**Charles Ramsey**

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OVS Newsletter

July 5, 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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# To All RASA & VOJO Programs  -  IMPORTANT MESSAGE

As we near the end the 2nd quarter of the 2017-2018 RASA/VOJO grants, we would like to take this time to remind all programs who receive RASA and VOJO funding that you should have your RASA and VOJO tracking tools updated with the **new RASA/VOJO reporting requirement information that went into effect January 1, 2017**, and hopefully you are starting to feel comfortable with the process of counting New and Continuing victims and significant others, as well as with tracking the new Victimization Types, Demographic Information, and all of the services you provide to clients.

**If for some reason, your program has not yet updated your RASA/VOJO tracking tools, please do so as soon as possible**.  Tracking of this information is a **requirement of the grants** and it must be entered in the quarterly program reports.  Please be aware that you will also need to have this information available if your program should be selected for a random monitoring.

If you have any questions about this process or need assistance, please contact Vicki McCloskey at [vmccloskey@pa.gov](mailto:vmccloskey@pa.gov) or 717-265-8746, or Maria Katulis at [mkatulis@pa.gov](mailto:mkatulis@pa.gov) or 717-265-8741.

Thank you for your continued dedication and service to victims and their loved ones.

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# Friendly Reminder To All VOJO And RASA Programs:  2nd Quarter Program Reports Due July 20, 2017!

The following program reports for the 2nd quarter of the current VOJO and RASA grants will need to be submitted in Egrants **by July 20th**:

**VOJO Program Reports – quarterly report due for the period from April 1 – June 30, 2017**

**RASA Program Reports – quarterly report due for the period from April 1 – June 30, 2017**

Note:  Quarterly fiscal reports for VOJO and RASA grants will also be due in Egrants by July 20, 2017.

If you should have any questions or need assistance completing your program reports, please contact Vicki McCloskey at [vmccloskey@pa.gov](mailto:vmccloskey@pa.gov) or (717) 265-8746, or Maria Katulis at [mkatulis@pa.gov](mailto:mkatulis@pa.gov) or (717) 265-8741.

For fiscal report questions, please contact the fiscal staff person listed on your grant.  If you need technical assistance with Egrants, you may 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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# Seven Steps To Protect Yourself From ‘Card Skimmers’

The Pennsylvania Department of Banking and Securities advises shoppers to be especially watchful for fraudulent card skimming devices, which can be attached to ATM machines, gas pumps, or other payment processing machines in retail stores. With this information, thieves can withdraw money from the victim’s bank account and make unauthorized purchases. Learn more about steps consumers can take to protect themselves: (need correct link). Consumers can call the department at 1-800-PA-BANKS or 1-800-600-0007 to ask questions or file complaints about financial transactions, companies, or products. Organizations can email [informed@pa.gov](mailto:informed@pa.gov) to request training or presentations.

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# C:\Users\mkatulis\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\F8E22A2V\16550-illustrated-silhouette-of-a-train-pv[1].png Grant Information Station – First Edition!

Hello, and welcome to a new column in the *OVS Newsletter*. Just as **Compensation Corner** provides updates about all things VCAP, **Grant Information Station** offers direction for navigating the world of grants management, which includes both program and fiscal requirements. These requirements are detailed in funding announcements, PCCD’s *Applicant’s Manual* and other important documents. This column in no way replaces the use of these documents, but instead highlights timely topics

This first train departing the **Grant Information Station** is for RASA/VOJO passengers. RASA/VOJO program reports for the 2nd quarter (April 1 – June 30) are due July 20, 2017. Would you like to lessen the number of report issues to which you need to respond? If so, please review the following before submitting your 2nd quarter program reports!

Clients Served Section - For the 1st quarter report, you were advised that the responses to both questions in this section should be the same (since all Victims/Significant Others served were considered New*).* ***This changes******for the 2nd quarter report****. Please* *indicate your TOTAL number of New* ***and*** *Continuing Victims/Significant Others* *served in the 2nd quarter for Question 1. Please report only New Victims/Significant Others served in the 2nd quarter for Question 2.*

Demographics Section – Please make a good faith effort to report demographic information obtained from client self-identification, police reports or meeting with the client. We know that it isn’t always possible to obtain all demographic information for each client, but *please do not use “Not Reported” for all clients in each category.*

Services Section – Please report 100% of RASA/VOJO services provided to each Victim/Significant Other served in the 2nd quarter. This means that your services total should be greater than the number of clients, since clients often receive more than one service.

If you have any questions as you complete the 2nd quarter RASA/VOJO program reports, please contact Vicki McCloskey at [vmccloskey@pa.gov](mailto:Vmccloskey@pa.gov)or (717) 265-8746, or Maria Katulis at [mkatulis@pa.gov](mailto:mkatulis@pa.gov) or (717) 265-8741.

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

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

* 7/12/17 at 9:00 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/copa/k2/j.php?MTID=t0d91e8959b72b1a95883b383ee7d79d3) to register.
* 9/27/17 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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# Meet The Guardians Of The Children

Turtle, Tweety, Logger, Tink, and Cash Friday – no, they’re not the newest group of mutant ninja turtles...they’re a biker group whose mission it is to help protect child abuse victims in Pennsylvania.  They’ve been in existence for less than a year now but they’ve done some pretty heroic things – from forming a wall in court to block perpetrators from making eye contact with or trying to intimidate child victims to taking shifts to sit outside of a child victim’s home in order to make sure they feel safe. Please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/GOC%20(2).pdf) to read more.

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# LGBTQ Youth And Sexual Abuse: Information For Mental Health Professionals

The NCTSN Child Sexual Abuse Collaborative Group has published a 7-page tip sheet which mental health practitioners will find invaluable in their work with lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, trans, and queer youth. *LGBTQ Youth and Sexual Abuse: Information for Mental Health Professionals* provides a short glossary of relevant terms; a chart delineating the continuums of sex, gender, and sexual orientation; brief summaries of issues concerning LGBTQ youth and their parents related to sexual orientation and sexual abuse; a table of common myths and stereotypes about LGBTQ youth and sexual abuse; recommendations for practitioners and agencies on counseling LGBTQ youth; and guidance in treating LGBTQ youth following sexual abuse. Please click [here](http://www.nctsn.org/products/lgbtq-youth-and-sexual-abuse-information-mental-health-professionals) for more information.

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# New Study: Rates Of Anti-LGBTQ School Bullying At 'Unprecedented High'

Seven years ago, a rash of suicides triggered widespread public discussion about the extremely high rate of bullying queer and transgender students face. But a new study claims the prevalence of anti-[LGBTQ](http://www.thedailybeast.com/this-is-why-the-erasing-of-lgbt-americans-on-the-2020-census-matters) harassment and violence has actually increased since then. North Carolina-based research firm RTI International [tracked 20 years of data on school bullying](http://www.rti.org/sites/default/files/rti_violence_and_lgbtq_communities.pdf) and conducted a meta-analysis of those findings. Please click [here](http://www.thedailybeast.com/new-study-rates-of-anti-lgbtq-school-bullying-at-unprecedented-high?via=ios) to read more.

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# Pennsylvania Officials Announce Release Of Criminal Justice Report And Recommendations

The Pennsylvania Justice Reinvestment Working Group has released a comprehensive report that details how the state can increase public safety by strengthening probation supervision, improving access to substance use treatment programs and expanding available responses for parole violations, while reducing its prison population by more than 1,000 people. These changes will help Pennsylvania avoid spending an additional $108 million in corrections costs over the next five years. The full report can be found [here](https://csgjusticecenter.org/jr/pennsylvania/publications/justice-reinvestment-in-pennsylvania-policy-framework/).

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# SART Conference - Modern Day Slavery: Human Trafficking In Our Neighborhoods

The 5th annual SART Conference – Modern Day Slavery: Human Trafficking in our Neighborhoods – will be held Monday, August 7th from 7:30 am - 4:30 pm in the JFK Student Center on the campus of St. Francis University. Please see the [attached flyer](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/2017%20SART%20Conference%20Flyer.pdf) for more information!

Our Morning Keynote Speaker is Dr. Marlene Carson, victim, survivor, minister, and Founder of Rahab’s Hideaway, and one of America’s foremost authorities on the subject of human trafficking.

Our Afternoon Keynote Speaker is Vincent DeVivo, Community Outreach Specialist for the United States Attorney’s Office, District of Maryland.

Continental breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snacks will be provided. *6 CEs are being offered and registration is limited so be sure to register soon!*

To register, please click [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/modern-day-slavery-human-trafficking-in-our-neighborhoods-2017-cambria-county-sart-conference-registration-32818130913).

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# Webinar: How Language Helps Shape Our Response To Sexual Violence

**August 10, 2017,** 11:00am PT, 12:00pm MT, 1:00pm CT, 2:00pm ET

When discussing sexual violence, we often use the language of consensual sex to describe assaultive acts or use euphemisms, erotic, or affectionate terms to portray violent acts. This language implies consent and romance, rather than criminal acts. In addition, we tend to describe violence against women in passive terms, which allows the perpetrators of this violence to remain invisible and unaccountable. We also use language that objectifies or blames sexual assault victims. This interactive session will explore the language of sexual assault: how we talk about and write about this crime. We will discuss specific examples of the language we use and explore how to discuss sexual assault in a way that more accurately depicts the crime. This session is applicable to all members of the response team who work with survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

Please click [here](https://ta2ta.org/webinars/registration/how-language-helps-shape-our-response-to-sexual-vi.html) to register.

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# Training Announcement: Adults In Trauma: TLC STARR Curriculum Training

August 1st, 2017, 8:30am – 4:30PM

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

2101 N Front Street

Governor’s Plaza North, Bldg. #2

Harrisburg, PA 17110

*Lunch is on your own.*

This workshop is designed to teach participants the components of the Adults in Trauma Individual and Group Program, including the overt and underlying aspects of safety and control built into each session, the specifics of implementation, and common participant reactions. The training will begin with a brief overview of trauma, its causes, and normal reactions to trauma. The majority of the training is focuses on the components of the Adults in Trauma Program. Participants will learn how the sessions incorporate cognitive, emotional, and sensory aspects produced by trauma. During our time together, we will focus on components of the Adults in Trauma Program curriculum. We will begin be identifying a different role for individual assessment during counseling, and the importance of that that role, which is key to the implementation of future sessions. Building upon the assessment process, participants will learn how sessions can incorporate cognitive, emotional, and sensory aspects that are produced by trauma events to safely transition an individual from a victim, to a survivor, to a thriving individual.

To learn more or to register for this training, please click [here](https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=PCAR&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=650f718d-649f-4123-9aaa-818c127716e1).

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

For questions about registration, please contact Erin Levine, Database & Registration Coordinator, at [elevine@pcar.org](mailto:elevine@pcar.org) or 717-728-9740.

Deadline to register is **July 21st, 2017**!

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# Webinar: Taking Action: Assisting Victims of Financial Fraud

July 11, 12:00pm - 1:30pm ET

More than 30 million Americans are victims of financial fraud every year. Now there is a groundbreaking tool to help victim advocates navigate the many resources available to aid victim recovery. This hour-long webinar will walk you through the accessible, victim-centered approaches at the heart of Taking Action: An Advocate’s Guide to Assisting Victims of Financial Fraud. Hosted by the guide authors The National Center for Victims of Crime and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation, this webinar will walk you through strategies for addressing investment fraud, identity theft, mortgage and lending fraud, and mass marketing scams.

Please click [here](https://victimsofcrime.webex.com/mw3200/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=victimsofcrime) to register.

*This training will be approved for 1.5 hours of PCCD Annual Training.*

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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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# Training Opportunity: Providing Linguistically Accessible & Responsive Sexual Assault Services

Planning Language Access from a Trauma-Informed Framework

August 22, 9AM-4PM & August 23, 9AM-3PM

The Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center

215 Innovation Blvd

State College, PA 16803

Hotel registration deadline: July 19, 2017

This training is intended for direct service supervisors, executive directors, and leadership who are tasked with planning and implementing language access in their agencies, or those who support staff and volunteers in providing sexual assault direct services. However, any victim service agency staff person or allied professional interested in this topic is welcome to attend. In this two-day intensive training presented by *Casa de Esperanza* and the *National Latin@ Network* is adapted from the *National Latin@ Network’s Language Access Toolkit*, participants will build on their understanding of language accessibility needs from a culturally- responsive and trauma-informed perspective, learn methods to create access in communities with limited resources, and learn out to develop language access plans that are responsive to their communities.

To learn more or to register for this training, please click [here](https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=PCAR&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=04055ea1-667a-4547-96e3-ce77a2b60494).

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.

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

*Pending approval for 11 PCCD training hours.*

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# ****Combating Witness Intimidation To Improve Victim And Witness Cooperation, Law Enforcement Investigation & Prosecution****

Effectively combating witness intimidation is challenging. Acts of intimidation are often committed in private, or subtly, so that only the intended target recognizes the threat. Some offenders use manipulation rather than heavy-handed overt threats to dissuade victims from testifying against them. Often the intimidation is not even recognized by the victim, let alone law enforcement or the prosecutor. Acts of intimidation are often overlooked in the focus on the "presenting problem"-the crime for which police were summoned. Special efforts must be made to prevent intimidation, recognize and identify it when it occurs, and develop appropriate responses that protect victims and their communities and hold offenders accountable-not only for the underlying crime, but for the attempts to subvert the criminal justice system.

**Combating Witness Intimidation (CWI) Initiative**  
AEquitas, Justice Management Institute (JMI), and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) are partnering to support the implementation of practices that improve victim participation, investigations, and prosecutions by combating witness intimidation. The goal of CWI is to provide technical assistance to up to three (3) local jurisdictions in implementing practices consistent with legal and evidence-based investigative and prosecution practices.

**DEADLINE**  
All applications are due by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on **July 17, 2017**. Decisions are expected to be made by August 29, 2017. [Click here](http://portal.criticalimpact.com/go/1/9ef81e12dfef98003947229f28c3afba/24349/b43b9985f7375435/27c4c97e9b142f483947229f28c3afba) for more information on how to apply to the competitive solicitation for technical assistance.

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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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# The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, July 19, 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 July 12, 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)