**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

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OVS Newsletter

May 24, 2017

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Upcoming Events

* + [WebEx Online Trainings Available](https://copa.webex.com/mw3200/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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# Remembering Jennifer Kempton

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Jennifer Kempton. Jennifer was a keynote speaker at the Pathways Conference on May 9th, where she shared her heartbreaking story. A fundraising page has been set up to help cover funeral costs. If you wish to donate, please click [here](https://www.youcaring.com/teresapollock-826396).

Jennifer was a survivor of child abuse, domestic violence, drug addiction, and human trafficking. While living on the streets, she was beaten, raped, kidnapped, delivered a baby on the streets, sold to gangs, and branded. After becoming free, those scars became constant reminders of her abuse until she was given a gift of a cover-up tattoo. The freedom she experienced through covering her brands inspired her to start Survivor’s Ink, a nonprofit organization that helps other trafficking survivors cover their brandings and scars from the street. The mission of Survivor’s Ink is to raise awareness through advocacy and education while empowering survivors by covering the brandings and scars of violence with beautiful artwork. In addition to providing cover-up tattoos, the organization conducts street outreach weekly, passing out hygiene bags, coats, clothing and blankets to victims of human trafficking. Survivor's Ink also provides follow-up care and advocacy to survivors, attempting to improve their long-term stability and success by connecting them with the resources they need. To learn more about Jennifer’s dream, please click [here](http://www.survivorsink.org/).

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# PCADV: Start At Strangulation

PCADV has a new resource webpage on Strangulation. PCADV recently held a strangulation webinar in partnership with AEquitas, The Prosecutor’s Resource, and it drew more than 200 allied professionals -- law enforcement, prosecutors, judges and court personnel, medical professionals and advocates. PCADV collected all the resources in one place for easy reference:

<http://www.pcadv.org/Learn-More/Domestic-Violence-Topics/Strangulation>

What’s here:

         Strangulation Benchcard

         The Jurist – Judicial Newsletter, Strangulation Issue

         Webinar Recording with John Wilkinson, JD, from AEquitas

         Link to the Crimes Code section 18 Pa.C.S. §2718

         Link to the Strangulation Institute’s Infographic on signs & symptoms

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# 2017 PCAR Statewide Conference: Putting Unity in Community: Registration Is Now Open!!

Registration for the 2017 PCAR Statewide Conference: Putting Unity in Community is open!

The conference is Wednesday, July 19th and Thursday, July 20th at Radisson Hotel Harrisburg in Camp Hill, PA.  Detective Carrie Hull, Program Director of the [You Have Options Program](https://www.reportingoptions.org/), will be the keynote speaker.  The conference will showcase the impact of collaboration among allied professionals, as well as topics on prevention, response, underserved populations and much more.  There will be 10 hours of PCCD Annual Training Hours offered at this year’s conference.

The deadline for conference registration is July 5th and the deadline for hotel registration is June 18th.  To register for the Statewide Conference, please click [here](https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=PCAR&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=df460e1a-17e4-40a0-9313-df062d1e066d).

For questions about the conference you can contact Tatiana Taborn at [ttaborn@pcar.org](mailto:ttaborn@pcar.org) or 717-728-9740 ext. 162. For questions about registration you can contact Erin Levine at [elevine@pcar.org](mailto:elevine@pcar.org) or 717-728-9740 ext. 106.

We look forward to seeing you in July!

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# Compensation Corner – Appeals

If a claimant does not agree with the Program’s decision, he or she may file a Request for Reconsideration within 30 days of the date of the Report & Determination. If the victim/claimant received a check from the Program, it must be returned with the Request for Reconsideration. The Request for Reconsideration is reviewed by the Claims Review Officer and additional follow-up is done as necessary. A decision is then made to either change the original decision or reaffirm it. If after the Reconsideration determination the claimant still disagrees with the decision, he or she has the right to file a Request for Hearing within 30 days of the date of the reconsidered decision.

NOTE: A Request for Reconsideration must be completed and signed by the claimant. An advocate may assist the claimant in writing the appeal; however, the claimant must sign.

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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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# Military Sexual Assaults Down, Reporting Of Incidents Up, Survey Finds

[The Pentagon](http://abcnews.go.com/topics/news/us/the-pentagon.htm)'s [latest survey](http://sapr.mil/index.php/reports) of sexual assault in the military estimates that the number of sexual assaults decreased to 14,900 in 2016, down from the 20,300 measured in the last survey conducted in 2014. Meanwhile, the number of sexual assaults reported by victims in 2016 rose slightly to 6,172, an increase that Pentagon officials said indicated greater awareness of the care and responses available to victims. Please click [here](http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/military-sexual-assaults-reporting-incidents-report-finds/story?id=47142882) to read more.

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# Elder Abuse Case Review MDT Toolkit

The U.S. Department of Justice’s Elder Abuse Initiative has just released *its Elder Abuse Case Review MDT Toolkit* to encourage and facilitate the development and growth of elder abuse case review multidisciplinary teams (MDTs).  Its ten chapters are full of useful tips and tools, and the Guide offers a detailed overview of MDTs. Please click [here](https://www.justice.gov/elderjustice/mdt-toolkit) to learn more.

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

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 trainings will be held on June 7, 2017.

* Relocation Expenses Clinic - 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=1633235575&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=1633235575&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.
* Stolen Benefit Cash Expenses Clinic - 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=1633235607&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=1633235607&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following trainings will be held on June 21, 2017.

* Crime-Scene Cleanup Expenses Clinic - 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=1633235642&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=1633235642&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.
* Funeral & Burial Expenses Clinic - 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=1633235781&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=1633235781&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following trainings will be held on June 27, 2017.

* Restitution Basics - 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=1632178509&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=1632178509&internalProgramTicketUnList=null" \t "_blank) to register.
* Myths of Compensation - 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=1633235792&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=1633235792&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.
* Loss of Earnings Clinic - 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=1633235717&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=1633235717&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following trainings will be held on July 6, 2017.

* Motor Vehicle-Related Crime Expenses Clinic - 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=1633235835&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=1633235835&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.
* “Wow, That’s Covered by Compensation” - 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=1633236158&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=1633236158&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following trainings will be held on July 19, 2017.

* Counseling Expenses Clinic - 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=1633236189&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=1633236189&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.
* Basic Compensation - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=1633237155&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=1633237155&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

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

* Loss of Support Clinic - 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=1633236329&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=1633236329&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.
* Transportation Expenses Clinic - 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=1633236303&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=1633236303&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

DAVE Webex trainings

* 7/12/16 at 9:00 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/copa/k2/j.php?MTID=t0d91e8959b72b1a95883b383ee7d79d3) to register.
* 9/27/16 at 1:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/copa/k2/j.php?MTID=tef133ecf43d85106dc13453189188af9) 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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# ****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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# Answering The Call To Service: The Mark Hudson Story

Please join the Lutheran Settlement House for a screening of “Answering the Call to Service: The Mark Hudson Story”. This short documentary takes a close look at how the life of Mark Hudson, a 26-year old police officer and fire fighter, was tragically cut short as a result of domestic violence and how domestic violence affects too many men in our communities. The screening will be followed by a panel about how domestic violence affects men and the making of the documentary.

Wednesday, May 24th

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Lutheran Settlement House

1340 Frankford Avenue

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19125

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# Training Announcement for Law Enforcement and Prosecutors

Investigating & Prosecuting Sexual Abuse in Correctional Settings: PREA & Prison Sexual Abuse Dynamics Training for Law Enforcement & Prosecutors

Wednesday, May 31st, 2017

9:00AM-4:00PM  
215 Innovation Boulevard

State College, PA 16803

Registration: In this free training, space is limited. Please click [here](https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=PCAR&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=c5204418-e80b-4a46-9e80-0aba03b53185) to register.

Lodging: Overnight accommodation will be offered on a first come basis for attendees who meet certain criteria. Others can use a discount code after registration. Please see [registration site](https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=PCAR&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=c5204418-e80b-4a46-9e80-0aba03b53185) for more information.

This training is intended for law enforcement and prosecutors, however, allied professionals working to end sexual abuse in incarceration are also welcome.

In working to end sexual abuse in correctional settings, law enforcement and prosecutorial responses to prison sexual assault are just as critical as institutional and community responses. The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) outlines criminal justice collaboration in efforts to address and prevent further perpetration. In this training law enforcement and prosecutors will gain an overview of PREA, understand the dynamics of sexual abuse in confinement, tools for investigations, and practices for prosecution. After this training, you will:

1. Gain an understanding of PREA standards, specifically related to criminal investigations and prosecution.
2. Be able to identify dynamics of prison culture and corrections, and how it contributes to institutional sexual abuse and delayed or underreporting of abuse.
3. Learn tools to improve investigations of prison sexual abuse.
4. Learn practices to more effectively prosecute sexual abuse in correctional settings.

This training is presented by:

Viktoria Kristiansson (JD), Attorney Advisor, Aequitas

Patrick Zirpoli, retired Pennsylvania State Police

This training is hosted by:

the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

For questions about **registration**, please contact Erin Levine, Database and Training Assistant, at [elevine@pcar.org](mailto:elevine@pcar.org) or 717-728-9740 x 106.

For questions about **the training**, please contact Kayla Houser, Outreach Coordinator, at [knhouser@pcar.org](mailto:knhouser@pcar.org) or 717-728-9740 x 117.

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# PDAI Training News

**Serving LGBTQ Victims**

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Butler County Library

218 N. McKean Street

Butler, PA 15129

Presenter: Dr. Kelly Clark from the Q Center at Binghamton University  
Cost: $25.00  
Pizza will be provided for lunch at this training and scholarships are available.

To register for this training, please click [here](http://www.pdaa.org/supporting-lgbtq-victims/).

For information on additional trainings provided by PDAI, please click [here](http://www.pdaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/2017-Victim-Services-Training-Save-The-Date.pdf).

The registration fee for one-day trainings is $25.00. No food or beverages will be provided at one-day trainings unless otherwise posted.

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# 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](mailto:kbockyeckley@palegalaid.net) or 717-236-9486, ext. 201.

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# The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, June 7, 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 May 31, 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)