**Josh Shapiro**

*Chairman*

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OVS Newsletter

December 21, 2016

In this Issue...

* [National Census for Victim Service Providers](#_National_Census_for)
* [Open Your Eyes: Reasons, Responsibilities, And Responses To Combat Child Sexual Exploitation Symposium For The Faith Community](#_Open_Your_Eyes:)
* [Compensation Corner – Claim Assignment Backlog](#_Compensation_Corner_–_2)
* [2016 STOP Annual Progress Reports Are Due 1/20/2017](#_The_OVC_Training)
* [Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings](#_December_Webinars_Hosted_1)
* [CDC Releases A Technical Package For The Prevention Of Youth Violence](#_CDC_Releases_A)
* [Community Corrections Strategies Reduce Recidivism](#_Community_Corrections_Strategies)
* [Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services Initiative](#_Vision_21:_Transforming)
* [33 States Reform Criminal Justice Policies Through Justice Reinvestment](#_33_States_Reform)
* [I Studied 18 Years Worth Of Domestic Violence Articles. Here’s What Journalists Can Do Better.](#_I_Studied_18)
* [How Many Americans Are Unnecessarily Incarcerated?](#_How_Many_Americans)
* [The 2017 PCAR Statewide Conference: Putting Unity In Community](#_The_2017_PCAR)
* [Save The Date: The 14th Pathways For Victim Services Conference](#_Save_The_Date:_2)
* [Save The Date: KCIT Basic Crisis Response Training](#_Save_The_Date:)
* [Save The Date: 2017 PDAI Victim Services Training](#_Save_The_Date:_3)

Upcoming Events

* + [WebEx Online Trainings Available](https://copa.webex.com/mw3100/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=copa&service=6)Compensation Related: Basic, Advanced-Counseling, Transportation Expenses, Restitution and much more!

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).

* + [Training/Networking Opportunities](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/OVS-Training-Networking-Opportunities.aspx)
	+ [Additional RASA/VOJO/VOCA Approved Training](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/RASA-VOCA-VOJO-Trainings.aspx)

[Return to top](#_top)

# National Census for Victim Service Providers

Has your program completed the National Census for Victim Service Providers yet? This is an opportunity to be included in the "big picture" of victim response. The National Census for Victim Service Providers will be a major source of national and state-level information that you will be able to use in planning and managing not just your VOCA victim assistance grants, but all victim services administered and operated by your agency.  To be useful, it is essential that NCVSP obtain information from as many victim service agencies as possible.

If you have not received an invitation or aren’t sure whether your organization received an invitation, contact survey firm NORC at NCVSP@norc.org.

More information about the NCVSP is available on the [NCVSP](http://www.rand.org/jie/justice-policy/projects/nsvsp.html) website, including a recorded webinar, list of supporters, FAQ, and more. Please click [here](http://www.rand.org/jie/justice-policy/projects/nsvsp.html) for more information.

Thank you for your participation!

[Return to top](#_top)

# ****Open Your Eyes: Reasons, Responsibilities, And Responses To Combat Child Sexual Exploitation Symposium For The Faith Community****

The Faith Committee of the North Central PA Human Trafficking Response Team is presenting a symposium in late January (Human Trafficking Awareness Month) to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation. The same symposium will be presented twice--in Williamsport, PA on Jan 27 and in Milton, PA on Jan 28. We encourage you to register now for one of these sessions.

**January 27, 2017**

Williamsport, PA

For more information and to register, please click [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/open-your-eyes-a-symposium-raising-awareness-of-child-sexual-exploitation-registration-27440196366?aff=es2).

**January 28, 2017**

Milton, PA

For more information and to register, please click [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/open-your-eyes-a-symposium-raising-awareness-of-child-sexual-exploitation-registration-27902720789?aff=es2).

Anyone can benefit from this symposium. PLEASE HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

We look forward to seeing you in Williamsport or Milton in January. Please feel free to contact Susan Warner-Mills at 570-716-0870, or swm@dejazzd.com, with any questions.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Compensation Corner – Claim Assignment Backlog

The Victims Compensation Assistance Program is committed to helping ease the financial burden that crime imposes on victims.

At this time, the Program is experiencing a backlog of claims to be assigned due to the high number of claims received and staff turnover. There will be a delay in acknowledging and processing compensation claims submitted to the Victims Compensation Assistance Program. We apologize for this inconvenience and we sincerely regret the distress this may cause. We are working very hard to remedy the situation. Currently, claims are being assigned within approximately 60 days of receipt. Additionally, as a result of this backlog, we have been sending letters to claimants advising of the delay in acknowledging their claims.

[Return to top](#_top)

# 2016 STOP Annual Progress Reports Are Due 1/20/2017

The deadline for submitting 2016 Annual Progress Reports for the STOP Grant is January 20, 2017.

[Return to top](#_top)

# ****Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings****

The following DAVE trainings will be held in 2017:

1/10/17 DAVE Training - 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 pm. Click [here](https://copa.webex.com/copa/k2/j.php?MTID=tffc84c8a2a874abfd8220d6f9bf0139b) to register.

4/13/17 DAVE Training - 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 pm. Click [here](https://copa.webex.com/copa/k2/j.php?MTID=td9c1d44e1d75a3f47729076acc1f68f5) to register.

* 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.*

 [Return to top](#_top)

# CDC Releases A Technical Package For The Prevention Of Youth Violence

CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control released *A Comprehensive Technical Package for the Prevention of Youth Violence and Associated Risk Behaviors*. A technical package is a collection of prevention strategies that represents the best available evidence to prevent or reduce the burden and consequences of public health problems like violence. This package supports CDC’s [Striving To Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/stryve/index.html) (STRYVE) national initiative and highlights 6 youth violence prevention strategies:

* Promote family environments that support healthy development
* Provide quality education early in life
* Strengthen youth’s skills
* Connect youth to caring adults and activities
* Create protective community environments
* Intervene to lessen harms and prevent future risk

The strategies are intended to work in combination and reinforce each other. Their implementation requires a collective effort across sectors. The technical package describes the approaches to advance each strategy and the evidence behind them. Please click [here](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/yv-technicalpackage.pdf) to review the CDC’s technical package. Please click [here](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pub/technical-packages.html) for more information about technical packages for violence prevention and best practices for program implementation.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Community Corrections Strategies Reduce Recidivism

For every person in prison, roughly two people are serving their sentences on probation or parole at a fraction of the cost of incarceration.  Over the past 20 years, corrections professionals and researchers have identified a range of successful, community-based strategies that reduce the rate at which these individuals return to prison for new offenses or for breaking the rules of their supervision. Please click [here](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/collections/2016/10/community-corrections-strategies-reduce-recidivism) to view additional publications that summarize some of the approaches that work to change the behavior of offenders and of the system that supervises them.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services Initiative

The Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services initiative—supported by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice—expands the vision and impact of the crime victim assistance field. Initiated in 2013, Vision 21 was the first comprehensive examination into the crime victims’ field in 15 years. Vision 21 projects engage a broad spectrum of service providers, advocates, criminal justice professionals, allied practitioners, and policymakers to address crime victim issues through a lens broader than their everyday work. Please click [here](https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/vision21/pdfs/Vision-21-linking-systems-of-care-for-children-and-youth.pdf?ed2f26df2d9c416fbddddd2330a778c6=penzxnepkz-pxnqpokg) for more information.

[Return to top](#_top)

# 33 States Reform Criminal Justice Policies Through Justice Reinvestment

Since 2007, 33 states have reformed their sentencing and corrections policies through the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, a public-private partnership that includes the U.S. Justice Department’s Bureau of Justice Assistance, The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the Crime and Justice Institute, the Vera Institute of Justice, and other organizations. Although reforms vary from state to state, all aim to improve public safety and control taxpayer costs by prioritizing prison space for serious and repeat offenders and investing some of the savings in alternatives to incarceration for low-level offenders that are effective at reducing recidivism. Please click [here](http://www.pewtrusts.org/~/media/assets/2016/12/33_states_reform_criminal_justice_policies_through_justice_reinvestment.pdf?ed2f26df2d9c416fbddddd2330a778c6=hekaskepyw-hskwpdyb) to view a fact sheet provided by the PEW Charitable Trusts.

[Return to top](#_top)

# I Studied 18 Years Worth Of Domestic Violence Articles. Here’s What Journalists Can Do Better.

After studying news stories published over 18 years in Michigan about intimate partner homicide, Emily Meyer reached two conclusions. The first: The collateral damage was greater than she expected. At least 111 friends, children, relatives, and new romantic partners were slain over that period. The second conclusion: Most of the stories she read included language that unintentionally blames the victim — almost always a woman — and underplays the man’s role. Meyer, an assistant professor in the School of Justice Studies and Sociology at Norwich University, spoke to Kerry Shaw of The Trace about her dissertation, which includes her findings; about how intimate homicides are reported; and about why the trends she identified matter for public health. Please click [here](https://www.thetrace.org/2016/12/domestic-violence-articles-what-journalists-can-do-better/) to read more.

[Return to top](#_top)

# How Many Americans Are Unnecessarily Incarcerated?

Nearly 40 percent of the U.S. prison population — 576,000 people — are behind bars with no compelling public safety reason, according to a new report from the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law. The first-of-its-kind analysis provides a blueprint for how the country can drastically cut its prison population while still keeping crime rates near historic lows. Please click [here](https://www.brennancenter.org/publication/how-many-americans-are-unnecessarily-incarcerated) to read more.

[Return to top](#_top)

# The 2017 PCAR Statewide Conference: Putting Unity In Community

Save the Date!! PCAR will be hosting the **2017 Statewide Conference** at the Radisson Hotel Harrisburg on Wednesday, July 19th and Thursday, July 20th, 2017. At this time, PCAR is accepting Workshop Proposals for the 2017 Statewide Conference. If you are interested in submitting a workshop proposal please do so [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZQPKNVF). The deadline for submissions is **Monday, January 9, 2017 by 5 pm**. Workshop presenters will receive free registration towards the conference.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Save The Date: The 14th Pathways For Victim Services Conference

OVS is pleased to announce the dates of the next Pathways for Victim Services Conference in 2017. The conference will be held in the spring of 2017 at the Hershey Lodge and Conference Center in Hershey, PA.

**Please mark your calendars for the following dates:**

Monday, May 8, 2017

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

OVS is very excited about the upcoming Pathways Conference and looks forward to seeing you there. For additional information, please click [here](http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-pathways-for-victim-services-conference/event-summary-05b8d26fcfba40e784c80e6a28817877.aspx).

[Return to top](#_top)

# Save The Date: KCIT Basic Crisis Response Training

**June 19-22, 2017**

Country Inn & Suites by Carlson

State College, PA

Training Fee: $250 (*Fee includes hotel accommodations, training materials, breakfast and lunch each day*)

Application Deadline: May 12, 2017

Please click [here](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eczzpl4g2a84648b&llr=6nqn8gdab) to register and for more information.

This training is sponsored by the Keystone Crisis Intervention Team. KCIT provides crisis intervention services to victims of crime and their communities in the aftermath of a traumatic event in Pennsylvania.

This 25 hour course trains qualified individuals to work as a team with the goal of helping people in crisis cope with the physical, emotional, and behavioral reactions to trauma in the aftermath of a community crisis.

Please note: Completion of this application does not secure a seat in the training. You will be notified if you have been selected for this training course. All applicants will be notified by May 19, 2017 if they were accepted into the training. Decisions are based on several factors.

For more information or questions please contact: Michelle Kern, KCIT Coordinator at 215-343-6543, or by email at michelle@novabucks.org

*This training has been approved for 25 PCCD training hours.*

*This training has applied for approval by the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors for 25 CEUs.*

*Funding for this project is made available in part through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).*

[Return to top](#_top)

# Save The Date: 2017 PDAI Victim Services Training

All details for the 2017 Victim Services Training are not complete, but please save the following dates:

**WebEx Training**
February 8, 2017
Pennsylvania Protection Acts, PFA and SVPI– What You Need to Know
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration will open on December 15, 2017 on the PCCD WebEx Page which can be accessed on the PCCD web page.

**March 16, 2017**
Supporting Victims of Elder Abuse
Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office

Ray Harley Training Room 3 South Penn Square Philadelphia, PA 19107

Registration at 8:30. Training begins at 9:00 am and 4:30 pm. Cost is $25.00

*Registration will open on February 1, 2017*

**June 14, 2016**

Serving LGBTQ Victims
Pittsburgh Area

Registration at 8:30. Training begins at 9:00 am and 4:30 pm. Cost is $25.00

*Registration will open on May 1, 2017*

**September 21, 2017**

Social Media’s Impact on Victims Under the Age of 17
Giant Community Center 2300 Linglestown Road Harrisburg, PA 17110

Registration at 8:30. Training begins at 9:00 am and 4:30 pm. Cost is $25.00

*Registration will open August 1, 2017*

**November 29, 2017**

Restitution Issues in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System
State College, PA

Actual site will be announced before registration.

Registration at 8:30. Training begins at 9:00 am and 4:30 pm. Cost is $25.00

*Registration will be posted on September 1, 2017*

**2017 Foundational Academy**

April 19-21 and October 18-20, 2017
The Hyatt Place

210 West Beaver Avenue

State College, PA 16801

*Registration for the April Foundational Academy will open in early January and information will be available on the PDAA website at* [*http://www.pdaa.org/pdai-home/*](http://www.pdaa.org/pdai-home/)*.*

For additional information please contact Donna R. Hull, Victim Services Training/ SAVIN Consultant at 484-947-4837 or donna@dhullconsulting.com

[Return to top](#_top)

# The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, January 4, 2017. If you would like any training events, fund raisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Heather Hewitt at hhewitt@pa.gov by December 28, 2016.

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 Heather Hewitt at (717) 265-8730 or via email at hhewitt@pa.gov.

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:** [@PaCrimmCom](https://twitter.com/PaCrimeComm)