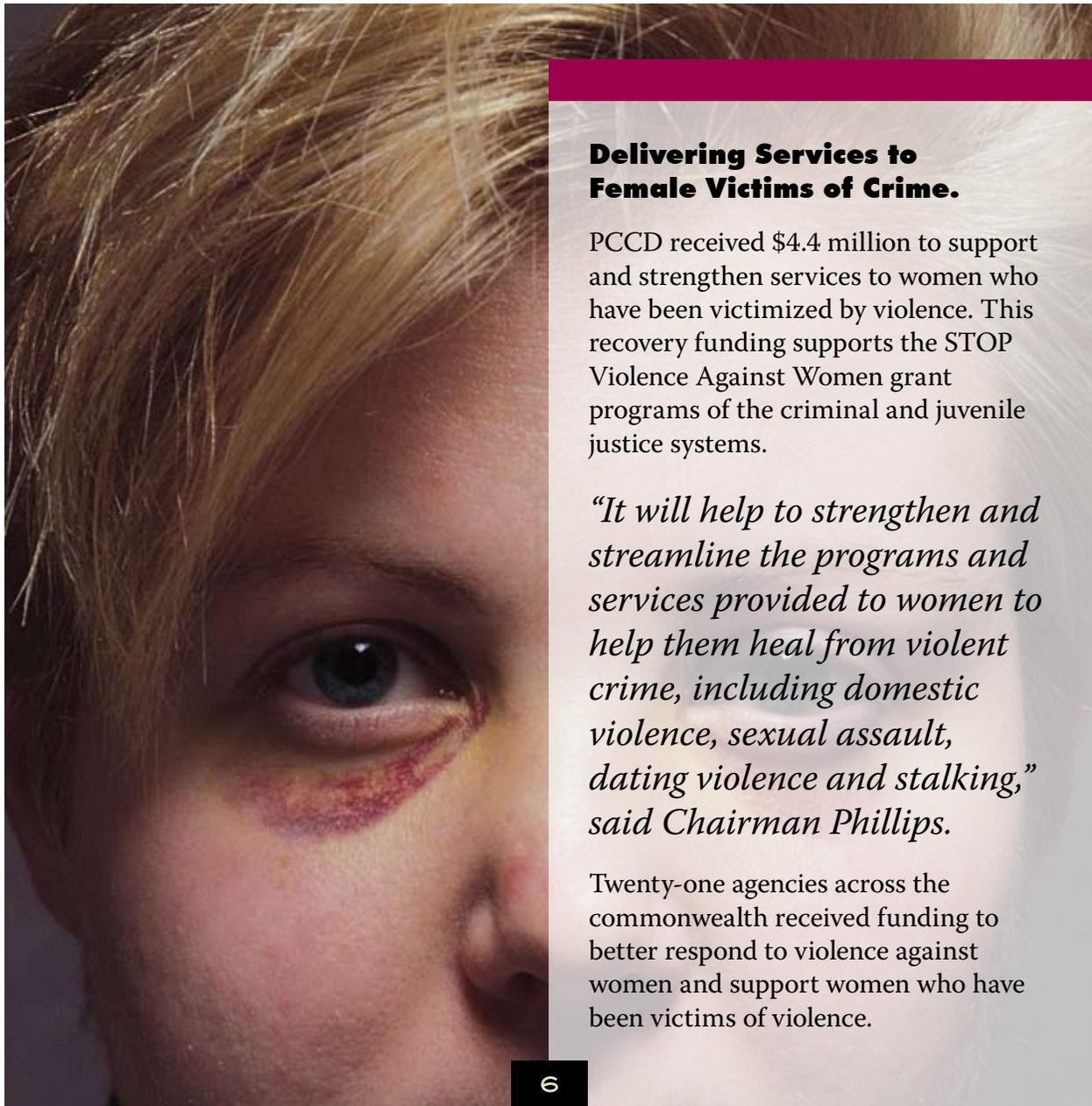
- **Helping Local Governments Improve Public Safety and Reduce Costs.**

Pennsylvania is investing \$1.8 million in ARRA JAG funds for local governments to purchase or augment law enforcement technologies and equipment, or to support collaborative or regional policing efforts. Collaborative projects, such as gang violence reduction programs, specialized training and community policing programs were also eligible activities under this funding area.

More than \$812,000 of ARRA JAG funds are designated to help counties develop new daytime or evening reporting centers for juvenile offenders. These centers provide an alternative to secure detention or out-of-home placement for young offenders.

- **Creating Safer, Stronger Communities.**

Pennsylvania is investing \$1.36 million in ARRA JAG funds to help rid neighborhoods of crime and lay the groundwork for more socially and economically vibrant communities. These funds will help support site coordinators and community and police liaisons in the state's 17 Weed and Seed communities. The Weed and Seed initiative supports collaborative community efforts to "weed" neighborhoods of drugs, guns, nuisance bars and violent offenders, then "seed" those neighborhoods with economic and social programs that address the root causes of crime, such as poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and a lack of job skills training.



### **Delivering Services to Female Victims of Crime.**

PCCD received \$4.4 million to support and strengthen services to women who have been victimized by violence. This recovery funding supports the STOP Violence Against Women grant programs of the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

*"It will help to strengthen and streamline the programs and services provided to women to help them heal from violent crime, including domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking," said Chairman Phillips.*

Twenty-one agencies across the commonwealth received funding to better respond to violence against women and support women who have been victims of violence.

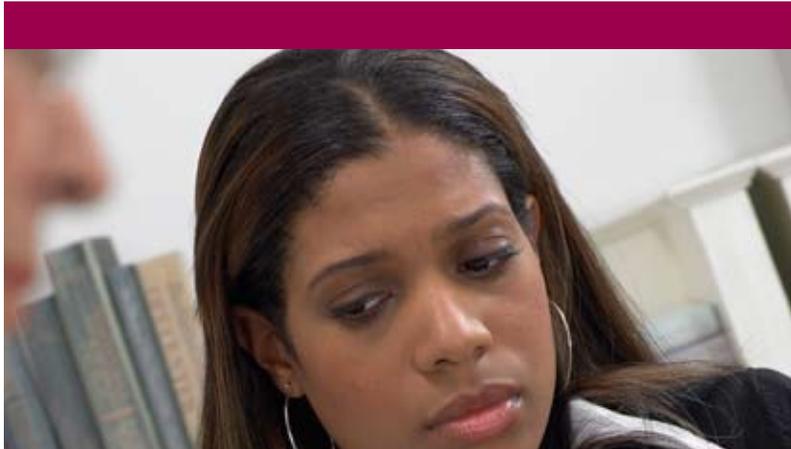
## *ARRA Impact: Setting a Family on the Road to Healing*

A single mother and three of her seven children were victims of sexual assault. The free counseling and advocacy provided by Women Organized Against Rape in Philadelphia helped set the family on the road to healing.

The mission of Women Organized Against Rape (WOAR) is to eliminate all forms of sexual violence through specialized treatment services, comprehensive prevention/ education programs and advocacy for the rights of victims of sexual assault. The free clinical services provided by WOAR have helped hundreds of women, men and children in just the last year, including this mother and her children.

The mother disclosed her own history of being victimized by sexual assault to a WOAR counselor. She blamed herself for not protecting her children and didn't feel ready to confront her own trauma history. The three children – ages 7, 6 and 4 – had been sexually abused by an older cousin providing childcare. Each child in the family was exhibiting different behavioral problems due to the abuse.

After five months of counseling, support and advocacy, each member of the family has begun to heal.



*“What we have seen from working with this family is similar to what we experience with many of our families – sexual abuse can traumatize an entire family,” said Jill Maier, MA, LPC, Director of Counseling Services for WOAR. “The family needed a place for support, therapy and referrals to other needed services and all at no cost. The funding we received enabled us to provide that service.*

*“The ARRA funds enabled WOAR to be able to continue to offer its services without disruption. If we would not have received this funding, we would have been faced with the difficult decision of possibly decreasing the number of counselors on our staff, which would result in an even longer waitlist than we already have,” she said.*

## ***ARRA Impact: Providing Resources to the Smallest Victims***

PinnacleHealth Children's Resource Center in Harrisburg evaluates hundreds of children each year who are suspected of being sexually or physically abused or witnesses to violence in their homes or communities. Most of the Center's referrals come from Dauphin County, although their service area extends throughout central Pennsylvania.

In addition to the work done by the intake/case assessment and child interview specialists, the Center was able to dedicate 50 percent of a staff member's time to a family advocate position in 2009. The advocate helps families connect with other services available throughout the community.

One non-offending mother was dealing with her child's victimization while worrying about possible eviction because she was behind in her rent. The Center's family advocate connected her with a county human services agency, where the mother was able to obtain rent assistance and avoid eviction.

Another non-offending mother had just welcomed her daughters back into her life. She needed food and clothing for her children.



The Center's family advocate referred the mother to a community ministry and a food pantry, where she received the food and clothing her children needed.

*"As a direct result of ARRA funding, we have seen some wonderful connections made to assist families in obtaining resources for a wide variety of social service needs that are crucial in stabilizing families to best respond to their children who may have been*

*victimized," said Teresa Smith, ABD, LSW, Coordinator/CAC Executive Director at the Center.*

*"These resources also help siblings and other non-offending family members. The ARRA funds have helped to ensure services will continue and allow much needed assistance to be received by the vulnerable children and families that we see."*

To find out more about  
ARRA funds in Pennsylvania,  
please visit the  
PA Recovery Act Web site at

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

## Office of Victims' Services

### Campaign Strives to Increase Awareness of Victim Services

48% of Pennsylvanians do not know where to access local services for crime victims.

53% do not know that services for crime victims are free of charge.

74% are unaware of the Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP), which can pay certain expenses that crime victims incur as a result of the crime.

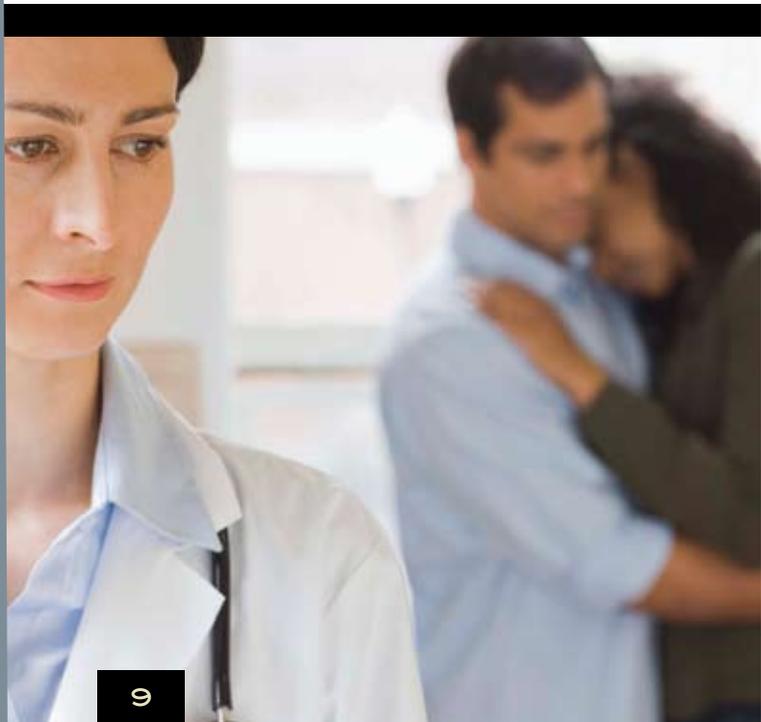
-2009 Penn State Omnibus Poll

*When PCCD informed us that they were going to be sending the Outreach/Awareness Campaign to our local radio stations during Crime Victims' Rights Week, I knew that the radio stations would run the PSA because it involved help for crime victims. The good news is that PCCD's PSA didn't go away after that week in April. Our radio stations continue to play that PSA today*

*Jeanne Mallow,  
Executive Director*

*Your Safe Haven,  
Bedford County*

These startling statistics, along with the knowledge that incidents of interpersonal violence – including sexual assault and domestic violence – increase during times of economic decline, stimulated the Office of Victims' Services to launch a public outreach campaign aimed to increase Pennsylvanians' awareness of the services available to victims of crime, both locally and on a state level.



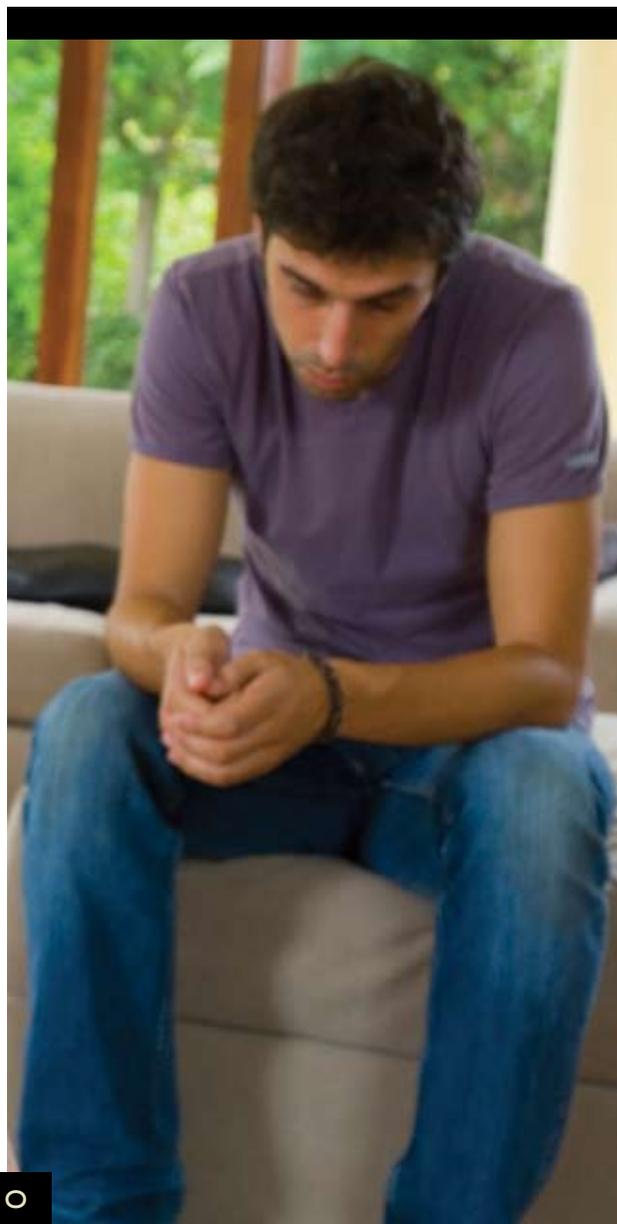
OVS Implemented a Statewide, Multi-faceted Campaign that included:

- **Public service** announcements developed by the national Office for Victims of Crime and edited with Pennsylvania-specific information, were distributed to television stations and victim services agencies statewide.
- **Radio ads** ran on more than 60 Pennsylvania stations.
- **Billboards** were posted in 13 high-traffic areas in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Williamsport, and Berks, Luzerne and Lackawanna counties.
- **Gas pump toppers** were mounted at 121 stations in 10 rural counties across the state.
- **Bus ads** were placed on transit buses in Harrisburg, Reading and Philadelphia.
- **Online ads** utilizing targeted words, such as “victim of crime” and “crime victim rights,” directed people to the new Pennsylvania Crime Victims’ Web site [www.pacrimevictims.com](http://www.pacrimevictims.com)

Copies of campaign materials, along with suggested talking points, were distributed to victim service agencies well in advance of national Crime Victims’ Rights Awareness Week. The goal was to assist agencies in promoting their services on a local level and to support agencies’ ongoing fund-raising

**For many families in our area, the radio is listened to on a daily basis. The time and effort put forth in the development of PCCD’s PSA was an excellent idea and I hope to hear that someone in our community responded by calling the phone number given in the PSA.**

*Jeanne Mallow, Executive Director  
Your Safe Haven, Bedford County*



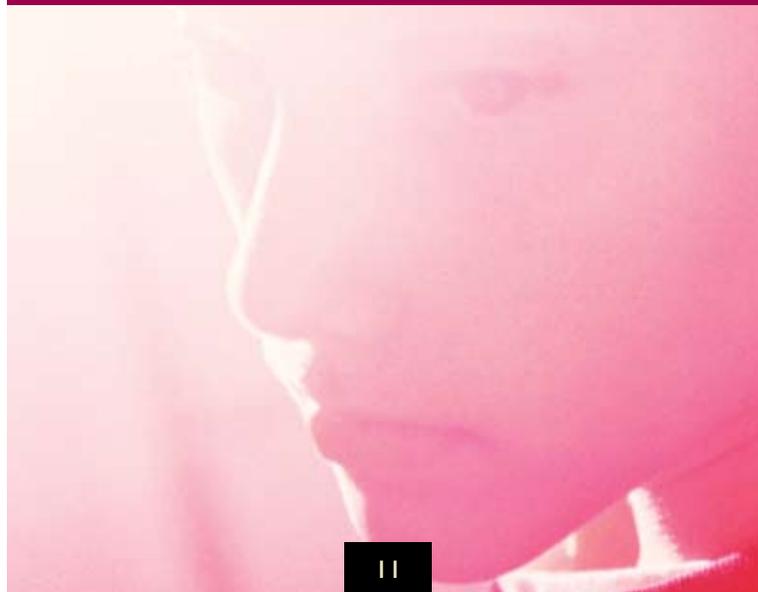
## *Program Assists with Victims' Expenses*

The expenses incurred as a result of a crime are just one of many challenges victims face in the aftermath of a crime. The Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) can assist victims with medical and counseling expenses, loss of earnings, stolen cash, relocation and funeral expenses, and the cost of crime scene clean-up.

VCAP works to make the compensation process simple and convenient for victims. Victims can use DAVE (Dependable Access for Victimization Expenses), an Internet-based automated claims processing system, to file a new claim or check the status of an existing claim online. Victims can also check claim status by phone, whenever it is convenient for them.

In FY 2009-10, VCAP received 8,398 claims and paid \$13,375,060.50 to or on behalf of victims. VCAP continues to decrease the time it takes to process a claim, working to ensure victims receive assistance as quickly and efficiently as possible. The average turnaround time to process a claim is less than six weeks.

*In FY 2009-10, VCAP received 8,398 claims and paid \$13,375,060.50 to or on behalf of victims.*



## *OVS Develops Online Resource for Victims of Crime*

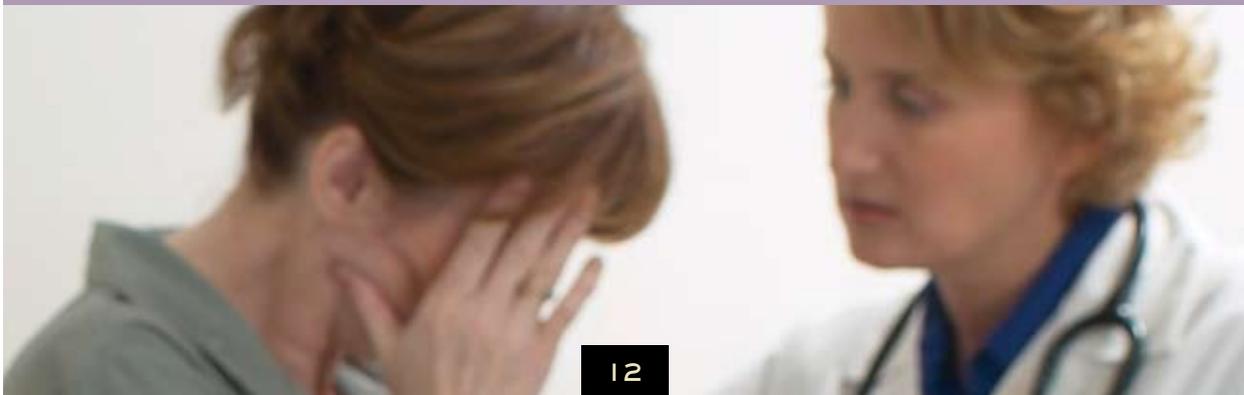
### **www.pacrimevictims.com**

In Spring 2010, PCCD's Office of Victims' Services (OVS) launched a new Web site designed to be a comprehensive online resource for victims of crime. With the click of a mouse, victims of crime can find the information, resources and encouragement they need as they navigate life after crime.

The site is not intended to be a substitute or replacement for the invaluable work of victim service providers. Rather, it is designed to support the work of victim service providers and to ensure that victims and survivors of crime have the information they need, when they need it.

"The Web site was created to help those whose lives have been forever changed by violence and crime," said Lynn Shiner, deputy director of OVS. "The primary focus of this Web site is to let crime victims know they are not alone and help is available."

The Web site is written in an easy-to-understand style and includes information on victims' rights, available services, local resources, the criminal and juvenile justice systems, notifications about offenders and the Victims Compensation Assistance Program. It also includes a section written by victims for victims, entitled "How the Crime May Affect You."



*“The Web site offers a very broad spectrum of resources that can meet a victim at any time in the victim’s life as they go through healing,” said Nancy Chavez, a survivor of crime who contributed to the site. “The Web site truly offers a victim’s perspective. It was created for victims, but is also a valuable resource for family members and others affected by crime.”*

*Visitors to the site agree. One said, “I have recommended this to a friend who has recently been a victim of crime.”*

*Another commented, “This site is amazing! Easy to read. Easy to understand and not information overload.”*

OVS continually updates and enhances the site to provide the most up-to-date information to victims and survivors of crime 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year.

**[www.pacrimevictims.com](http://www.pacrimevictims.com)**



**Web site Quick Stats (March - June 2010)**

- **152.66 site visits per day (on average)**
- **17,131 site visits from users in the United States**
- **Top 5 Pennsylvania regions visiting the site: Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Allentown, Wilkes-Barre**
- **Top 5 states: Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Florida**
- **Top 5 countries: United States, Canada, United Kingdom, India, Mexico**
- **Most visited pages: Homepage, Available Services, Your Rights, The Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems, Notifications About Offenders**

## *Knowledge is Power for Victims*

Pennsylvania's Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification Service (PA SAVIN) is a free service that gives registered users – including victims of crime and their families, law enforcement and other concerned citizens – around-the-clock access to the custody status of offenders in a county jail, state prison or under state parole supervision within the commonwealth. PA SAVIN also provides registered users with automated telephone or e-mail notification of an inmate's release, transfer or escape.



*PA SAVIN supports victims of crime by providing critical knowledge that gives them the power to make informed choices about their safety and their lives.*

*Nearly 43,000 individuals are registered to receive notification from PA SAVIN. From the first implementation in 2007 through December 2009, PA SAVIN completed 21,000 phone notifications and almost 40,000 e-mail notifications.*

*Pennsylvania was one of 13 states to receive funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance within the U.S. Department of Justice to launch this notification service.*

## *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*

PCCD's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) develops, implements and oversees initiatives that seek to improve the commonwealth's juvenile justice system and prevent violence, delinquency, substance abuse and other related problem behaviors.

### **EPISCenter Supports Community-Based Programs**

The Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention Support Center (EPISCenter) supports communities as they plan and implement evidence-based prevention and intervention program models. Planning support includes training communities on model programs, board recruitment and development, data collection, and analysis and program selection. Implementation support includes technical assistance during program start-up, quality assurance, data management, outcome measurement and reporting.

The EPISCenter is currently completing work on INSPIRE (Integrated System for Program Implementation and Real-time Evaluation). INSPIRE is a data management system for prevention and intervention programs delivered through the EPISCenter as a service to grantees, PCCD, the Department of Public Welfare's Office of Children, Youth and Families, and Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Through INSPIRE, grantees can collect data, develop reports and track outcomes. Funding agencies can use INSPIRE's data to strategically plan for future endeavors.



## *Communities Promote Positive Youth Development*

The EPISCenter also provides training and technical assistance support to Communities That Care sites across the commonwealth. Communities That Care (CTC) is an evidence-based prevention-planning model that combines strategic consultation, technical assistance, training and research-based tools to help communities promote the positive development of youth.

PCCD has supported training and technical assistance for CTC communities or sites since 1994. In 2010, PCCD funded eight new CTC sites.

Bedford County is a CTC site that has successfully implemented a layered prevention approach that reaches nearly 6,000 students from preschool through middle school across the county's five school districts. Bedford County has historically experienced very high rates of drunk driving deaths and suicides. Community leaders knew that in order to change generations of behavior and build a healthy future for the county, they needed to reach children at an early age, while simultaneously supporting the children's families.

*“We wanted strong, universal, evidence-based, sustainable programs that would reach from preschool through adolescence,” said Lyn Skillington, Executive Director of Unified Family Services Systems (UFSS), Bedford County’s Collaborative Board. “We needed programs that matched our community’s needs and ones that could be implemented with fidelity and achieved through the schools.”*

In 2006, UFSS implemented Raising Healthy Children (RHC) in every elementary school in the county. RHC is a comprehensive school-based program that includes parenting workshops, training and coaching for elementary school teachers, and social skills training for all elementary students. Since then, UFSS has also implemented the Life Skills Training program for middle school students and the Incredible Years program for preschool students.

*“The most at-risk children move around the county, but every child in every school will find the same programs,” said Skillington. “There is continuity and consistency from school to school and from grade to grade.”*

This community endeavor has resulted in a significant decrease in disciplinary referrals in the county's elementary schools, with many seeing more than a 50 percent decrease in discipline referrals and school suspensions. Bedford County's work has been featured in the United States Department of Education's "Doing What Works" program.



## *Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws*

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) is a federal funding stream, overseen by PCCD, which works to reduce underage alcohol consumption. EUDL projects address the problem in several ways, including understanding and addressing youth perceptions and curbing the furnishing of alcohol to minors.

PCCD has partnered with the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to develop a statewide Youth Underage Task Force which has:

- Sponsored regional focus groups to gain an understanding of youth's perceptions regarding underage drinking.
- Built a knowledge base from the focus groups' results to help reduce underage consumption of alcohol.
- Developed a youth-created Facebook page to promote continued networking among focus group participants.

EUDL funds have been designated for the Youth Underage Task Force to produce a statewide media campaign.

EUDL funds continue to support the collaborative effort of the State College Borough Police and Penn State University Police Services to conduct Source Investigation Projects (SIP). SIPs are designed to address and reduce the furnishing of alcohol to minors.

A SIP patrol team typically consists of a borough officer and a university officer. SIP patrols focus enforcement efforts on particularly busy times, including weekends, the beginning of the fall semester and the end of the spring semester.

***"By focusing on the busiest times, we are maximizing the impact of our enforcement details," said State College Police Officer Greg Koehle, who coordinates SIP scheduling.***

When there is an incident of underage drinking, SIP teams back track the individual's activity and behavior prior to the incident. One incident of underage drinking could result in multiple arrests. This gives the community a sense of closure and justice.

***"You see it in the media," said State College Police Lt. Keith Robb, SIP project supervisor. "People write letters to the editor chastising suppliers. Once, the newspaper editor ran a weekly series of articles on underage drinking."***

To help law enforcement in other college towns address the furnishing of alcohol to minors, State College Borough Police Department created a manual outlining what has worked and what hasn't in State College. The department is also contracting with the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to provide regional and onsite trainings at other police departments.

## *Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact*

Disparities in the treatment of minority youth at the point of contact with law enforcement and the point of arrest can have a dramatic impact on the rates at which youth of color are sent to juvenile placement facilities. The federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention requires states to examine the extent of Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) and take steps to address any disparities.

Two of the key strategies to address and reduce DMC as part of Pennsylvania's DMC include:

- Training police to recognize cultural and developmental differences between adolescent and adult behavior; and
- Improving relationships between youth and law enforcement.

To address DMC on a local level, five counties sponsored minority youth-law enforcement forums, where law enforcement officers and young people talked candidly about the troubled relationship between the two groups and discussed ways to improve relationships.

As a result of these forums, the Philadelphia Working Group, with the support of PCCD's DMC Subcommittee and the MacArthur Foundation, began working on a curriculum for law enforcement. The *DMC Youth/Law Enforcement Curriculum* includes:

- Forum, panel and small group discussions between members of law enforcement and young people from local high schools and community programs;
- Education for law enforcement on youth culture, adolescent brain development and coping strategies;
- Training for young people on how adolescent development, environmental influences and issues of respect affect their interactions with law enforcement; and
- Role play exercises that give all participants the opportunity to implement what they have learned.



*“The workshops have allowed both sides to be clear and honest, and to show their differences and similarities,” said Paris Washington, Chief Training Officer with the Philadelphia County Sheriff’s Office.*

*“It gives them a unique opportunity to deal with pressing issues without being hostile.”*

*“The program may not help everyone, but if we save one young person from going down the wrong track, we’ve done our job,” said Washington.*

*“Both young people and officers come away with new information,” said Rhonda McKitten, a senior trial attorney and Director of Training for the Juvenile Unit of the Defender Association of Philadelphia.*

*“Participants start out nervous and rigid, but by the end of the day, they are laughing, talking and exchanging phone numbers.”*

The curriculum has been very well-received and continues to generate interest from law enforcement across Pennsylvania as well as other states. In June 2010, information about the curriculum was presented to the Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee during a hearing regarding best practices in juvenile justice.

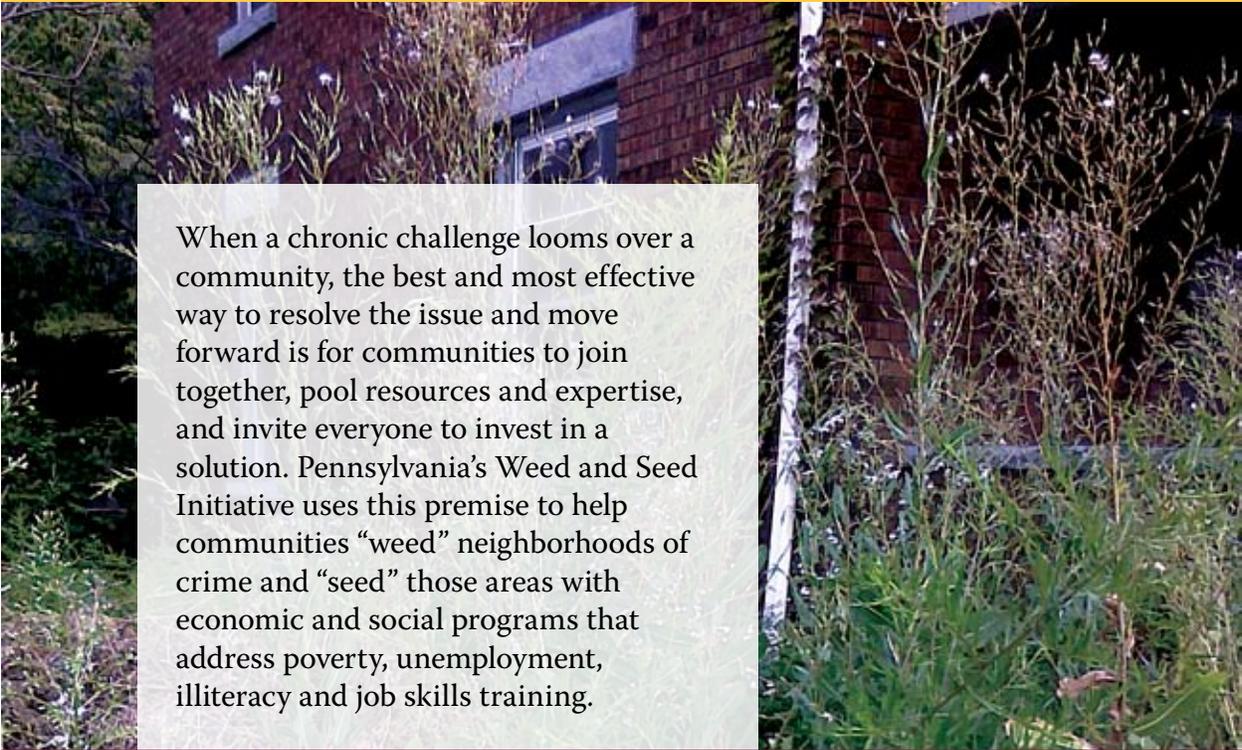
Contributing to the success of the curriculum’s development and implementation is the foundation of widespread community support from youth, law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders, and faith-based and community organizations.

*“We take off our coats and work together to change the dynamic that produces toxic relationships between law enforcement and young people,” said Robert Listenbee, Juvenile Unit Chief of the Defender Association of Philadelphia.*

*“We are optimistic and hopeful to build the capacity to use this curriculum and training across the commonwealth.”*



## *Weed and Seed:* **Community Collaborations Build Healthier Communities**



When a chronic challenge looms over a community, the best and most effective way to resolve the issue and move forward is for communities to join together, pool resources and expertise, and invite everyone to invest in a solution. Pennsylvania's Weed and Seed Initiative uses this premise to help communities "weed" neighborhoods of crime and "seed" those areas with economic and social programs that address poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and job skills training.

*Weed and Seed encourages collaborations among residents, local leaders, law enforcement, faith and community-based organizations, and other community stakeholders.*



Since 1996, PCCD has awarded more than \$37 million in state funding to PA Weed and Seed communities.

**There are currently 17 Weed and Seed sites in Pennsylvania.**

## *Weed and Seed:*

### **Aliquippa Council of Men and Fathers**

For many years, the community of Aliquippa has been striving to reduce crime, prevent delinquency and return itself to the thriving community it once was. But like many other communities, it has been embattled by unemployment, criminal activity and a sense of discouragement.

One of the noticeable gaps was the availability of solid male role models for the community's youth.

*"We put together an ad hoc committee and it all added up," said Cheryl King, site coordinator. "No matter how many programs were done in our community, something was missing. That something was fathers."*

According to King, a large percentage of homes in Aliquippa are headed by single females. Men who do parent tend to stay within their homes and weren't out in the community.

The Aliquippa Council of Men and Fathers (ACMF) started to change that.

ACMF is a collaborative effort between Aliquippa Weed and Seed and the Franklin Center of Beaver County. It provides an array of support and activities to men and young fathers in the community. ACMF's Fatherhood Initiative provides weekly mentoring for young fathers. The Response Team supports Aliquippa residents who are victims of violent crime, as well as the families of alleged perpetrators. Education Support partners with youth athletic leagues and individuals affiliated with the school district's after-school academic programming.

ACMF is working to decrease violence and increase educational awareness by targeting recent high school graduates and high school juniors and seniors for enrollment in post-secondary academic and vocational schools. The seven recent graduates assisted by ACMF have been accepted and will begin attending college in fall 2010.

ACMF sponsored a Youth Forum on Violence and Domestic Abuse, which was attended by nearly 100 youth, parents and adults. ACMF collected valuable information about Aliquippa's youth and the way they view their community.

One of the most visible efforts of ACMF is Watch D.O.G. (Dads on Guard), in which men and fathers conduct regular walks through the neighborhoods to increase male visibility and establish a positive male presence. Watch D.O.G. ensures safe travel after curfew hours for youth traveling to or returning from employment, school activities, and community and religious events. It also encourages the formation of neighborhood block watches and the reporting of suspected criminal activities.



*“On Friday evenings, the men in our community are out walking around close to curfew,” King said. “They aren’t policing, they’re just letting kids know they care. The district attorney has even been out walking with the men.”*

And it’s made a difference. King said more citizens are reporting suspected criminal activity, and the murder and shooting rates are decreasing.

*“There’s a general feeling that it’s just a little bit safer and that’s a big thing because here, nothing ever gets better. It just gets worse,” King said. “These men are giving hope. There’s an atmosphere of hope.”*

Aliquippa Assistant Police Chief Andre Davis says the ACMF has been a welcome addition to law enforcement’s strategies to accomplish the Weed and Seed Revitalization plan to reduce crime. He said the ACMF has impacted targeted areas on a number of positive fronts, including encouraging residents to work with police on a collaborative effort to reduce crime and disorder and not tolerating dysfunctional behavior by youth and parents of youth that use inadequate excuses for behavior.

*“Their direct involvement with and commitment to the Aliquippa Community has resulted in fewer curfew violations among the youth which has resulted in less violent crime in targeted areas,” Davis said. “Their presence seems to diminish the appeal for potential disorder and disrupts the normal interactions of possible disorder and incivilities. As the men of the council would say, “It’s time to get off of the couch and out of our comfort zone and be a father or father figure to this community.”*

King said that she knows the Weed and Seed approach works and that citizens and residents are an integral part in the transformation of a community.

*“We cannot afford to fail, stop or give up,” she said. “It is literally a matter of life and death.”*



## *Weed and Seed:*

### **Chester Police Activities League**

The mission of the Chester Police Activities League (Chester PAL) is to implement locally based prevention strategies that are specifically designed to prevent and/or reduce juvenile crime by providing the youth of Chester with structured educational, cultural, recreational and sporting programs/ activities in a supervised, safe, gang-free and drug-free environment. Chester PAL promotes positive interaction between law enforcement and communities, and provides youth with the opportunities they need to lead meaningful and productive lives.



In the past nine years, Chester PAL has impacted the lives of more than 4,000 young people through activities that strive to prevent boredom and resulting delinquency and build stronger family and community relationships. Activities include soap box derby races, junior Olympic competitions, soccer teams, and dances.

Chester PAL intentionally encourages family involvement into its outreach activities.

*“Chester PAL tries to incorporate the families into all of our activities because the families are the primary person in the young child’s life; we are secondary,” said Brian Warren, Chester PAL program director. “We encourage our parents to be vocal with us and tell us what they would like us to do as far as recreation for our youth. We have an open door policy and allow parents to volunteer in all of our programs and events.”*

Chester PAL understands the importance of male role models and encourages and supports those relationships through a monthly All Pro Dad’s Day. This gathering gives fathers, coaches, mentors and their kids the opportunity to deepen their relationships while enjoying breakfast, discussing topics relevant to strong family development and receiving resources to enhancing their relationships. The gathering takes place at Chester’s City Hall, where the program has dealt with conflict resolution between neighborhoods and teenagers to help stop violence in Chester.

Police Major Darren Alston said Chester PAL provides a positive outlet for youth from different neighborhoods across Chester. The outreach efforts help break down peer pressure, build teamwork skills and keep young people engaged in positive activities. Investing in young people today will benefit the community’s future.

*“When young people are doing positive things in the community, they are not interacting with law enforcement in a negative way,” he said. “If we are molding our young people now, hopefully when they are in their early 20s, they will be doing positive things in their own lives and in the lives of others.”*

## *PCCD Supporting Efforts to Eliminate Witness Intimidation*

- A Cumberland County woman is threatened by the sister of the man who shot and paralyzed her fiancée – because she testified against him in court.
- A Dauphin County woman is threatened by a group of men and women, demanding that she not testify in a court case. A day later, she was cornered by the same people, dragged from a car and slashed with a knife on her thigh and back.
- Less than two hours after a witness testified in a homicide trial in Philadelphia, a message appeared on Facebook, calling the witness a “rat” and demanding that he be murdered.



Those are just a sampling of disturbing incidents of witness intimidation in Pennsylvania in the last year alone. PCCD is supporting efforts to curb incidents of witness intimidation, through its partnerships within the judicial and criminal justice systems.

Following a series of forums on witness intimidation and witness reluctance led by PCCD, participants were able to hone in on why witnesses are reluctant to provide information to law enforcement or court officials:

- Fear of retaliation – where direct or indirect threats can be made to witnesses and/or family members.
- Fear of cooperation due to negative experiences with the legal system – witnesses who have had minor infractions or previous run-ins with law enforcement are less likely to cooperate.
- Burdens of involvement in the legal process – witnesses may be asked to make statements or write reports that could lead them to miss work or make adjustments to their daily schedules that could prove costly to them and counterproductive to their efforts, notably if they are minimally compensated for their time and effort.
- Alienation from the legal system – such as the “stop snitching” effort, where a community shows its distrust of law enforcement and the legal system by refusing to cooperate with authorities.

Among the recommendations: the creation of a special bench book to help judges recognize intimidation actions in and around their courtroom and know what steps they can take to curb them.



Philadelphia Common Pleas Judge and PCCD Commission member Renee Cardwell Hughes is spearheading the bench book effort, along with PCCD Chairman Walter Phillips, Jr. and PCCD Executive Director Michael Kane. This book will provide judges and their staffers with the necessary tools to enable them to spot – and stop – any threatening actions in the courtroom.

Following an extensive series published by the Philadelphia Inquirer in December 2009 on what was described as the deplorable state of the Philadelphia criminal justice system, Chairman Phillips and Director Kane were appointed by state Supreme Court Justice Seamus McCaffery to a special committee created to make recommendations to improve the Philadelphia system. Phillips drafted a report for the committee recommending reinstating the indicting grand jury system as a way to combat witness intimidation.

Dauphin County District Attorney and Pennsylvania District Attorney Association (PDDA) President Ed Marsico strongly supports PCCD's efforts to combat witness intimidation, commenting,

*“The forum did a great job of highlighting this issue, because it strikes at the heart of the judicial system. When these incidents occur, whether verbal or physical intimidation of witnesses, it’s a problem for the entire criminal justice system.”*

Marsico says the PDAA is considering a number of options to help prosecutors and defense attorneys in the field increase their awareness of witness intimidation, including training, workshops and working with the General Assembly on legislation designed to curb future incidents.

PCCD Chairman Phillips testified on PCCD's efforts regarding witness intimidation before the state Senate Judiciary Committee on June 11, 2010.

To read more about PCCD's efforts to halt witness intimidation, including detailed testimony from Chairman Phillips, go online to [www.pccd.state.pa.us](http://www.pccd.state.pa.us) Click on Press Office, then Publications/Resources

## *Reentry Programs Support Offenders' Return to Community*

Each year, thousands of offenders leave correctional institutions and return to communities in the commonwealth. Many face challenges, such as lack of employment, housing and social supports. Offender reentry programs are designed to help individuals successfully transition back into the community and to reduce recidivism.

The Bradford County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) implemented a reentry program for the county in 2007. The program focuses on non-violent offenders incarcerated in the Bradford County Correctional Facility, as well as those who have violated a parole condition and have been reincarcerated to serve the remainder of their sentences. The program gives priority to offenders who have not graduated from high school, have substance addictions, are residents of the county and/or have children living in the county.

The Bradford County Correctional Facility is a 118-bed facility that is consistently overpopulated. Its recidivism rate is nearly 67 percent. A significant number of those returning to prison show a lack of educational attainment or an inability to successfully reenter the community. A number of offenders also suffer from drug and/or alcohol addictions and mental illness.

The reentry program works to build a seamless transition from incarceration to community. Once an offender is deemed eligible to participate in the reentry program, there is a thorough evaluation of the strengths, weaknesses and potential barriers of each potential participant. Key stakeholders, including probation, parole, police, courts and the district attorney, work together to develop a treatment plan for each participant. The treatment plan details an inmate's path from incarceration to reentry into the community, including eligibility status for placement, work-release, treatment, sober housing and electronic monitoring.





When an individual is chosen to participate in the reentry program, he or she is immediately connected with programs to address his or her specific needs. Participants are regularly monitored so problems can be quickly identified and addressed. Staff identifies community resources that would be most beneficial for each participant upon release from jail. The community supports could include family members, friends, neighbors, peer support groups and coworkers.

The family and the participant are responsible for developing a plan of action which will begin immediately upon the inmate's release from jail. The plan may include educational programs, treatment programs, employment and support groups. If the participant fails to meet the requirements in the plan, he or she faces sanctions such as increased supervision, a decrease in liberties, and/or house arrest or incarceration.

Through the reentry program, the Bradford County CJAB continues to work diligently to decrease recidivism, increase education levels, decrease unemployment, decrease incarceration costs to the county and increase the quality of life for county residents.

**In its first year, there were 13 referrals to the program with 11 placed in employment and 2 violations (removals).**

**In 2008, there were 24 referrals with 10 employed, 7 placed in outpatient services, 2 dropouts and 5 violations.**

**In 2009 there were 14 referrals; of those referred, 10 were employed, one placed in a halfway house and one violation.**



## *Strategic Planning Strengthens County Criminal Justice Collaborations*

In difficult economic times, strategic planning is imperative to identify partnerships and maximize available resources. County Criminal Justice Advisory Boards (CJABs) have become the focal point for criminal justice strategic planning at the local level.

A CJAB is a policy-level, problem-solving group comprised of county and victim services personnel, law enforcement, community leaders and others. CJABs work collaboratively to implement best practices to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

PCCD's Office of Criminal Justice System Improvements (OCJSI) facilitates CJAB strategic planning retreats for several counties each year. In the 2009-10 fiscal year, retreats were held in Adams, Blair, Bradford, Butler, Carbon, Chester, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Lehigh, Monroe, Snyder, Tioga, Union and Warren counties.

The ARRA-funded Day Reporting Center (DRC) in Westmoreland County is an example of successful CJAB strategic planning. The DRC will incorporate standard supervision, case management and treatment, and vocational and education services at an easily accessible location in Westmoreland County. With increasing awareness of the importance of addressing all of an offender's needs to facilitate recovery and reintegration into the community, a facility that combines these services into a large-scale therapeutic supervised environment is likely to become a key contributor in reducing recidivism and general incarceration rates.

In addition to Westmoreland County's DRC efforts, significant collaboration has been made in other areas of that county's criminal justice system, according to Paul Kuntz, the county's CJAB coordinator. He said their efforts to involve social service program experts in the areas of mental health and drug/alcohol addiction have been very helpful in ensuring all participants within the criminal justice system in Westmoreland County have a role and a voice in defining criminal justice priorities and objectives.

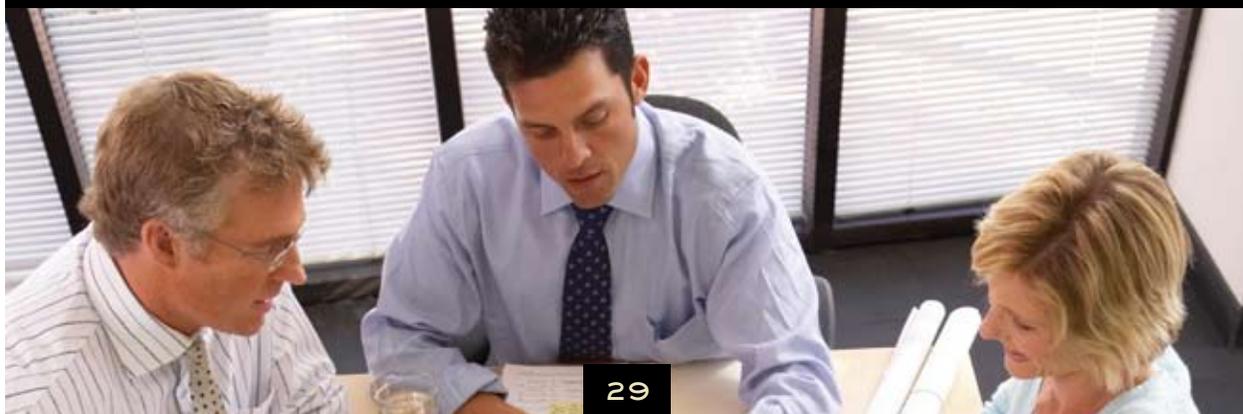
*“Working through our CJAB has provided criminal justice and court personnel with a wonderful opportunity to proceed collaboratively with governmental agencies and private service providers in a manner to which we have been unaccustomed. It's been a great opportunity to expand our knowledge base and realize the value that the community plays in addressing criminal justice issues,” said Kuntz.*

As a result of CJAB strategic planning, Jefferson County has begun to explore collaborative opportunities to enhance its criminal justice system. Following a CJAB retreat in March 2010, the CJAB identified several law enforcement training opportunities to enhance officer safety and skills, such as how to work with individuals who have a mental illness. The CJAB is also developing resources to enhance the county's central booking process.

Larry Straitiff, adult chief probation officer and CJAB secretary for Jefferson County, said that in just a year's time, the CJAB has made significant strides and is in a stronger position to deal with a variety of criminal justice issues.

*“We're more focused and we have a better handle on some of the problem areas and where we want to improve, as well as better participation throughout the different components of the criminal justice system,” he said.*

For more information on Criminal Justice Advisory Boards,  
please visit  
**[www.pccd.state.pa.us](http://www.pccd.state.pa.us)**  
and look under Criminal Justice.



## *Promising Initiatives to Increase Resources For and Decrease Recidivism of Mentally Ill Offenders*

The number of mentally ill persons in the criminal justice system has steadily increased over the past decade. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), in partnership with the Department of Public Welfare's Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS), is pursuing several initiatives to increase resources for and decrease recidivism of mentally ill offenders.



### **PCCD's Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee**

In late 2009, the Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC) was formed. MHJAC is a multi-disciplinary committee composed of representatives from various facets of the criminal justice and mental health sectors that work to improve the criminal justice system's response to mentally ill offenders.

Since its inception, MHJAC has provided insight, funding and guidance to counties that are creating new programming for mentally ill offenders, including behavior health specialty courts, jail diversion and re-entry programming.

Through the partnership of PCCD and OMHSAS, the Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence (CoE) was established “to reduce justice involvement for people with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders by working with Pennsylvania communities to identify points at which an interception can be made to prevent this group from entering and/or penetrating deeper into the justice system.”

The CoE provides technical assistance and support to jail diversion and reentry programs; serves as a clearinghouse for information and resources related to criminal justice, mental health and substance abuse; and provides technical assistance and training for local criminal justice systems. The CoE is co-directed by Drexel University’s Department of Psychology and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. The CoE promotes the proliferation of evidence-based and promising practices.

The CoE conducts a one-day Cross-Systems Mapping Workshop that brings together key criminal justice stakeholders, mental health providers and other members of the criminal justice and mental health communities and assists them in identifying opportunities and resources for mentally ill offenders along the five intercepts of that particular county’s criminal justice system: law enforcement, initial detention/court hearings, jails/courts, reentry and community corrections.

The Cross-Systems Mapping Workshop helps to improve the early identification of people with co-occurring disorders coming into contact with the criminal justice system, increases effective linkages to necessary treatment and services, reduces the likelihood of recidivism, enhances community safety and improves quality of life for mentally ill offenders. In 2009-2010, three counties – a total of 134 individuals from criminal justice, behavioral health, housing, advocacy, consumer and family member groups – participated in the Cross-Systems Mapping process. An additional nine counties are slated to participate in the process by the end of April 2011.



Counties that have undergone this process have established priorities such as:

- Developing Crisis Intervention Team/specialized police response training, improved law enforcement and crisis services collaboration, and formal pre-arrest diversion;
- Expanding housing for justice- and mental health-involved population;
- Developing systemic reentry preparation, assessment and planning;
- Developing broad-based training and education initiatives; and
- Improving access to services, resources and alternatives for veterans across all intercepts, and developing forensic peer specialist positions across the intercepts.

The CoE has collaborated with the Philadelphia Forensic Task Force to bring national experts in the area of mental illness and criminal justice to the southeast region through a grant from PCCD. The first presentation was held in June and addressed the Forensic Assertive Community Treatment model of care. The second presentation occurred in September 2010.

### **Future Initiatives**

PCCD recently awarded a grant to Drexel University, along with the Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers Association and the CoE, for the development of training for a Statewide Forensic Peer Support Program.

PCCD is busy working on several other mental health/criminal justice initiatives. PCCD has released a competitive solicitation for the development of a curriculum and training package on the Mental Health Procedures Act of 1972. PCCD is also exploring funding for housing initiatives for the growing mentally ill population who are unable to find suitable housing, a major obstacle in providing diversion and treatment to this population. PCCD is exploring funding options for a statewide Crisis Intervention Training to assist law enforcement in providing early diversionary alternatives to non-violent offenders.

Within the past year, through the partnership of PCCD, OHMSAS, MHJAC and the CoE, there has been an increase in the quality of responses by the criminal justice system to the mentally ill, with promise of swifter diversion, accessible treatment and expanded resources.



## *Virtual Training Increases Efficiency, Reduces Budgetary Demands*



More than 23,000 police officers serve and protect Pennsylvania citizens every day. These officers undergo mandatory training to meet professional standards and perform their duties well, yet significant state and municipal budget cuts have made it increasingly difficult for departments to achieve these training requirements.

PCCD is working with the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA) and the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) to determine the best solution to delivering quality training in an expeditious and cost-effective manner, while not compromising learning outcomes. Internet-based training is a proven method of effectively delivering content to a large audience at a significantly lower cost than traditional classroom delivery.

To date, most law enforcement training in Pennsylvania has occurred in a classroom setting, requiring departments to incur travel costs and often paying officers

overtime to attend training. Internet-based training would significantly reduce, and in many cases eliminate, these extra costs. In a December 2009 poll, PCPA members overwhelmingly supported the concept of Internet-based training.

Under a PCCD grant, PCPA has hired an online training coordinator, who has established a steering committee to monitor the project and evaluate its progress. The project's next steps include identifying and developing content and creating an online delivery system that can be accessed by officers across the commonwealth.

## *DUI Court Works to Change Offender Behavior*



**The mission of the Centre County DUI Court is to break the cycle of alcohol and drug addiction among repeat DUI offenders, thereby substantially reducing DUI recidivism. The program will enhance community safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and by providing offenders with the tools to maintain sobriety through judicial intervention, intensive supervision and substance abuse treatment.**

Centre County began its DUI Court in December 2009 and Judge Bradley Lunsford can already see a positive impact on the county. A DUI court is dedicated to changing the behavior of alcohol-dependent offenders arrested for Driving Under the Influence. Like other problem-solving courts, the goal is to achieve long-term quality recovery and prevent repeat criminal behavior.

Partially funded by Drug and Alcohol Restrictive Intermediate Punishment (D and A/RIP) funds through PCCD, the Centre County DUI Court targets third-time offenders with a blood alcohol count of .16 or higher, or who were under the influence of drugs, or who refused to submit to a Blood Alcohol Test and are facing a minimum of one year incarceration. Second-time DUI offenders are also eligible if they were previously sentenced to Intermediate Punishment that was revoked as a result of a technical violation.

The DUI Court is a post plea court that utilizes Restrictive Intermediate Punishment (RIP) sentences. A participant begins with a period of incarceration that may include work release, followed by house arrest with electronic monitoring for the remainder of their minimum sentence.

Essential components of the program include intensive judicial review every two weeks, intensive community supervision, random drug testing, mandatory treatment, and the appropriate use of incentives and sanctions. Participants must complete four phases of the program to graduate and move on to a less restrictive period of supervision. Each participant receives a manual which outlines the expectations, goals and phases of the program.

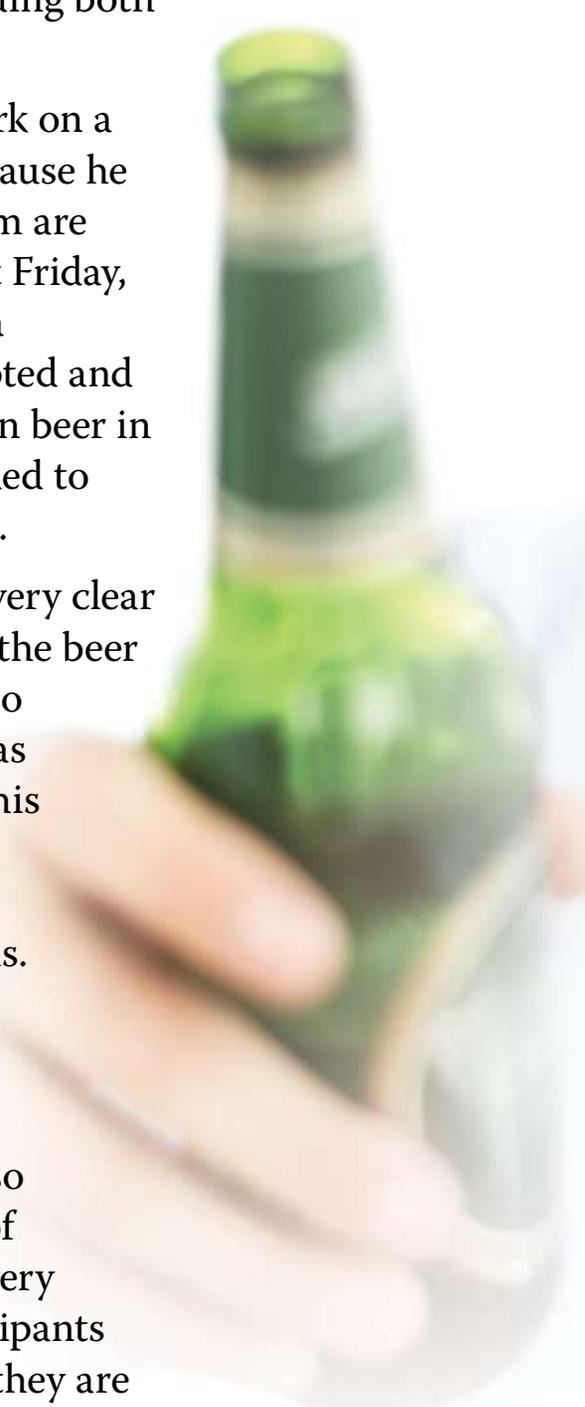
## *Centre County DUI Court Participant Strives for Success*

“George” has been in the DUI Court program for 4½ months. He tells team members regularly that this has been a great opportunity for him and he is finding both treatment and AA meetings to be very helpful.

Recently, George wrapped up a hard day at work on a Friday. Work has been challenging for him because he works around college students – many of whom are drinking regularly. After completing work that Friday, a customer offered George and his co-worker a beer – for a job well done. His co-worker accepted and George found himself face-to-face with an open beer in the room. At that point, he knew what he needed to do – he said no and walked out of the building.

In telling his story in DUI Court, George was very clear how tempting the situation was. He described the beer in great detail and said he could taste it. He also described in greater detail how important it was for him NOT to drink and how he thought of his family as he walked away. Since then, George has found other work assignments in places where he is not faced with the same temptations.

The court and all participants were incredibly impressed with George and his strength and motivation to succeed. The team particularly appreciated his willingness to share his story, so that others might benefit. These are the kind of challenges that DUI Court participants face every day. Hearing the success stories of other participants reinforces the fact that, while it won't be easy, they are worth it and that they can succeed.



The DUI Court Team meets weekly and is comprised of probation department staff, an assistant district attorney, a public defender, mental health and drug and alcohol representatives, DUI court judge, prison work release coordinator and a representative from the criminal justice planning department. Judge Lunsford serves as the DUI court judge and handles all cases referred to the program. The DUI court coordinator manages intake assessments, schedules offenders for court, serves as the chairperson for the weekly team meetings and supervises the clients in the program.

The DUI court coordinator works closely with a dedicated DUI court TASC (Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities) case manager, who is responsible for referring the participants to the necessary treatment programs, as well as monitoring their progress. A Bureau of Justice Assistance grant helps with the costs associated with the treatment of participating offenders.

**"As a team, we realize that we need to have some flexibility built into our program in order for it to be successful"**

*~Kris Glunt, DUI Court Coordinator  
Centre County Probation Department*

Judge Lunsford recognizes that the DUI court takes a different approach than a traditional hearing. He believes the participants are committed and by no means are they getting off easy. This program is intense, requiring participants to balance multiple demands.

*"Helping these participants achieve and maintain sobriety is one of the most fulfilling aspects of my job," he said.*

In a time when resources are limited, any program must be creative. Cathy Arbogast, Program Administrator for Centre County Drug and Alcohol, said that establishing a DUI court has forced them to think outside the box on how they have always addressed the needs of individuals with addiction issues in the criminal justice system.

*Like any innovative program, Centre County DUI Court has faced successes and obstacles. "I think our most difficult challenge will be the continuation -- we never know when the funding stream will dry up," said Judge Lunsford. "Maintaining community safety, while also taking in account the nature of the physiological and psychological aspects of addiction and addressing the needs of the offender population, are major challenges to our program."*

**"We believe that the DUI Court model will result in long-term success for many of the individuals we're serving through the program. Teamwork, dedication to the process, and ongoing commitment to educating ourselves and improving the program - I believe - will get us there."**

*~Cathy Arbogast, Program Administrator  
Centre County Drug & Alcohol*

Judge Lunsford indicated the program has issued their first sanctions and program officials realize that now is when the work truly begins.

## *System to Standardize Firearms Licensing*



PCCD has partnered with the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) and the Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association to design and implement a standardized, statewide system for the licensing of firearms in Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Firearms License to Carry (LTC) System was mandated by PA Act 66 of 2005. The project's overall goal is to provide a uniform and modernized system for processing applications for a license to carry firearms.

The system will enable all License to Carry Issuing Authorities (LTCIA) to enter application data directly into a centralized repository where the application can be tracked. Each county will be able to perform queries specific to their applications and licenses. The system will offer the ability to process new and renewal applications, revocations and reinstatements of licenses, and duplicate permits.

The LTC System will accommodate the needs of counties who process a wide range of application volumes (one at a time or in batches) and provide each LTCIA with some flexibility within the standardized process. PCCD will provide funding to assist LTCIAs in purchasing the hardware components required to produce the licenses.

The LTC System is currently being piloted, with final implementation in all 67 Pennsylvania counties planned by the end of 2010.



*The Pennsylvania Firearms License to Carry (LTC) System was mandated by PA Act 66 of 2005.*

*The project's overall goal is to provide a uniform and modernized system for processing applications for a license to carry firearms.*

## *Training Deputy Sheriffs*

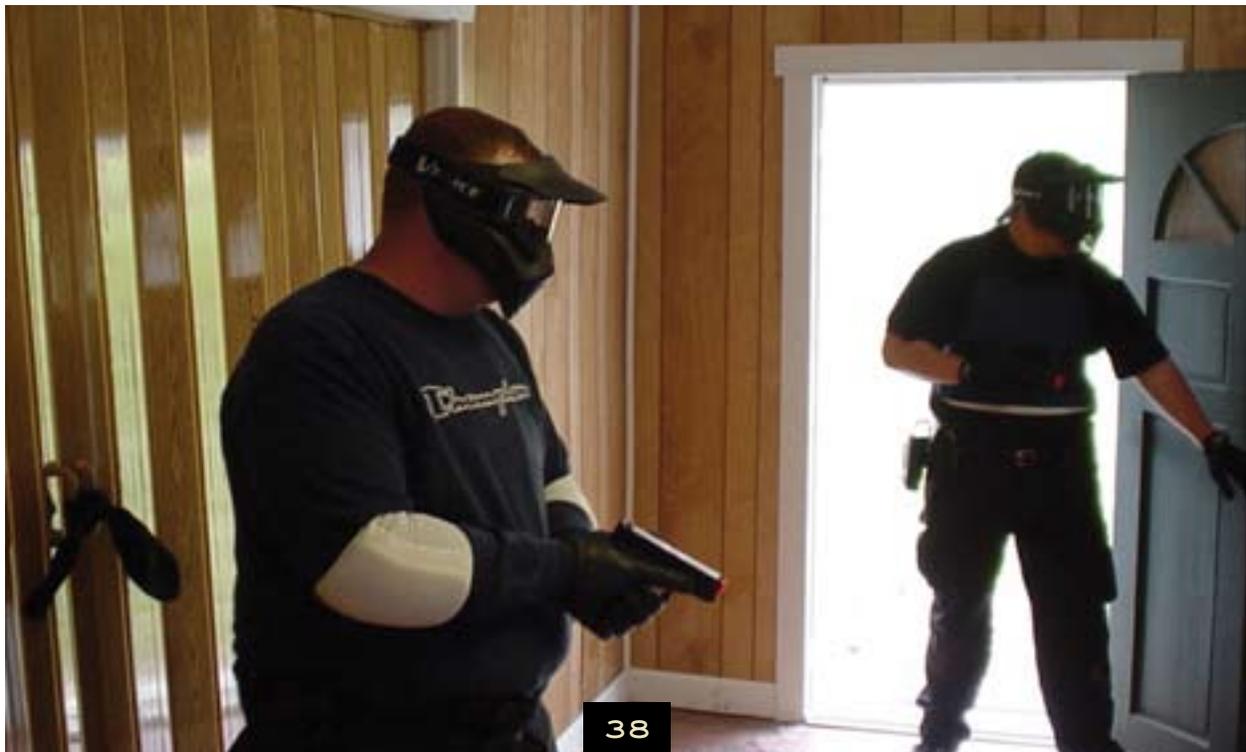
There are nearly 2,100 deputy sheriffs in Pennsylvania. Each deputy sheriff must complete 760 hours of training to achieve initial certification. A deputy sheriff must complete 20 hours of continuing education every two years to maintain that certification.

The Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board recommends to PCCD the priority training issues and needs across the commonwealth.

In 2009:

- 65 deputy sheriffs completed basic training, which included instruction in civil and criminal law, prison transport, courtroom security, use of force, crisis intervention, first aid, firearms, defensive tactics, custody and emergency vehicle operations, investigations, motor vehicle code and terrorism indicators.
- 842 completed continuing education, which included courses on infectious disease prevention, cultural diversity, domestic violence, drug identification, use of force, prisoner transport, tactical communications, professional responsibility and liability, and legal updates.
- 127 completed waiver training, an abbreviated, two-week basic training course of certification designed for new deputy sheriffs who have worked in law enforcement and completed training comparable to the required basic training.

PCCD also oversees merit courses that give deputy sheriffs the opportunity to acquire advanced skills and education on topics such as advanced security, infectious disease prevention and criminal law.



## *Constables Training*

The Constables' Education and Training Board gives PCCD recommendations for the timely and appropriate training of the commonwealth's 1,200 constables and deputy constables. To perform judicial duties, constables and deputy constables must complete 80 hours of initial basic training followed by 20 hours of continuing education each year. Constables and deputy constables who want to carry a firearm must pass an initial 40-hour firearms course and an annual 20-hour continuing education course.

In 2009, PCCD offered 147 training courses for constables and deputy constables.

- 107 individuals completed basic training.
- 1,170 individuals completed continuing education.
- 881 individuals completed firearms training and were certified to carry a firearm.

### **On the Web:**

Pennsylvanians can verify the certification status of constables and deputy constables using the Constable Finder on the PCCD Web site. Go to

**<https://www.pccdcis.state.pa.us/search.asp>**



## *Innovative Egrants Program Receives National Award*



PCCD, together with Wisconsin's Office of Justice Assistance, received the 2009 Innovations Award from the Council of State Governments for Egrants, an innovative and comprehensive Web-based program that has significantly improved the process of managing grants. The Innovations Award recognizes commendable programs and best practices within state government.

After several years of development, PCCD began using Egrants in 2004 to manage applications and grants. By 2006, all state and federal funds administered by PCCD were being managed through Egrants. In 2009-10, those funds totaled more than \$101 million dollars.

Egrants has allowed PCCD staff to spend less time on paperwork and more time working with grantees to ensure the success of the programs they are administering. Egrants streamlines grant processing and benefits PCCD through improvements in performance measures, monitoring and reporting capabilities, communications with grantees and documentation for grant issues.

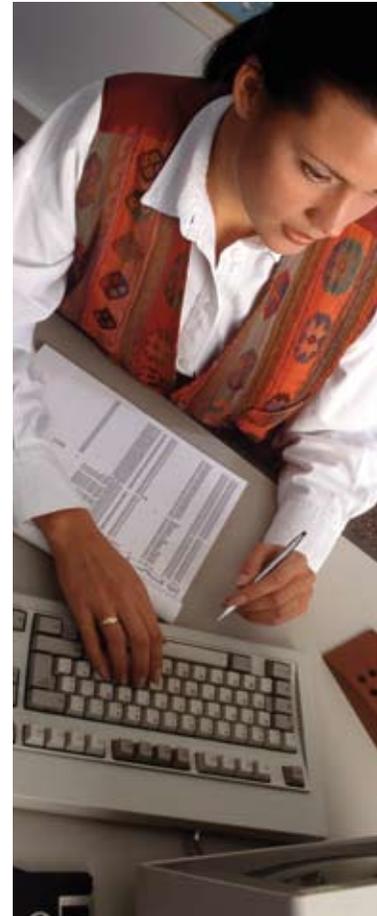
Egrants has simplified the grants management process for grantees by providing:

- Instant access to current grant information
- Reduced paperwork
- Cost savings
- One-time data entry
- Error checking

Grantees appreciate the ease and efficiency of the program. *"Egrants is easy to use and eliminates the hassle of paper report," said one user. Another reported, "This is the first time I have used the reporting system. It makes my job much easier!"*

PCCD used federal funds to develop Egrants and makes it available to other states at no cost. Wisconsin adapted its Egrants program from PCCD's version.

*"PCCD's staff worked very hard in developing Egrants to streamline our application process, enhance program and fiscal monitoring capabilities, and make our grantee reporting easier," said PCCD Executive Director Michael J. Kane. "The result was a state-of-the-art system that has increased efficiency and accountability and made significant improvements in customer service."*



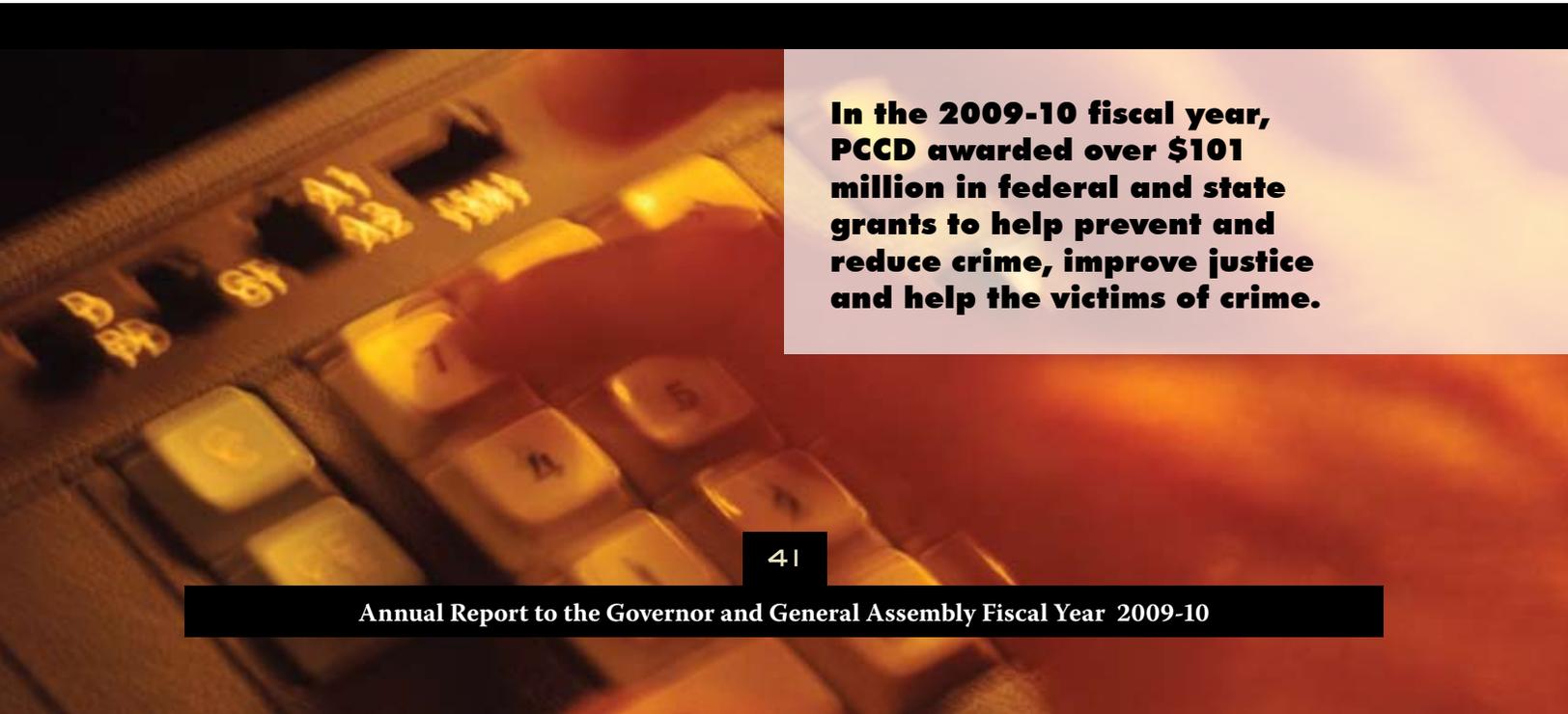
## *Assessing Performance Measurements to Enhance Project Success*

In the 2009-10 fiscal year, PCCD awarded over \$101 million in federal and state grants to help prevent and reduce crime, improve justice and help the victims of crime. Especially in times of diminishing funding, the Commission must ensure that funds are allocated to proven initiatives. To this end, performance measures must be an integral part of the PCCD grants process throughout the award, implementation and assessment phases. Performance indicators are specific measurements that determine to what extent an activity has been successful in achieving a stated objective.

The development of a viable, quantitative performance measurement system will enable the Commission to better determine which practices, policies and interventions are most effective in delivering programs, services and outcomes to the targeted justice, juvenile and victim populations. This effort is particularly important given the requirements associated with the federal Recovery Act and the associated requirements of the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Since the 1996 Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), performance measurements have been required for each federal grant to assess the initiative's success. PCCD has undertaken projects to ensure that performance measures are an integral part of each award and can be used to assess and improve the quality of Pennsylvania's public safety initiatives.

These initiatives, when fully implemented, will move the Commission and its grantees closer to realizing performance measurement systems which assist decision-makers in making internal policy and program decisions and in evaluating grant outcomes. Ultimately, the goal of PCCD's performance measurement program is to link information islands in an integrated fashion so that decision-makers have useable data to effectively manage their organizations and to evaluate the programs which they implement.



**In the 2009-10 fiscal year, PCCD awarded over \$101 million in federal and state grants to help prevent and reduce crime, improve justice and help the victims of crime.**

## *JRSA Egrants Audit*



Egrants is a Web-based program that PCCD uses to evaluate, award and monitor grant applications. Since 2006, all state and federal funds administered by PCCD have been managed through Egrants.

PCCD contracted with the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) of Washington, D.C. to conduct an audit of the Egrants system which includes over 1,800 measures. JRSA found that the current system is more of a administrative process rather than a decision-making tool and is currently working with PCCD staff to eliminate unused and duplicate measures. Once the existing 1,800 measures are cleansed, JRSA will work with PCCD to categorize the remaining measures and to develop procedures to enhance the effectiveness of Egrants as a management tool.

### **Best Practice Performance Measures**

When linking performance measurements to grant announcements, the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance identifies best practices relevant to performance measures by core justice areas and compiles listings of the most commonly used outcome and process

measures. By using best practice measures, agencies increase program efficiency and success using proven standards.

PCCD has compiled the Best Practices Performance Measures for the period 2000-2010 in the categories of Adjudication, Corrections, Crime Prevention, Information Sharing, Law Enforcement, Victims Services, Mental Health Courts and Substance Abuse Courts. This compilation will result in an electronic database containing the best practice research-based performance measures, as well as links to associated research articles. This initiative will further assist grantees when they are developing grant applications and are searching for appropriate research designs.

## ***PCCD Grant Funding*** **State Funding Streams**

**Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention Programs and Practices** funds are awarded to support the PA Resource Center for Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Programs and Practices and provide training and technical assistance for programs and for communities to implement and sustain the Communities That Care community assessment and planning process.

**Intermediate Punishment** funds are awarded to support county restrictive intermediate punishment programs consistent with approved county intermediate punishment plans.

**License to Carry Standardization and Modernization** funds are awarded to develop a statewide system for providing a standardized method of completing the application, submitting the information to the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), obtaining confirmation of a successful transaction with PSP and issuing the identification card for those individuals seeking a license to carry a firearm.

**Mental Health Services Enhancements** funds are awarded to support evidence-based practices that reduce the involvement of people with mental illness/co-occurring disorders in the criminal justice system.

**Research-Based Delinquency and Violence Prevention** funds are awarded to communities for the implementation of research-based programs designed to reduce the risk factors associated with delinquency.

**Restrictive Intermediate Punishment** funds are awarded to support drug and alcohol assessment, evaluation and treatment services related to county intermediate punishment activities.

**Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction** funds are awarded for implementation of proven approaches to public awareness, prevention, intervention, training, treatment and education services to reduce substance abuse and implement statewide programs to assist families in accessing such services.

**Victims Compensation** funds are awarded to support the Victims Compensation Assistance Program in providing crime victims with assistance in understanding the benefits available to them, filing a claim for compensation and providing financial assistance in a sensitive, timely manner.

**Victim/Witness Services** funds are awarded for system-based services for victims consistent with the Crime Victim's Act and PCCD Standards (orientation/opportunities for input to and notice of pleas, sentences, releases/assistance with restitution and compensation). Funds are made available through a \$25 penalty assessment on convicted/diverted offenders.

**Victims of Juvenile Offenders** funds are awarded through an allocation from the commonwealth Budget to encourage system-based services for victims of juvenile offenders consistent with the Crime Victim’s Act and PCCD Standards (orientation/ opportunities for input to and notice of pleas, diversions, dispositions, releases/assistance with restitution and compensation).

**Weed And Seed** funds are awarded to “weed out” violent offenders through intensive law enforcement and prosecution efforts, and then “seed in” prevention, intervention, treatment and development services to promote community revitalization using research-based violence prevention programs. The initiative helps to address capital needs for local community and economic development and restore neighborhood quality of life. Grants serve the 17 current PA Weed and Seed sites.

**State Funds Awarded**

State*	# Grants	Amount
Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention Programs and Practices	13	\$ 2,232,665
Intermediate Punishment	57	3,000,000
License to Carry Standardization and Modernization	67	975,778
Mental Health Services Enhancements	4	500,000
Research-Based Delinquency and Violence Prevention	21	1,000,000
Restrictive Intermediate Punishment-Drug & Alcohol	35	15,997,166
Substance Abuse Education & Demand Reduction	3	2,000,000
Victim Compensation	1	109,904
Victim/Witness Services (1/1/09 - 12/31/09)	94	7,849,039
Victims of Juvenile Offenders	63	1,221,000
Weed and Seed	4	340,500
<b>Total State</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>\$35,226,052</b>

\* State funded awards made from SFY 2008-09 appropriations

## ***PCCD Grant Funding*** **Federal Funding Streams**

### ***American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)***

***Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)*** funds are awarded to support all components of the criminal justice system, from multijurisdictional drug and gang task forces to crime prevention and domestic violence programs, courts, corrections, treatment, and justice information sharing initiatives. ARRA JAG funded projects may address crime through the provision of services directly to individuals and/or communities and by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of criminal justice systems, processes, and procedures.

***ARRA STOP Violence Against Women*** funds are awarded to provide direct services, such as crisis intervention, counseling, accompaniment, legal advocacy shelter, etc., for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and other serious crimes.

***Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)*** funds are awarded to provide assistance to state and local units of government in implementing projects that offer high probability of improving the criminal justice system.

***Capital Case Litigation Initiative*** funds are awarded to offer nationally developed training to prosecutors and public defenders on capital case litigation matters.

***Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws*** funds support activities to address the issue of underage drinking. Funds are used for law enforcement activities as well as education opportunities for youth, law enforcement agencies and licensed distributors of alcoholic beverages.

***G20 Summit Reimbursement*** funds were awarded to reimburse agencies that incurred expenses related to providing security at the G-20 Summit held September 24-25, 2009 in Pittsburgh, PA.

***Juvenile Accountability Block Grant*** funds are awarded to address the problem of juvenile crime by encouraging accountability-based reforms at the state and local levels.

***Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Formula Grant*** funds are used to provide grants to units of local government and private non-profits for a broad range of juvenile justice, delinquency prevention and JJDP Act compliance monitoring activities.

***National Criminal History Improvement*** funds enhance the quality, completeness and accessibility of the commonwealth's criminal justice record information and are used to collect the information and develop procedures necessary to ensure the accurate and timely identification of individuals who are ineligible to purchase a firearm and to provide for the safety of the commonwealth's citizens.

**National Forensic Science Improvement Act** funds are awarded to improve the quality, timeliness and credibility of forensic science services for criminal justice purposes.

**President-Elect Security Assistance Reimbursement** funds were awarded to reimburse agencies for expenses incurred in providing security for the President-Elect while traveling to Philadelphia prior to his inauguration.

**Project Safe Neighborhoods** funds are awarded to bring together federal, state and local agencies to focus community attention and energy on reducing gun violence. Each U.S. Attorney is required to establish a task force to develop a comprehensive gun violence reduction strategy and assess how new resources can impact resolution of the problem.

**Residential Substance Abuse Treatment** funds assist states and units of local government in the development and implementation of residential substance abuse treatment programs within state and local correctional and detention facilities in which prisoners are incarcerated for a period of time sufficient to permit substance abuse treatment.

**Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act** funds are awarded to prevent school violence and drug use and help schools and communities create safe, disciplined and drug-free environments that support student academic achievement.

**Sexual Assault Services** funds are awarded to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment, support services and related assistance to victims, significant others and those collaterally affected by the victimization by further supporting the establishment, maintenance and expansion of rape crisis centers and other programs and projects to assist those victimized by sexual assault.

**State Justice Statistics Program** funds are awarded to enhance the state's capability to address criminal justice issues through collection and analysis of data.

**Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification System (SAVIN)** funds are awarded to implement an automated, integrated, statewide system of identifying and notifying victims of crime, law enforcement and the community-at-large of the status of criminal offenders.

**STOP Violence Against Women** funds are awarded to promote a multidisciplinary approach to improve the criminal and juvenile justice systems' response to violence against women and to enhance prosecution, advocacy, and services available to women who have been victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and/or dating violence.

**Victims of Crime Act** funds are awarded to provide direct services, e.g., crisis intervention, counseling, accompaniment, legal advocacy, shelter, etc., for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and other serious crimes.

## Federal Funds Awarded

Federal**	# Grants	Amount
ARRA Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program	152	28,731,260
ARRA STOP Violence Against Women	25	4,447,887
Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program	77	5,921,654
Capital Case Litigation Initiative	2	200,000
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Block Grant	5	330,000
G20 Summit Reimbursement	2	9,982,627
Juvenile Accountability Block Grant	49	1,430,839
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act	8	1,050,146
National Criminal History Improvement Program	1	436,556
National Forensic Science Improvement Act	5	700,000
President-Elect Security Assistance Reimbursement	2	104,401
Project Safe Neighborhoods-Middle District	1	97,674
Project Safe Neighborhoods-Western District Anti-Gang	2	28,045
Project Safe Neighborhoods-Western District	2	54,789
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program	1	105,458
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act	8	340,324
Sexual Assault Services	1	348,079
State Justice Statistics Program	1	49,662
Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN)	1	270,190
STOP Violence Against Women (three-year grants)	33	10,895,949
Victim of Crime Act	4	303,897
<b>Total Federal</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>\$65,829,437</b>
<b>Total State and Federal</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>\$101,055,489</b>

\*\* Federal funds awarded by the Commission between 7/1/08 and 6/30/09

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### **VICTIMS' SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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