**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

**Michael Pennington**

*Executive Director*

OVS Newsletter

August 25, 2021

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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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# VCAP Paperless Project

VCAP is working towards going paperless! Yes, that is right, VCAP is going paperless! Currently, VCAP utilizes paper claim files in conjunction with DAVE to process regular VCAP claims. With support from the DAVE Developers and a Commonwealth Information & Technology (IT) team, VCAP is now in the preliminary stages of working towards becoming paperless. What this means for victim advocates, victims/claimants, providers, employers, police departments and other allied professionals is that there will be an improved ease of access, submission of documents and processing of VCAP claims. Although, going paperless means using more technology, VCAP and the IT team are being conscientious to ensure that the use of technology will not interfere with a person’s ability to access their claim or submit documents to VCAP. This project will take time, however, as the VCAP Paperless Project makes progress, look for updates here in the OVS Newsletter.

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# Finding Mental Health Support For BIPOC Survivors

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center’s blog lists resources available for Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) sexual assault survivors.

Please click [here](https://www.nsvrc.org/blogs/finding-mental-health-support-bipoc-survivors) to access

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# How Rape Affects Memory And The Brain, And Why More Police Need To Know About This

Many survivors don't report sexual assaults because they fear no one will believe them. Advocates say better training for police on the neuroscience of trauma could help survivors feel safe while talking with police, making it less likely they experience a secondary trauma.

Please click [here](https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/08/22/1028236197/how-rape-affects-memory-and-the-brain-and-why-more-police-need-to-know-about-thi) to read

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# Guiding Principles To Improve Outcomes For Children, Youth, And Parents Impacted By Family Violence

Futures Without Violence provides guiding principles to improve outcome for children, youth and families impacted by domestic violence

Please click [here](https://promising.futureswithoutviolence.org/files/2012/07/Promising-Futures-SSAPC-Guiding-Principles-2021.pdf) to read

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# Safety, Resiliency, and Hope

In this brief, the Alliance for Safety and Justice (ASJ) outlines four recommendations for the Biden-Harris administration, Congress, and state and local government leaders to further strengthen violence reduction efforts by supporting victims and trauma recovery.”

Please click [here](https://allianceforsafetyandjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Safety-Resiliency-Hope-Report-Issue-7.pdf?utm_source=The+Trace+mailing+list&utm_campaign=c5c4198619-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_09_24_04_06_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f76c3ff31c-c5c4198619-112364769) to read

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# Combating Hate Crimes On College And University Campuses

*Combating Hate Crimes*provides campus safety professionals with:

* best practices for addressing hate crimes and incidents;
* guidance for identifying hate crimes;
* recommendations to enhance communication before and after a hate crime or bias incident occurs; and
* information on where hate crimes should be reported.

This resource was created through a partnership between ADL (Anti-Defamation League), Clery Center and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)

Please click [here](https://clerycenter.org/article/combating-hate-crimes/) to read

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# Cyberbullying In Schools: Meta-Analysis Finds That Tailored Programming Protects Students

A study by The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) highlights the benefits of addressing cyberbullying through specifically targeted programs.

Please click [here](https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/cyberbullying-schools-meta-analysis-finds-tailored-programming-protects-students?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=articles) to read

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# Me Too Resource Library

This Resource Library is a collection of resources and organizations dedicated to helping survivors based on experience, need, and community. It allows users to curate their own best, helpful resources by completing a brief online list of questions.

Please click [here](https://metoomvmt.org/explore-healing/resource-library/) to view

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# Sexual Assault Prevention Organizations And Funders

This article from *Philanthropy Women* highlights organizations and funders that support sexual assault prevention, awareness, and survivor assistance.

Please click [here](https://philanthropywomen.org/feminist-foundations/metoo-funding-sexual-assault-prevention/) to read

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# Human Trafficking Caseworker Confidentiality Training

A two-hour training on human trafficking caseworker confidentiality taught by Shea M. Rhodes, Esq. Co-Founder & Director of the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law Institute to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The training will include an overview of the law as well as breakout scenarios meant to trigger confidentiality and reporting requirements.

**Friday September 10, 2021 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Please click [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/human-trafficking-caseworker-confidentiality-training-tickets-163192239381) to register

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# Confronting School Violence And Victimization

As more schools return to in-person learning, how can communities reduce the risk of school violence and victimization? Jillian J. Turanovic, Ph.D and Krista R. Flannigan, J.D., will discuss the results of a large NIJ-funded meta-analysis on various forms of aggression and crime within K-12 schools. They will cover thirty different individual, school, and community risk and protective factors. Special focus will also be given to the victimization of LGBTQ youth at school. Presenters will also discuss policy implications and promising actions that researchers, practitioners, and advocates can take to advance science and best respond to violence and victimization in schools

**Thursday August 26th 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Please click [here](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2874795613203803147) to register

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# Facilitators Of Help-Seeking For Survivors Of Intimate Partner Violence In The US

A survivor’s decision to engage with formal services for experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) is influenced by factors at the individual, interpersonal, and sociocultural levels. Understanding the factors that facilitate survivors’ choice to seek services could be beneficial to formal service providers including community agencies, health professionals, and the criminal justice system, providing guidance toward the development and implementation of accessible services for survivors of IPV. This presentation reviews seven key factors that facilitate survivors’ formal help-seeking.

**Thursday September 9th 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Please click [here](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5876333714720707084) to register

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# Sexual Assault - Myths And Misconceptions, Realities Of Violence Against Women, Trauma Informed Responses To Victims

This training is for all organizations that work with victims of domestic and sexual violence. We will explore societal myths and misconceptions about sexual assault. There will be discussion on how to overcome these barriers through role prevention and encouraging report of sexual assault crimes. Lt. Wynn will explain the reality of what violence looks like for victims and those who provide services for them. We will end the training with a lesson on strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and advocacy to provide effective response to victims of domestic/sexual assault.

**WHEN:** September 17th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**WHERE:** Zoom

**COST:** FREE

To register, please email Bailey Wagner: Law Enforcement Liaison at: [baileyw@winservices.org](mailto:baileyw@winservices.org) by September 10, 2021

*Lt. Mark Wynn, owner and operator of Wynn Consulting in Nashville and international lecturer and prevention trainer for over 30 years, is a key creator of the largest police domestic violence investigative unit in the United States, and he co-wrote the Police Officer Standards and Training certified curriculum on Law Enforcement Intervention and Investigation to Domestic and Sexual Violence.*

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# Training Institute On Strangulation Prevention

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One-day VirtualStrangulation Training: “The Last Warning Shot”

Presented by The Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention

**Tuesday, September 28, 2021**

**8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Please click** [**here**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-last-warning-shot-a-training-on-non-fatal-strangulation-registration-166164337005) **to register**

**Thursday, November 4, 2021**

**9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Please click** [**here**](https://novabucks.org/events/) **to register**

* Increase your understanding of the signs and symptoms of strangulation, short and long-term health consequences, need for imaging and a clinical exam;
* Improve system responses to the handling of non-fatal strangulation through multi-disciplinary teams;
* Increase awareness about current research, laws, best practices and resources;
* Improve the identification, investigation and documentation of strangulation cases across disciplines;
* Increase felony prosecutions and offender accountability;
* Reduce the number of strangulation cases being dismissed or reduced to misdemeanors simply because the victim recants or doesn’t appear in court;
* Improve victim safety through early intervention.

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# Third Thursday Series

**Beyond Zero Tolerance: Developing an Effective Support Plan for Students Who Are Bullied and Students Who Bully Others**

Sep 16, 2021 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Research has shown that students who are bullied and students who bully others are at greater risk of short term and long-term negative outcomes. Creating an effective support plan requires an understanding of best practices in individual interventions. Strategies will be shared on how to address bullying situations at the Tier 3 level which include; identifying student needs, partnering with parents/guardians and selecting supportive action steps. Strategies demonstrated in this session will include building connections and supporting students and caregivers.

 Presenters:

Leah Galkowski, Safe Schools Coordinator, Center for Safe Schools

Mary Dolan, Bullying Prevention Consultant, Office for Safe Schools, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Please click [here](https://csiu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJItfuuvpzMsE9aBxqual3EasC1BNYmJ_kYy) to register

**Addressing a Student’s Call for Help Through Suicide Risk Assessment**

Oct 21, 2021 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

 This session will review recognizing signs of suicide and address six best practices considerations for implementing Student Suicide Risk Assessments in K-12 schools. Learn how these practices can help improve and align the work of mental health professionals to effectively address the needs of students of concern with school safety in mind.

 Presenters:

Will Gordillo, Sr. Education Associate, Public Consulting Group

Brittany St. Amand, Business Manager, Public Consulting Group

Please click [here](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcsiu.zoom.us%2Fmeeting%2Fregister%2FtJcrcOqqpjovH9QLkt-nTHG64kOk4bPLMiRM&data=04%7C01%7Cledorsey%40pa.gov%7C4e36e22e97ad43b59ab308d95b57ce10%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637641254946156023%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=dzY%2FBY3XfcjWRsrJX8MvRv38RjZrhj%2B%2B858%2F1keU5Rg%3D&reserved=0) to register

**How to Engage in Courageous Conversations**

Nov 18, 2021 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

 Current events in our nation have made it more important for leaders to engage in courageous conversations, even when they are difficult or make us feel uncomfortable. Engaging in open, authentic, truthful dialogue in an atmosphere of trust and respect is the key to effective leadership for improvement, especially on issues of race, gender, socioeconomics and other social justice topics. In this webinar, participants will understand how to create a safe space for courageous conversations to occur and strategies to initiate and facilitate meaningful interactions.

 Presenter: Shileste Overton Morris, Ed.D., Director, Center for Schools and Communities

 Please click [here](https://csiu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIudu2urDktGNRyLHvX9g-rpJAGG0ulmRPX) to register

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# October Speaker Request Foundational Academy

LOOKING FOR… Victim Services Foundational Academy Presenter TOPIC.. **CULTURAL HUMILITY**

Cultural Humility Presenter needed:

Day 2 - Victim Services Foundational Academy October 14, 2021

The Graduate Hotel, State College

2:45 PM – 4:45 PM (2-hour presentation)

**Presenter should be knowledgeable and have the ability to present on the following:**

• Cultural Humility vs. Cultural Competency;

• Surface Culture vs. Deep Culture;

• Power Imbalances;

• Accessibility;

• White Privilege & Implicit Bias;

• Intersectionality;

• Anti-Racism;

***and how it all relates to victim advocacy.***

Additionally, potential presenters should work in the victim services field and feel comfortable presenting in-person to a group of ~50 participants.

CONTACT AMY SMULKTIS

Restitution & Victim/Witness Training Consultant

717.333.2319 [AJS@RestitutionConsulting.com](mailto:AJS@RestitutionConsulting.com)

Please contact Amy ASAP if interested. More details will be discussed at that time.

Register [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pa-restorative-justice-symposium-2021-tickets-163391312815)

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# 2021 National Campus Safety Awareness Month (NCSAM) Summit

Clery Center’s 2021 National Campus Safety Awareness Month (NCSAM) Summit on **September 8 and 9** will bring together campus safety practitioners and higher education leaders from around the country to explore relevant, actionable, and scalable strategies to meet tomorrow’s most pressing campus safety challenges today. Join for a two-day virtual micro-summit offering unique perspective panels, cutting-edge case study analyses, and networking opportunities for individuals looking to take their professional development to the next level. As with its of our National Campus Safety Awareness Month events and resources, **the summit will be completely free.** Registration is required. The Clery Center values inclusion and will be providing English closed captioning during this event.

Cost: Free! Registration is required and limited to 500.

Please click [here](https://clerycenter.org/event/ncsam-summit2021/) to register.

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# Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings

The following trainings will be held on September 7, 2021.

* Medical Expenses Clinic - 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on September 9, 2021.

* Crime Scene Cleanup Expenses Clinic - 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on September 15, 2021.

* Basic Compensation - 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on September 21, 2021.

* Motor Vehicle-Related Crime Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Funeral & Burial Expenses Clinic – 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on September 27, 2021.

* Relocation Expenses Clinic - 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on September 28, 2021.

* Stolen Benefit Cash Expenses - 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 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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# 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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# Mission Kids – Employment Opportunities

Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center of Montgomery County is expanding our team! Our mission is to achieve healing and justice for victims of child abuse by providing collaborative services, advocacy, leadership and education.

Please click [here](https://missionkidscac.org/get-involved/careers-internships) 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/) to view current job opportunities

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# Safe Berks – Job Opportunities

Safe Berks provides safe haven and support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Our advocacy and education programs increase awareness of oppression and promote the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Please click [here](https://recruiting.paylocity.com/recruiting/jobs/Details/647628/Safe-Berks/Managing-Director-of-Client-Services) 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/cmp/Blackburn-Center/jobs) to view current job opportunities.

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# Turning Point Of Lehigh Valley – Employment Opportunities

Turning Point of Lehigh Valley is expanding its team! We are a non-profit working to eliminate domestic and intimate partner abuse in the Lehigh Valley.

Please click [here](https://www.turningpointlv.org/home/employment-and-contract-opportunities/) to view current job opportunities.

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# Victims Resource Center – Employment Opportunities

Victims Resource Center is a non-profit organization serving victims of all crimes in Luzerne, Carbon and Wyoming Counties in Northeast Pennsylvania since 1974.  VRC provides non-judgmental support and services to victims, their families and significant others in addition to a wide variety of prevention education programs.  All services are confidential and offered at no cost.

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

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# Justice At Work – Employment Opportunities

Justice at Work is a nonprofit legal aid provider.  Our mission is to support low-wage workers as they pursue economic and social justice. We advance our mission through the provision of legal services, education, and advocacy.

Please click [here](https://www.idealist.org/en/nonprofit-job/d72c3347c9a4409b9dd9e8b4cba0dc13-admin-intake-paralegal-justice-at-work-formerly-friends-of-farmworkers-philadelphia) to view current job opportunities.

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# The Crime Victims Center Of Fayette County – Employment Opportunities

Community Resources of Fayette County, Inc. d.b.a Crime Victims Center of Fayette County, is a private, non-profit Community Based Comprehensive Victim Service Program.  We are located in Southwestern Pa in a rural, mountainous region with a population of 126,000.  We provide free and confidential services to victims of sexual assault and other violent crimes.

Please click [here](https://www.crimevictimscenter.com/index.php/about-us/employment.html) 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, **September 8, 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, **September 1, 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.