**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

**Derin** **Myers**

*Acting* *Executive Director*

OVS Newsletter

April 12, 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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# Victim Survivor Scholarships Available For The 14th Pathways For Victim Services Conference

The Office of Victims’ Services is offering scholarships for up to six victim survivors to attend this year’s Pathways for Victim Services Conference. The conference will be held on May 8-10, 2017 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA. Invited survivors receive free overnight hotel accommodations for the length of the conference and free registration. We are inviting local Victim Services Programs to recommend victim survivors who may be interested in attending the conference. It is preferred that the program’s advocate/counselor/staff member that has previously worked with the victim survivor is also attending the conference.

If you know of a victim survivor that is interested, or for more information, please contact Janice Maruniak (jem41@psu.edu) **by April 25, 2017**.

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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 event details and to register online, please click [here](http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-pathways-for-victim-services-conference/event-summary-05b8d26fcfba40e784c80e6a28817877.aspx).

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# OVA Public Service Announcement For Crime Victims’ Rights

Criminals are always read their Miranda Rights, but do victims know their rights as a victim of a crime? Please click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9aJ10LU4x8&feature=youtu.be) to view a PSA released by the Office of the Victim Advocate.

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# Compensation Corner – Award Decisions

Report and Determination (Award Decision):

When sufficient verification has been received, the assigned staff member will review all documents, determine the payable losses, and process a Report & Determination. The Report and Determination will either be reviewed and approved by the staff member’s Second Reviewer, or it will be system-approved by the DAVE System. (A percentage of claims approved by the DAVE system are post audited by Second Reviewers within a week so that in the event that an error is found, corrections can be made before a check is mailed by the Treasury Department.)

Once second approved, the Report & Determination is sent to the claimant. If money is due directly to the claimant, a check will also be enclosed (up to $5,000) from VCAP’s Advancement Account. Any remaining balance to the claimant, as well as any amount due a provider, will be processed and mailed from the Treasury Department within approximately two to three weeks normally (there are times throughout the year, this time could be longer). All checks due a provider will be mailed directly to the provider.

Report and Determination (Supplemental Decision):

If a claimant incurs additional bills related to the crime, these bills may be considered on a Supplemental Decision. A new claim form is not required. The bill(s) can be sent to the VCAP with the original claim number written on it. These bills will be assigned to the same staff member as the initial award and the claim follows the same process as a new claim.

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# Reminder To All VOJO And RASA Programs: Quarterly Program Reports Due April 20, 2017

The following program reports will need to be submitted in Egrants **by April 20th**:

**VOJO Program Reports – periodic report for the three month period from January 1 – March 31, 2017 of current VOJO grants**

**RASA Program Reports – periodic report for the three month period from January 1 – March 31, 2017 of current RASA grants**

**Please Note: Quarterly Fiscal reports for VOJO and RASA grants will also be due in Egrants by April 20, 2017**.

Please contact Vicki McCloskey at Vmccloskey@pa.gov or (717) 265-8746 or Maria Katulis at mkatulis@pa.gov or (717) 265-8741 if you have any questions or need assistance regarding your VOJO or RASA Program Reports.

For fiscal report questions, please contact the fiscal staff person listed on your grant. If you need technical assistance with Egrants, please contact the Egrants Support Line at

(717) 787-5887.

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# ATTENTION ALL VOJO PROGRAMS - Reminder Of VOJO Lapsing Funds

Recipients of 2016 VOJO (VJ) and/or 2016 JRI (JV) funds, denoted on your Award Letter as:

2016 VJ Award Amount $ xx.xx

2016 VJ Project Period 1/1/2017 - 6/30-2017

 And/or

2016 JV Award Amount $ xx.xx

2016 JV Project Period 1/1/2017 - 6/30/2017

This is a reminder that VOJO funds not expended or obligated from these funding sources by June 30, 2017 will lapse.

**Any outstanding obligations as of 6/30/2017 should be reported in the Outstanding Subgrantee Obligations column on the fiscal report for the period ending 6/30/2017**.

**It is the responsibility of the subgrantee to monitor these amounts**.

If you have any questions, please contact the Fiscal Contact staff person listed on your VOJO grant.

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# Executive Search For PCADV Executive Director

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) is seeking an exceptional Executive Director who has a personal and professional passion and commitment to serving in the domestic violence movement. Please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/PCADV%20ED%20Position%20Profile%20FINAL.pdf) to review the position profile/job announcement.

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# Save The Date: 2017 Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network VOCA Grantee Training

Wednesday, June 7, 2017 8:00am – 5:15pm
Thursday, June 8, 2017 8:00am – 3:15pm

The Harrisburg Crowne Plaza
23 South Second Street

Harrisburg, PA 17101

Please plan to join us on June 7 & 8, 2017 for the 2017 Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network VOCA Grantee Training. This training is targeted to all new VOCA Grantees but we welcome all of the Domestic Violence Advocates Community of PA. This training will fulfill the requirements of the 10 hour mandatory VOCA Grantee training but is not just relevant for VOCA Grantees. It was developed in consultation with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The training agenda will include sessions on:

* Trauma Informed Advocacy.
* Vicarious Trauma to providers of services.
* Confidentiality and Mandated Reporting, Identifying Conflicts of Interest, Referrals and Competent Representation.
* Unique Features of Representing Child and Elderly Victims of Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Including Child Advocacy Centers. The Intersection of Civil Legal Proceedings and Child Protective Services Law.
* Immigration/U-Visas/Language Access/Interpreters, Being Culturally Informed, Including the LGBTQ Community.
* Current Developments in the PFA Law, Strangulation Bill, and Court Decisions Impacting Representation in PFA and PVSI cases, Addressing Temporary Protection Orders In Light of Court Requirements of Due Process. This session will also include discussion of VOCA restrictions on activities including accessibility and off-site delivery.
* A general session on Representing Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
* Victim-Centered Services In the Context of Petitions Being Filed Directly by the Victim, Sometimes with Advocacy by Shelters, Followed by Appearance of Lawyers, Working from Pleadings Already Filed, and Indirect Criminal Contempt.
* Access to Court Records and Presenting Special Evidence in Court (Rules of Evidence/Social Media).
* Counseling the Client As A Whole, Strategies Regarding PFA Cases and Related Relief Including Custody, Support, Retaining Utility Services, Housing, and Damages/Special Rights for Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

*At least 2 Ethics hours and 8 Substantive CLE Credits will be offered (At no cost to attendees)*

Please click [here](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ee07v3vd6d03ca3e&llr=7mhlfkqab) to register online.

For questions contact Kelly Bock Yeckley at kbockyeckley@palegalaid.net or 717-236-9486, ext. 201.

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# Advoz: Upcoming Events

**Mediation Training – Module 2**

April 27 - April 30

Sessions run Thursdays 1-5:30 pm, Fridays 8:30 am – 5:00 pm and Saturdays: 8:30-5 pm.

1st Presbyterian Church of Lancaster

140 E Orange Street
Lancaster, PA 17602

Practice each step of the mediation process with discussion of topics like ethics. Participants practice their new skills by role playing three times as a mediator and one time as a disputant with outside role players. Participants leave empowered with a full set of skills to informally and formally mediate disputes and conflicts in participatory ways in which all are heard and everyone contributes to the solution. Successfully completing the course qualifies one for consideration as an Advoz volunteer mediator, contributing to community peace-building and gaining valuable experience that can translate to many other fields.

For more information, to view daily agendas and to register: [www.advoz.org](http://www.advoz.org).

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# Peace: The Next Generation With Dr. Arun Gandhi

Whether race, gender, age, culture, class or politics, we are being asked every day how we can build a culture of peace in a divisive world, especially for our youth and the generations to come.

We invite you to be part of the foundation of an event to build a culture of peace in the next generation in a conversation Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mohandas Gandhi and founder of the M.K. Institute for Nonviolence. The event will also recognize Scott LaMar, host of WITF’s Radio Smart Talk as recipient of the first Dignity in Dialogue Award. Musical guests will be father-daughter duet John and Helena Protopapas with sitar, violin and voice.

Kick-off Dinner for Center for Community Peacemaking & Conflict Resolution Services

On **Thursday, May 4, 2017**, Dr. Gandhi will speak at a dinner celebrating the merger of two long-standing community organizations, the Center for Community Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution Services. With an expected audience of 400-500 at the Spooky Nook Event Center, it promises to bring a diverse cross section of our community for a reception with silent auction, cultural arts presentation, buffet dinner and program featuring Dr. Gandhi.

Spooky Nook Olympic Hall

75 Champ Boulevard
Manheim, PA 17545

$65 Ticket Price per person, $125/pair and $450 for table of eight. Sponsorships are also still available.

Learn more and order tickets online at: <https://advoz.org/event/around-the-table-with-arun-gandhi/>

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

The following training will be held on April 18, 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=2998666519&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2998666519&internalProgramTicketUnList=null" \t "_blank) to register.

The following training will be held on April 24, 2017.

* Relocation Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2998666571&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2998666571&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on April 26, 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=2998666575&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2998666575&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on May 2, 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=2998666580&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2998666580&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on May 4, 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=2998666585&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2998666585&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on May 11, 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=2998666670&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2998666670&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on May 17, 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=2998666752&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2998666752&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

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

* Counseling Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2998666814&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2998666814&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following trainings will be held on May 25, 2017.

* Basic Compensation - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2998666820&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2998666820&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.
* Transportation Expenses Clinic - 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2998666815&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2998666815&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on May 30, 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=2998666760&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2998666760&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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# PDAI Victim Services Training News

**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**.*

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

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# Pennsylvania Advocates Rally To Eliminate Statute Of Limitations On Sex Abuse Crimes

Adults who were victimized by sexual predators as children and advocates for crime victims took to the steps of the Pennsylvania Capitol Building in Harrisburg on Monday to share horrific tales of abuse and express anger with lawmakers who have been unwilling to open a window to allow civil lawsuits in cases where the statute of limitations has expired. The rally came a day ahead of Tuesday's committee vote on whether the state House will seek to change a law that has been moving forward without a clause to include victims who didn’t seek justice before the statute of limitations ran out. Please click [here](http://www.hgazette.com/cnhi_network/pennsylvania-advocates-rally-to-eliminate-statute-of-limitations-on-sex/article_aafdcc0b-b64d-50af-a96a-0f703dcf19db.html) to read more.

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# PODCAST: Less Incarceration, Less Crime

States are finding new ways to get smart on crime and, in the process, changing how America views crime and punishment. After decades of rising prison populations, reforms in 33 states have helped cut the national incarceration rate by 13 percent since 2007. That data point drives this episode’s conversation about the new approaches, informed by research-based sentencing and corrections policies, that are slowing prison growth and helping communities become safer. Host Dan LeDuc speaks with Adam Gelb, director of Pew’s [public safety performance project](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/public-safety-performance-project), as well as two leaders in South Carolina—state Senator Gerald Malloy (D), who has led his state’s reform efforts; and Bryan Stirling, state corrections director, who is implementing these transformative changes. Please click [here](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/multimedia/audio/2017/less-incarceration-less-crime) to view this episode.

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# OVC Awards Almost $8.5 Million To Support Victims Of Pulse Nightclub Shooting

The Office for Victims of Crime announced an $8,466,970 [Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program](https://www.ovc.gov/AEAP/index.html) (AEAP) grant to the Florida Office of the Attorney General, Florida Department of Legal Affairs to assist victims of the June 2016 mass shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

OVC Acting Director Marilyn McCoy Roberts states, “This award will reimburse victim services costs for operation of the Family Assistance Center in the immediate aftermath of the shooting, and to ensure that victims, witnesses and first responders receive necessary services to help them adjust in the aftermath of violence, begin the healing process, and cope with probable re-traumatization.”

Please click [here](https://www.ovc.gov/AEAP/index.html) to visit the [AEAP website](https://www.ovc.gov/AEAP/index.html) to learn how this program supports communities responding to incidents of terrorism and mass violence.

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# More Than 100 Charged Under New Pennsylvania Strangulation Law

Early Thursday morning, a Lincoln Place man was scheduled for a hearing on charges that he choked his daughter. A short while later, in a courthouse less than 10 miles away, an Etna man waived his hearing on charges that he repeatedly strangled his girlfriend. Later that same day, other hearings were scheduled for a Monroeville woman accused of choking her girlfriend, an Etna man charged with strangling a woman with whom he’d argued about “relationship issues,” and a Wilmerding man accused of strangling his girlfriend. All were charged under a new Pennsylvania strangulation law that makes it illegal to impede someone’s blood flow or breathing by “applying pressure to the throat or neck” or “blocking the nose and mouth of the person.” Often, that means grabbing someone around the neck, but it could also include other actions, such as smothering someone with a pillow.

The ability to charge someone with strangulation in non-fatal cases is important, domestic violence groups says, because choking rarely happens just once and it can often predict other, future danger. “One study has shown the odds of becoming a homicide victim increase by 800 percent for women who had been strangled by their partner,” the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence wrote in a recent report. Please click [here](http://www.post-gazette.com/news/state/2017/04/10/Pennsylvania-domestic-violence-strangulation-law-changes/stories/201704100010) 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: 4th Annual Victims’ Rights Conference

Crime Victim Center is hosting our 2017 "Crime Victims' Rights Conference: Strength; Resilience; Justice" on Friday, April 28th, from 9am to 4:15pm, at the Bayfront Sheraton in Erie, PA. Seating is limited to the first 75 people to register.

This conference will host a range of amazing speakers in three breakout sessions, in addition to a speaking program during lunch.

Event Location:
**Bayfront Sheraton**

55 W Bay Rd,

Erie, PA 16507

*The registration for this training is now closed.*

For the agenda and other information for those already registered, please click [here](http://www.cvcerie.org/education/2017-crime-victims-rights-conference/).

*Application has been made for continuing education credits for Nursing Home Administrator and Activity Professionals as well as Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors.*

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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://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event;jsessionid=C32844B09A3814F84D82D3100660108A.worker_registrant?llr=6nqn8gdab&oeidk=a07edn2kijc6204c134) to register and view the agenda.*

**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
* 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*

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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

* *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, April 26, 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 by April 19, 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.

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)