**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

**Michael Pennington**

*Executive Director*

OVS Newsletter

December 15, 2021

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Upcoming Events

* + [WebEx Online Trainings Available](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=pccd&service=6&rnd=0.6668060301536507&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fpccd.webex.com%2Fec3300%2Feventcenter%2Fprogram%2FprogramDetail.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26internalProgramTicket%3D4832534b00000004f02f8b04a9132f726e6e4ce186c5f64209c4f9e1a94f0342f2c72bee2d69d4a5%26siteurl%3Dpccd%26internalProgramTicketUnList%3D4832534b00000004f02f8b04a9132f726e6e4ce186c5f64209c4f9e1a94f0342f2c72bee2d69d4a5%26cProgViewID%3D1727107%26PRID%3D9c0a5f356b9ee12dc7de27fe147bb352)Compensation Related: Basic Compensation 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).

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# National Action Plan To Combat Human Trafficking

The White House released the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, recognizing the impact of human trafficking on public health, public safety, and national security. The Action Plan’s comprehensive framework reaffirms the U.S. government’s commitment to preventing and responding to human trafficking, emphasizing the importance of collaboration to ensure short- and long-term well-being. The updated National Action Plan integrates the Biden-Harris Administration’s wider commitment to gender and racial equity.

Please click [here](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/news/white-house-releases-national-action-plan-combat-human-trafficking) to read.

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# Human Trafficking Data Collection Activities, 2021

The Human Trafficking Data Collection Activities is a new report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics that “details ongoing and completed efforts to measure and analyze the nationwide incidence of human trafficking, to describe characteristics of human-trafficking victims and offenders, and to describe criminal justice responses to human-trafficking offenses.”

Please click [here](https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/human-trafficking-data-collection-activities-2021) to read.

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# 2022 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week

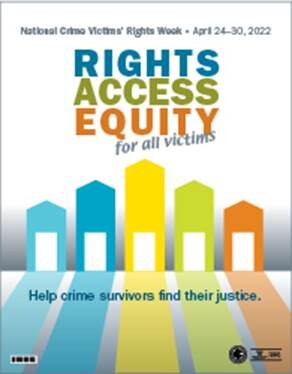
Save the date for NCVRW 2022, which will be observed April 24–30. The 2022 NCVRW theme is ***Rights, access, equity for all victims.*** The theme underscores the importance of helping crime survivors find their justice by—

* enforcing victims' rights,
* expanding access to services, and
* ensuring equity and inclusion for all.

Please click [here](https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/national-crime-victims-rights-week/overview) to read more.

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# 2022 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Theme Artwork



Use [this artwork](https://ovc.ojp.gov/ncvrw2022/ncvrw-artwork), available in English and Spanish, to—

* create or enhance your outreach efforts,
* increase your visibility in the community,
* promote valuable resources for victims of crime, and
* engage in a dialogue with community members.

Please click [here](https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/media/document/2022-ncvrw-how-to-use-the-artwork-508.pdf) to access.

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# Gun Violence Reduction Roundtable

The Gun Violence Reduction Roundtable in October brought together organizations across the Commonwealth to share successful models to reduce violence and discuss the best ways to support victims/survivors of these crimes. Although the event was not recorded, resources from the roundtable are available.

Please click [here](https://www.ova.pa.gov/Resources/Pages/default.aspx) to access.

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# Philly Truce App

With violence on the rise, the Philly Truce App offers real-time help and mediation for anyone seeking peace in a heated moment.

Please click [here](https://6abc.com/philadelphia-gun-violence-philly-truce-app-youth-mentorship-power-up/11286188/) to access.

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# New App Offers Support To Victims Of Mass Violence

An article in the *Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle* discusses a free self-help app to support victims of mass violence that was developed by the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center with support from the Office for Victims of Crime.

Please click [here](https://jewishchronicle.timesofisrael.com/new-app-offers-support-to-victims-of-mass-violence/) to read.

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# How Criminal Justice Systems Are Responding To COVID-19

From the Crime and Justice Institute, an article on how new policies are being implemented to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Please click [here](https://www.cjinstitute.org/corona/) to read.

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# Engaging College Students In 21st Century Law Enforcement Final Report

A study conducted by Howard Universi­ty’s Ronald W. Walters Leadership and Public Policy Center on African American college students’ perceptions of police and interest in law enforcement careers. Focus groups of college students from four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI) were convened to identify factors that help or hinder law enforcement recruitment of African Americans.

Please click [here](https://cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/Publications/cops-w0965-pub.pdf) to read.

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# After Pandemic Pause, More Incoming College Students May Face Sexual Assault Risks

At Virginia Tech, four sexual assaults were reported in one November week. At the University of North Carolina, one individual was linked to three sexual assaults in as many months this fall. And at Indiana University, school police have been investigating more than two dozen sexual assault cases on the flagship Bloomington campus this semester — more than the total number of sexual assaults reported each of the past three years.

Please click [here](https://vawnet.org/news/after-pandemic-pause-more-incoming-college-students-may-face-sexual-assault-risks) to read.

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# Inclusive Holistic Care For Migrant Victims Of Sexual Violence

The International Centre for Productive Health Belgium recently published Inclusive Holistic Care for Migrant Victims of Sexual Violence, which features a great seminar video and tools for law enforcement. “Professionals working with MAR (refugee) victims of sexual violence often lack the specialist knowledge, language skills and tools to provide inclusive holistic care and/or to refer them. INHeRE therefore aims to build capacity in key professionals working with MAR victims of sexual violence through the development and scientific evaluation of tailored tools and trainings. Throughout the project, special attention is paid to inclusive care pathways for male MAR victims, victims of human trafficking and gender and sexually diverse victims.”

Please click [here](https://www.icrhb.org/en/projects/inclusive-holistic-care-for-migrant-victims-of-sexual-violence-inhere) to read.

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# A Health Equity Approach To Preventing Sexual Violence

Sexual harassment, abuse, and assault can have short- and long-term physical, emotional, and psychological effects on a person’s well-being and impact an entire community, from the culture and connections between people to the economic toll. Preventing sexual violence means we all must address deep-rooted abuses of power that contribute to inequities in health, safety, and well-being. A health equity approach to preventing sexual violence means that we need to both understand and address the factors that contribute to violence and safety and factors that expose some communities — especially communities that have been historically oppressed — to higher rates of sexual violence.

Please click [here](https://www.nsvrc.org/resource/2500/health-equity-approach-preventing-sexual-violence) to view.

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# How To Identify An Experienced Trauma-Focused Therapist

This tip sheet, published by the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center was written for survivors of mass casualty crimes, but the information is relevant to all survivors.

Please click [here](https://www.nmvvrc.org/media/hyxl3d1h/how-to-identify-an-experienced-trauma-focused-therapist.pdf) to read.

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# Foundational Academy

The first Academy of 2022 will be held as follows:

**March 23 – 25, 2022**

The Graduate Hotel

125 South Atherton Street

State College, PA 16801

*This is an in-person training only; there is no virtual or hybrid option.*

There is no charge for Academy, and single hotel rooms, parking, and lunch are included. Participants are on their own in the evenings.

Registration will be open January 24 – 26, 2022 under the PDAI Training Calendar at <www.pdaa.org>. Trainings are listed by date; you will need to scroll down to March to find the information.

**There is a NEW registration process for 2022:** Registration will be open for the above three days only. During this time, those who wish to attend the March Academy will be asked to ***apply*** for a spot. Information on funding and length of time at Agency must be completed as part of this process. Registrations will no longer be automatic and accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Instead, applications to attend will be prioritized by, but not limited to, length of time at agency, number of spots filled by the agency in 2021, etc.

Once prioritized, the top 60 applicants will be notified of their acceptance into Academy. All others will be placed on the waitlist and notified of such. The selection process will take up to 2 weeks. All pending applicants will be contacted as soon as the lists are finalized. We ask for your patience during that time period; as a reminder, **we will contact you** either way.

As a reminder, Academy spots are only for those VOCA, VOJO, and RASA-Funded individuals for whom attendance is required per PCCD’s Consolidated Victim Services Standards. Additionally, only a maximum of 8 staff members per agency may apply for each Academy.

Finally, applicants must be able to attend all 3 days of Academy in its entirety, as well as complete an additional supplemental online training requirement.

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# Creating A Safe School And Community Environment For Youth

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) will host the webinar Creating a Safe School and Community Environment for Youth Part 1: Strategies and Solutions on December 16, 2022, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. ET. This webinar is the second of 12 virtual sessions that will focus on preventing and mitigating identity-based bullying, youth hate crimes, and the radicalization of youth by hate groups.

**Thursday December 16, 2021 2:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.**

Please click [here](https://ojp.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=ojp&service=6&rnd=0.4996404876819538&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fojp.webex.com%2Fec3300%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26%26%26EMK%3D4832534b00000005f0ec26a0376f3c2ef9214098e95054d5ad7381c4d9ce4e831b47b7dedb16e41f%26siteurl%3Dojp%26confViewID%3D209165137326649265%26encryptTicket%3DSDJTSwAAAAVEmMKl8voQsU6bXSyi60jTP1BEDAd3EI6Q_NdEM8MxSA2%26) to register.

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# Deconstructing Community Violence

Join The HAVI on Wednesday December 16 at 6:00 p.m. for a free web event, “Deconstructing Community Violence,” a powerful conversation about the impact of gun violence on young people and our communities. Moderated by California-based *Guardian* reporter Abené Clayton, one of the nation's leading journalists on gun violence.

**Wednesday December 16, 2021 6:00 p.m.**

Please click [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AroLClEISyKaMuikC2x3ng?utm_source=The+Health+Alliance+for+Violence+Intervention&utm_campaign=6bce1fe285-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_13_04_45_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1142ed1e95-6bce1fe285-511262511) to register.

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# First, Do No Harm: Facilitating A Trauma-Informed Response

Trauma is a direct result of the abuse and exploitation that offenders inflict on victims of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. This acute trauma, often compounded with historical trauma, impacts survivor’s ability to fully participate in the criminal justice process. As a result, a collaborative, trauma-informed response that takes historical context into consideration is essential to ensuring survivor access to justice while improving community safety.  
  
This presentation will describe various forms of trauma that victims may experience throughout their lives and as a result of an offender’s victimization. Presenters will define cultural humility as a key element of a successful trauma-informed response that improves our individual, collective, and systematic responses to survivors. Additionally, the presenters will provide strategies to identify, document, and introduce evidence of trauma to improve case outcomes and community safety by holding offenders accountable.

**December 17, 2021 2:00 PM**

Please click [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WCr0ADkCQNye12Y-gSNrgA) to register.

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# ****Trauma-Informed Strategies To Address Victim And Witnesses Intimidation And Retaliation****

[**Project Safe Neighborhoods**](https://victimsofcrime.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=db5de61499b6cf77db23bb1ca&id=87fefcf1f4&e=80b790999c) Training and Technical Assistance team will host a webinar focused on trauma-informed strategies to address victim and witnesses’ intimidation and retaliation. This webinar will be led by [**the National Center for Victims of Crime**](https://victimsofcrime.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=db5de61499b6cf77db23bb1ca&id=ad6a10f601&e=80b790999c) on **Thursday, January 13th, 2021 at 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM EST. “**A deep understanding of victim and witness intimidation and retaliation is crucial in any agency’s violent crime reduction strategy. Jurisdictions across our country seek training and technical assistance to inform their policies and approaches when engaging with victims, witnesses, families, and communities experiencing violent crime. You should attend if you are a member or a partner of a PSN team, law enforcement agency, prosecutor’s office, parole and probation agency, or other related community organizations or service providers.”

Please click [here](https://victimsofcrime.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZIyxdIdKTYGX01OeJ1aY8g) to register.

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# Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings

The following trainings will be held on December 20, 2021.

* “Wow, That’s Covered by Compensation” - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Myths of Compensation Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on January 5, 2022.

* Stolen Benefit Cash Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Transportation Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on January 11, 2022.

* Crime Scene Cleanup Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Medical Expenses Clinic = 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on January 19, 2022

* Motor Vehicle-Related Crime Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Funeral & Burial Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on January 25, 2022.

* Relocation Expenses Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Loss of Support Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on February 1, 2022.

* Basic Compensation - 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The following trainings will be held on February 8, 2022.

* Counseling Cash Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Loss of Earnings Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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.

Please click [here](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=pccd&service=6) to register.

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# Women’s Resources Of Monroe County Inc. – Employment Opportunities

Women’s Resources of Monroe County is a nonprofit, community based agency in Monroe County, Pennsylvania that provides free and confidential comprehensive support services to victims of domestic and/or sexual violence, their families and significant others; prevention education and risk reduction programs in schools and the community, and training to the professionals who work with the victims of these crimes.

Please click [here](https://www.wrmonroe.org/who-we-are/employment-opportunities-page/) to view current job opportunities.

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# Crime Victims Council Of The Lehigh Valley – Employment Opportunities

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley provides counseling, court accompaniment, medical advocacy, and prevention education at no cost. We want survivors and community members across the Lehigh Valley to know if something happens, we will be there every step of the way in any way possible.

Please click [here](https://cvclv.org/employment/) to view current job opportunities.

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# PAAR – Employment Opportunities

Pittsburgh Action Against Rape was incorporated as a non-profit entity in 1972 and has been providing essential no-cost services to victims of sexual violence in Allegheny County for over 49 years, and is the only agency solely devoted to the issue of sexual violence.

Please click [here](https://paar.net/jobs/) to view current job opportunities.

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# Neighborhood Legal Services – Employment Opportunities

Neighborhood Legal Services Association (NLS) was established in 1966 as a non-profit, public interest law firm to provide civil legal assistance to poor and vulnerable residents of Allegheny (and later) Beaver, Butler and Lawrence Counties.

Please click [here](https://www.nlsa.us/job-opportunities/) to view current job opportunities.

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# YWCA Greater Harrisburg – Employment Opportunities

**The YWCA Greater Harrisburg is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.**

Please click [here](http://www.ywcahbg.org/employment#.YZOy8k7MI2w) to view current job opportunities.

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# Network of Victim Assistance – Employment Opportunities

Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA) is a nonprofit organization serving victims of sexual assault and other crimes. Located in Bucks County, PA, NOVA is the comprehensive victim services organization in Bucks County.  With a 45-year history, NOVA has expanded to include a continuum of prevention and direct services to prevent and address the needs of victims of sexual abuse and other serious crimes.  NOVA is known across many disciplines and the community at large for its exceptional services and professionalism.  With a 4.5-million-dollar operating budget, NOVA continues to grow.  As a mature and fiscally sound organization, establishing sustainability is key to our future success -- serving all victims who need services, educating the community at large on violence prevention in our community, and providing top-ranked professional trainings.

Please click [here](https://www.novabucks.org/about/employment/) to view current job opportunities.

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# Blackburn Center – Employment Opportunities

Blackburn Center advocates for the rights of all individuals to live free from domestic and sexual violence and other forms of violence by eliminating the root causes of this violence and providing for the well-being and safety of survivors/victims.

Please click [here](https://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=blackburn%20center&l&vjk=83043166f9f125bd) to view current job opportunities.

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If your program is offering new or extended services, or implementing new initiatives that you would like to highlight, please submit your news article to Lea Dorsey at [ledorsey@pa.gov](mailto:ledorsey@pa.gov).

The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **December 29, 2021**.  If you would like any training events, fundraisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Lea Dorsey at [ledorsey@pa.gov](mailto:ledorsey@pa.gov)  by Wednesday, **December 22, 2021**.

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 Lea Dorsey at (717) 265-8733 or via email at [ledorsey@pa.gov](mailto:ledorsey@pa.gov).

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