**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

**Derin** **Myers**

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OVS Newsletter

February 1, 2017

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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)

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# 2017 Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Awards

A Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Award is the most prestigious award that Pennsylvania gives to a victim service professional or program.  The award may be presented to one program and up to seven individuals who have made notable contributions to the program for which they work, the community they serve, or the field of victim services.

The 2017 Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Awards will be presented at the 2017 Pathways for Victim Services Conference, which will be held from May 8-10, 2017, at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

The selection process for recipients of the Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Award is highly competitive.  Therefore, to be considered, each nomination must meet the criteria and eligibility exactly as outlined.  Please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/Governor%27s-Victim-Service-Pathfinder-Awards.aspx) to view photos and accomplishments of past Governor’s Victim Services Pathfinder Award Recipients.

**Submitting a Nomination:**

Pathfinder nominations will be performed via an electronic submission process. Applications can be submitted by clicking [here](https://www.conferenceabstracts.com/cfp2/login.asp?EventKey=VNNRNHEG).  Nominations must be submitted by 11:59pm Friday, February 24, 2017. Please submit any questions by 3:00pm Thursday, February 23, 2017. We encourage you to review the following documents on criteria and eligibility:

[Nomination Packet Requirements (PDF)](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Nomination%20Packet%20Requirements%20revised%202016.pdf)

[Criteria and Eligibility for Award Categories (PDF)](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Criteria%20and%20eligibility%20Revised%20feb%202016.pdf)

[Nomination Packet Checklist (PDF)](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Nomination%20Packet%20Checklist%20Revised%20Feb%202016.pdf)

Here are some things to keep in mind when submitting a nomination for the 2017 Pathfinder Awards:

* The narrative section should be **based on the criteria and eligibility listed for the relevant award category.  There is a limit of 600 words in this section on the submission site.**
* **The narrative cannot be used as a letter of support.**
* The nominator **cannot** write a letter of support.  The letters of support must be **separate and unique to each other.**
* **ALSO** – Please keep in mind that the letters of support should not have the same information as the narrative.

Need Assistance?

For questions regarding the nominations, contact Heather Hewitt at [hhewitt@pa.gov](mailto:hhewitt@pa.gov), or 717-265-8730.

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# Free Training Opportunities

End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) has several high caliber, archived webinars available without charge:

* Adult Sex Offenders – What You Need to Know
* Digital Evidence: Successfully Identifying and Acquiring Electronic Evidence to Combat the CSI Effect
* Unsubmitted Sexual Assault Kits: Changing What We Know About Rape
* Neurobiology of Sexual Assault Webinar Series
* Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview: A Trauma Informed Experience

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To view any of the above recordings, please click [here](http://www.evawintl.org/WebinarArchive.aspx). Once registered, EVAWI will email you a password to access the selected training.

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# Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) – Request for Proposals

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) will be accepting Requests for Proposals (RFP) to provide services related to sexual violence in communities throughout Pennsylvania. This competitive application is for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 with yearly renewals through Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The RFP will be made available February 3, 2017 on the PCAR website ([www.pcar.org](http://www.pcar.org)). All RFPs must be submitted electronically. Organizations wishing to apply will have until March 10, 2017 to submit an application to PCAR.

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# Save The Date: Second Annual Bucks, Montgomery, And Philadelphia County Regional Forensic Nursing Conference

Friday, May 12th, 2017

Abington Jefferson Health

1200 Old York Road

Abington, PA 19001

8:00am – 5:00pm

*Please click* [*here*](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Save%20the%20Date%202017.pdf) *to view or print the Save the Date*

**Topics Include**

Cultural and medical considerations for transgender individuals during a medical-forensic exam

Courtroom testimony techniques

Trends in forensic serology and DNA technology

Campus sexual assault

Sexual Assault: The police Investigation Perspective

Role of the forensic nurse coroner

Best practices in SANE case review and peer review

**Speakers Include**

* Dr. Rachel Levine, Physician General of Pennsylvania and Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the Penn State College of Medicine
* Ron Smith, forensic identification and investigation specialist
* Pennsylvania State Police Crime Lab
* Jonathan Kassa, Director of Higher Education for Allied Universal
* Detective Dave Bonaquisti, Warminster Police Department, Bucks County, PA
* Pamela Gay, RN, York County, PA Coroner
* Jana French, Nursing Director of Washington DC Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program and International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) Board Member

*We will be applying for CEUs for Registered Nurses and Social Workers*

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# Save The Date: Crime Victims’ Rights Rally

When: April 3, 2017 at 11 a.m.

Where: Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg, PA

*Please click* [*here*](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/2017%20Crime%20Victims%20Rally%20Save%20the%20Date.pdf) *to view or print the Save the Date.*

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# ****Preparing to Implement Evidence Based Programs****

A NEW Training Series from the EPISCenter: Each year new funding opportunities are available for you to implement evidence based programs - are you prepared to apply? The EPISCenter will be offering three free webinars full of tips and expert guidance to help you in designing your program implementation and writing an effective grant application.

**Sustainability and Grant Writing**  
Learn how to plan for long term viability and review critical grant writing tips and logistics.

Friday, February 3rd, 2017

11:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

Please click [here](https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8BppNydyuGYW3KB) to register.

**Note:** When you register, we'll email you a link to the online presentation space. Be sure to test these links prior to the presentation time. Security settings--especially in work environments--may limit access, and you may be required to update to the current (free) Adobe Flash Player in order to view content.

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# Funding Opportunity: OVW FY2017 Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, And Stalking Program

The United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is pleased to announce that it is seeking applications for the Fiscal Year 2017 Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Assistance Program. This program furthers the Department’s mission by supporting projects designed to address and prevent sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in rural jurisdictions.

Applications Due: February 23, 2017

Please click [OVW-2017-11908](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=291054) for the full solicitation.

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# PDAI Victim Services Training News

**Web Ex Training**: **Pennsylvania Protection Acts, PFA and SVPI– What You Need to Know**

February 8, 2017

1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Registration for this Web-ex is available [here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2981218053&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2981218053&internalProgramTicketUnList=null).

**April Foundational Academy**

April 19-21, 2017

The registration for this training is now closed. If you would like to be placed on a waiting list, please email Donna R. Hull at [donna@dhullconsulting.com](mailto:donna@dhullconsulting.com).

For those who have already registered, the online independent study component is available [here](http://www.pdaa.org/pdai-pa-savin/).

**Registration is now open for the following one-day training:**

**Supporting Victims of Elder Abuse**

March 16, 2017

Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office   
Ray Harley Training Room

3 South Penn Square Philadelphia, PA

Registration for this training will begin at 8:30 and the training will be conducted from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Registration is $25.00 and you can register [here](http://www.pdaa.org/pdai-home/).

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# 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.

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

The following trainings will be held on February 2, 2017.

* Loss of Support Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2986172637&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2986172637&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.
* Counseling Expenses Clinic - 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2986172266&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2986172266&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on February 8, 2017.

* Basic Compensation - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2986157036&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2986157036&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on February 16, 2017.

* Crime Scene Cleanup Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803013&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803013&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on February 21, 2017.

* Loss of Earnings Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803076&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803076&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on February 23, 2017.

* Funeral & Burial Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803210&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803210&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on March 2, 2017.

* ”Wow, That’s Covered by Compensation” - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803284&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803284&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on March 7, 2017.

* Motor Vehicle-Related Crime Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803394&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803394&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on March 9, 2017.

* Relocation Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803436&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803436&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on March 14, 2017.

* Stolen Benefit Cash Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803450&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803450&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following trainings will be held on March 22, 2017.

* Restitution Basics - 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989675745&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989675745&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.
* Loss of Earnings Clinic - 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803516&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803516&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.
* Loss of Support Clinic - 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803539&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803539&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on March 28, 2017.

* Transportation Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803596&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803596&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on April 5, 2017.

* Basic Compensation - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803673&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803673&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.
* Counseling Expenses Clinic - 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2989803664&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2989803664&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following DAVE trainings will be held in 2017:

* 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.*

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# There’s New Reason To Be Worried That Trump Will Slash Funding To Violence Against Women Programs

The Violence Against Women Act, which was passed in 1994, currently administers [25 grant programs](https://www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs) aimed at helping women who become victims of violence. According to the Department of Justice [website](https://www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs#cgpa), those grants funnel money to programs “designed to develop the nation’s capacity to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable.” And based on a [new report](http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2017/01/report-trump-team-preparing-usd10-trillion-in-budget-cuts.html), they could be on the budgetary chopping block under Donald Trump’s administration.

According to the Hill, two members of Trump’s transition team recently met with career staff at the White House to go over a plan to reduce federal spending by $10.5 trillion over the next decade. Team Trump’s overall budget plan is reportedly modeled on a blueprint from the right-wing Heritage Foundation, which calls the VAMA grants “a misuse of federal resources and a distraction from concerns that are truly the province of the federal government.” Please click [here](http://nymag.com/thecut/2017/01/trumps-team-could-cut-violence-against-women-programs.html) to read more.

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# ****Scholarships Available For 2017 National Victim Service Conferences****

The Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute (PDAI) is pleased to announce the availability of funding for scholarships to attend eligible national victim service conferences. This funding is made available through a grant awarded to PDAI by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for the purpose of subsidizing the costs associated with attending these training conferences. These costs may include registration fees, per diem (for food), and reasonable transportation and lodging expenses. The scholarships are only available to victim service professionals to attend any national conference focused on victim service training. To qualify, the applicant’s entire job focus must be on providing support, information, and assistance to victims. Any eligible conference must be completed within the 2017 calendar year.  Only one person per agency can receive a scholarship and only after providing a sufficient justification of need. Recipients are selected based upon the information provided in the application, the number of scholarships previously awarded, and remaining available funding. Please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/2017%20PCCD%20Scholarship%20Application.docx) for the Scholarship Application.

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# 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 we look 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).

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# 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](mailto: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).*

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# The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, February 15, 2017. If you would like any training events, fundraisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Heather Hewitt at [hhewitt@pa.gov](mailto:hhewitt@pa.gov) by February 8, 2017.

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](mailto: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)