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*Chairman*

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*Executive Director*

OVS Newsletter

August 27, 2020

In this Issue...

* [2020 Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Awards](#_2020_Governor’s_Victim)
* [RASA/VOJO 2021-2022 Funding Announcement is Now Open!](#_PCCD’s_Office_Of)
* [Northeast PA Now Has A Dedicated Advocate!](#_Northeast_PA_Now)
* [Ten Essential Actions To Improve School Safety](#_Ten_Essential_Actions)
* [Racial Equity Tools](#_Racial_Equity_Tools)
* [DoD Safe Helpline Raises Awareness About Sexual Assault Forensic Exams (SAFEs) For Military Survivors](#_DoD_Safe_Helpline)
* [Make Your Voice Heard: Pretrial Justice And Intimate Partner Violence](#_Make_Your_Voice)
* [Third Naloxone Standing Order Allows Naloxone To Be Obtained By Mail](#_Third_Naloxone_Standing)
* [As The Pandemic Worsens The Risk Of At-Home Child Abuse, Advocacy Centers Can Help](#_As_The_Pandemic)
* [National Guidelines For Financial Institutions: Working Together To Protect Older Persons From Financial Abuse](#_National_Guidelines_For)
* [Adult Protective Services & COVID-19](#_Adult_Protective_Services)
* [New Resource – A Guide To Interacting With The Media](#_New_Resource_–)
* [Job Openings In The Office Of Victims’ Services](#_How_RAINN’s_Policy)
* [NEW! Mission Kids – Employment Opportunity](#_NEW!_Mission_Kids)
* [Crisis Center of Lawrence County – Employment Opportunity](#_Crisis_Center_of)
* [A Woman’s Place – Employment Opportunities](#_OVA_COVID-19_Guidance)
* [Network of Victim Assistance – Employment Opportunities](#_Network_of_Victim)

Upcoming Trainings & Events

* [Translating Justice](#_Translating_Justice)
* [Having Critical Conversations Through A Diverse Lens](#_Having_Critical_Conversations)
* [Capturing Victims’ Voices On Justice Through Research](#_NEW!_Capturing_Victims’)
* [Restorative Justice And Gender-based Violence Webinar Resources](#_NEW!_Restorative_Justice)
* [NEW! Virtual: SOAR To Health And Wellness (Spanish) Training](#_NEW!_Virtual:_SOAR)
* [NEW! National Prevention Town Hall](#_NEW!_National_Prevention)
* [NEW! Identifying, Investigating, And Prosecuting Domestic Violence Strangulation Cases](#_NEW!_Identifying,_Investigating,)
* [Victims Compensation Online Trainings](#_Prevention_in_Rural)
* [Pennsylvania Victim Services Training (PVST) Online Learning Management System](#_Pennsylvania_Victim_Services_7)
* [HAVIN Presents: Lt. Mark Wynn: The Challenges Of Dealing With Domestic Violence From A Law Enforcement Perspective](#_NEW!_HAVIN_Presents:_1)
* [Training Announcement: Generational Diversity In The Workplace & Communication Skills](#_Increasing_Access_To)
* [SAVE THE DATE: VIRTUAL 2020 KCIT Conference: Conscious Resilience After Trauma](#_Online_CLE_Training:_1)
* [SAVE THE DATE: Network Of Victim Assistance Auction & Gala](#_SAVE_THE_DATE:_23)

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).

* + [Additional RASA/VOJO/VOCA Approved Training](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do)

[Return to top](#_top)

# 2020 Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Awards

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented challenge for the victim service community. It has required victim service agencies to quickly adapt and rethink how they perform their duties to meet the needs of crime victims. Victim service providers across Pennsylvania have continued to deliver supportive services to victims in their time of need. Please take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of your peers who go above and beyond, not only during COVID-19, but all year long, to help victims of crime and nominate them for the 2020 Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Award.

**Nomination Deadline is August 31st!**

Award categories include:

* Survivor Activist Award – Those who have survived being a victim and have used that experience to make an impact within victim services.
* Outstanding Student Activist Award – Many students volunteer within their community and are dedicated to helping victims. College campuses have dedicated victim service groups that are doing good work to make an impact on their campus.
* Allied Professional Award – Look at the other individuals in your community that work as your partner to help crime victims.  Examples may include the police officer, district attorney or health care professional that goes above and beyond in the service to victims.
* Individual Direct Services Award – To the person who simply believes they are just doing their job, but you know they are doing so much more. A counselor, advocate, victim/witness coordinator, etc. These are the professionals that touch the lives of victims daily and go out of their way to help assist and/or empower those in need.
* Individual Prevention, Education and Outreach Award – The victim service professional that has developed and provided educational programming with enthusiasm for meeting the needs of victims.
* Community Services Award – Given to a nominee that has made a visible contribution and impact upon victim services in Pennsylvania.
* Individual Organizational Capacity Building Award – To the organization that is committed to enhancing capacity or the ability to fulfill its mission. This is demonstrated through becoming less reliant on government funds and they are ethical and accountable throughout their organization.
* Posthumous Award – Awarded to an individual that would have been eligible for any of the above categories, but sadly are no longer with us.
* Program Award – Given to a program that has made notable contributions to the community and has a reputation for delivering services within that community. The organization should be a stable, well established entity.

Nomination information for the Pathfinder Award is now available at [https://expressforms.pa.gov/apps/pa/PCCD/Governors-Victim-Service-Pathfinder-Awards](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crsj/events_cle/program-archive/restorative-justice/?url=https://expressforms.pa.gov/apps/pa/PCCD/Governors-Victim-Service-Pathfinder-Awards&data=02|01|c-aghoshda@pa.gov|151ecf5c5f994059773208d8234dce35|418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde|0|0|637298165116447996&sdata=HCo6VqFGee8UGY0AUL781GKkFFU1cKgb9Utsbp8vvYE=&reserved=0).

Please review all sections and downloadable materials to understand the requirements and the submission process. All nominations and supporting documentation must be submitted electronically from this website.

Since there will not be a Pathways to Victims’ Services Conference this year, awards will be presented locally during a mutually agreed upon time. PCCD staff or a member of the Victims’ Services Advisory Committee will attend to present the award to the recipient.

Please contact Mr. Greg Savage at (717) 265-8721 or [gsavage@pa.gov](https://events-na13.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/2253362659/en/events/event/shared/default_template_simple/event_landing.html) with any questions.

[Return to top](#_top)

# RASA/VOJO 2021-2022 Funding Announcement is Now Open!

The RASA/VOJO 2021-2022 Funding Announcement for the funding period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2022 is now open**.**RASA/VOJO programs must submit their applications in Egrants by **Friday, September 4, 2020.**

Rights and Services Act/Victims of Juvenile Offenders (RASA/VOJO) funds support procedural services mandated by the PA Crime Victims Act, PA Juvenile Act and/or the PA Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure.

Please contact PCCD if there are any questions concerning this announcement.Program-related questions should be directed to Vicki McCloskey at (717) 265-8746 or [vmccloskey@pa.gov](mailto:DebGH@novabucks.org), or Maria Katulis at (717) 265-8741 or [mkatulis@pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/RASA-VOCA-VOJO-Trainings.aspx).  Fiscal or budgetary questions should be directed to James Haas at (717) 265-8509 or [jamhaas@pa.gov](mailto:sbrendling@pa.gov).  Questions concerning the Egrants system should be made directly to the Egrants Help Desk by calling (717) 787-5887.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Northeast PA Now Has A Dedicated Advocate!

In ongoing commitment to serving crime victims, the Office of Victim Advocate has opened a field office in the Williamsport area. Melissa Merolla will be working to support the Northeast tier of the state, to include Tioga, Lycoming, Bradford, Sullivan, Wyoming, Susquehanna, Lackawanna, Wayne and Pike counties.    
  
Melissa is a tireless client-centered and trauma-informed advocate with experience interfacing and partnering across government systems. She joined OVA as a Victim Assistance Coordinator in September 2016 and served as one of OVA’s Board of Pardons Coordinators for the 2018-2019 session.    
  
Prior to joining OVA, Melissa was a case manager with Dauphin County Children and Youth and one of Safe Horizon’s emergency DV shelter programs in Bronx County, New York. She has worked with at-risk youth and families, sexual assault, domestic violence, homicide and crime victim survivors. Her volunteer experience includes rape crisis and sexual assault crisis counseling. As an undergraduate student, Melissa also supported the Victim Witness Program at the United States Attorney’s Office Northern District New York. Melissa holds a B.S. in Psychology from Boston University.    
  
In this new role, Melissa will perform outreach to victim service agencies and district attorney’s offices, encourage survivor [registration](mailto:donna.welsh@novabucks.org), promote services and programs, and provide [training](https://e.givesmart.com/events/e1u/) and education throughout the region.   
  
To reach Melissa directly, please email [mmerolla@pa.gov](mailto:ipvpretrialstudy@courtinnovation.org).

[Return to top](#_top)

# Ten Essential Actions To Improve School Safety

The COPS Office School Safety Working Group, which is composed of representatives from eight national law enforcement organizations, has identified 10 essential actions that can be taken by schools, school districts, and law enforcement agencies to help prevent critical incidents involving the loss of life or injuries in our nation's schools and to respond rapidly and effectively when incidents do occur. These actions are applicable to school shootings as well as to other areas of school safety, including natural disasters and traumatic events such as student suicide. Adopting policies and practices based on the recommendations in this publication can help make school communities safer and save lives. Please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Mark%20Wynn%202020%20brochure.pdf?page=detail&id=COPS-W0891) to read more.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Racial Equity Tools

Racial Equity Tools is designed to support individuals and groups working to achieve racial equity. This site offers tools, research tips, curricula, and ideas for people who want to increase their own understanding and to help those working toward justice at every level – in systems, organizations, communities, and the culture at large. Please click [here](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/) to learn more.

[Return to top](#_top)

# DoD Safe Helpline Raises Awareness About Sexual Assault Forensic Exams (SAFEs) For Military Survivors

Safe Helpline is the Department of Defense’s (DoD) sole hotline for members of the DoD community affected by sexual assault. Operated by RAINN on behalf of the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (DoD SAPRO), Safe Helpline is an anonymous, confidential, 24/7 service providing support and access to resources for military survivors of sexual assault worldwide. Safe Helpline is expanding the educational resources available to military survivors who are considering a SAFE. This animated, 4-minute video includes information on the components of the exam and things military survivors may want to keep in mind when deciding whether to get a SAFE. Please click [here](http://www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov) to learn more.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Make Your Voice Heard: Pretrial Justice And Intimate Partner Violence

In cities across the United States, surges in intimate partner violence and renewed efforts to reduce jail crowding in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic have created an environment of heightened threat and reduced resources for IPV survivors. Now more than ever, there is an urgent need for victim advocates, courts, and pretrial services agencies to re-assess the justice system’s response to intimate partner violence at the pretrial stage, with a focus on developing effective, non-incarcerative strategies that work to both ensure safety for survivors and their families, and to promote accountability for individuals accused of violence. With support from Arnold Ventures, the Center for Court Innovation is asking jurisdictions around the country to come together to address this problem by participating in our national survey of pretrial practice in IPV cases.

The purpose of this survey is to understand how jurisdictions around the country are processing intimate partner violence (IPV) cases during the pretrial phase, particularly in the context of other pretrial reform efforts, such as the use of pretrial risk assessment and bail reform.   
  
Please fill out the form to [register](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJckce6ppzwrE9DsMlgHElgYqwfAjMI3P-9s) for the survey "Make Your Voice Heard". After registration, you will be sent a unique, personalized link to complete the survey. The survey takes approximately one hour to complete and can be answered by a range of professionals familiar with the local justice system’s pretrial response to IPV (e.g., pretrial services agent, prosecutor, victim advocates that work with the court system).  
  
If you have any questions, please feel free to email: [ipvpretrialstudy@courtinnovation.org](https://victimsofcrime.zoom.us/rec/play/v8Erc-7-pjw3HoeT5ASDBfV9W9Trfaqs0CYW_vcPnUe2AnIEMQWiYLMXN-Hpv-VSXYh_EizDVpB5cxXM)  
  
Thank you for your interest and willingness to participate!

[Return to top](#_top)

# Third Naloxone Standing Order Allows Naloxone To Be Obtained By Mail

The Wolf Administration today announced that Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine signed an updated naloxone standing order which permits community-based organizations to provide naloxone by mail. Please click [here](https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/wolf-administration-third-naloxone-standing-order-allows-naloxone-to-be-obtained-by-mail/) to read more.

[Return to top](#_top)

# As The Pandemic Worsens The Risk Of At-Home Child Abuse, Advocacy Centers Can Help

While home is the safest place to be as the coronavirus pandemic continues, many children still face health risks in their own households. Stay-at-home orders and travel restrictions are essential for COVID-19 prevention, but the increased isolation has put many kids at risk of abuse. In fact, statistics show that more than half of child sexual abuse victims are abused by a parent or relative. In this socially distanced new world, child advocacy centers can help. Please click [here](https://www.rainn.org/news/dod-safe-helpline-raises-awareness-about-sexual-assault-forensic-exams-safes-military-survivors) to read more.

[Return to top](#_top)

# National Guidelines For Financial Institutions: Working Together To Protect Older Persons From Financial Abuse

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging and the National Adult Protective Services Association are pleased to release National Guidelines for Financial Institutions: Working Together to Protect Older Persons from Financial Abuse.

The Guidelines and forms were introduced at the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event on June 11, 2019 at the Securities and Exchange Commission designed to promote standardization and clarity among financial institutions and Adult Protective Services. We are asking that all APS programs use this form to request records from financial institutions. Please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/default.aspx) to read more.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Adult Protective Services & COVID-19

The Administration for Community Living, in partnership with the APS Technical Assistance Resource Center, has created the new document Adult Protective Services & COVID-19. Please click [here](https://victimresearch.org/webinar/capturing-victims-voices-on-justice-through-research/?lang=en-US) to read more.

[Return to top](#_top)

# New Resource – A Guide To Interacting With The Media

The National Center developed the Privacy & Dignity guide because they often receive questions from victims, advocates, and journalists about the media portrayal of crime victims and their families. Victims speaking with media and the media reporting on crime are controversial topics and can be difficult to navigate. Media coverage can sometimes produce unintended consequences during the investigation or trial. Although each crime victim and victimization experience is unique, it is important to share information that will lessen victimization for all involved. Information is focused on the concepts of privacy and dignity, which are of vital importance to victims of crime, and divided into sections for victims, victim advocates, and journalists. **This publication can be accessed directly** [here](https://cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ric.php) **- and check out other similar materials produced during the Complex Homicide Project on the** [Resources](https://www.ciclt.net/sn/events/e_signup.aspx) **page.**

[Return to top](#_top)

# Job Openings In The Office Of Victims’ Services

The Office of Victims’ Services (OVS) at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) currently has vacancies for Criminal Justice System Specialists within the Victims Compensation Assistance Program. These positions are responsible for providing financial reimbursement/guidance and other compensation related services to victims of crime, their families and/or significant others, and other claimants.

You can apply for the Criminal Justice System Specialist 1 vacancy at [https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/pabureau](https://www.ova.pa.gov/SafetyandSupport/Registration/Pages/default.aspx). In the Search box, type Criminal Justice System Specialist and hit enter.  If any jobs are currently open, they will be listed.  Unlike in the past, there is no examination where a prospective candidate can be placed on a list with a score.  Under the new system, the score you receive is for that particular job announcement.  Interested candidates will need to apply for each individual position.

[Return to top](#_top)

# NEW! Mission Kids – Employment Opportunity

**Make a Difference for Children.** Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center: A Place of Healing and Justice for Child Abuse Victims is seeking a full-time Family Advocate Supervisor. The Family Advocate Supervisor oversees a staff of critical members of our multi-disciplinary team to help children and families to ensure they have a consistent and comprehensive network of support and services.

Please click [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdj3tJvI542Q70R2GAwihZi7GPioUZWR4sDJT-N0iLyBFaMog/viewform) for more information.

Mission Kids is a nonprofit organization with a drive to achieve healing and justice for victims of justice by providing collaborative services, advocacy, leadership and education. To learn more please see our website at [www.missionkidscac.org](https://e.givesmart.com/events/e1u/?url=http://www.missionkidscac.org/&data=02|01|sbrendling@pa.gov|e97dc5144cdf4442c7bf08d84854e405|418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde|0|0|637338876852491507&sdata=SJCy9pLB8Solk+5Gkrd0ZW/3XgDVQ+kSPBzxvqG361c=&reserved=0).

[Return to top](#_top)

# Crisis Center of Lawrence County – Employment Opportunity

The Director of Counseling Services is responsible for maintaining all aspects of clinical therapy and other counseling services.  This position is accountable for HIPPA compliance, quality care standards, direct service benchmarks, training standards, clinical files, insurance billing and ensuring all Counseling Department staff and direct service volunteers receive clinical supervision.  Master’s degree (M.A. or M.S.); Must be licensed as one of the following:  Social Work, Psychology, Professional Counselor; Experience with individual, group and family therapy required; 3-5 years post-licensure and previous third-party billing experience preferred; Criminal checks & clearances required.

Please contact Nicole Amabile at 724-856-4303 for additional information.

[Return to top](#_top)

# A Woman’s Place – Employment Opportunities

A Woman’s Place (AWP), a community-based social change organization serving victims of domestic violence, is seeking a part-time Resident Counseling Advocate.

The Resident Counseling Advocate works within AWP’s emergency safe house, assisting victims of domestic violence in achieving safety and self-sufficiency. AWP is currently hiring a 32 hour a week part-time position. Positions may include weekday, evening, and/or overnight shifts.

For full job descriptions and application process please visit our website: [https://awomansplace.org/get-involved/](mailto:sbrendling@pa.gov?url=https://awomansplace.org/get-involved/&data=02|01|sbrendling@pa.gov|05605b711196466a36e808d7e6103c13|418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde|0|0|637230829715543440&sdata=crkTLivE1w+z/affAbsTKBDUZRftplAHRgjpzYrABJ0=&reserved=0)

[Return to top](#_top)

# 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.

[**NEW! Development Assistant**](https://www.ova.pa.gov/Resources/Training/Pages/default.aspx)

[**Data Management and Quality Assurance (DMQA)**](https://pavictimservicestraining.org/)

[**Licensed or Soon to be Licensed Clinical Counselor**](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/)

[**Part-time Human Trafficking Task Force Organizer** **(27 hours/week)**](mailto:jamhaas@pa.gov)

[**Training Coordinator**](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/pabureau)

[**Bucks County Children’s Advocacy Center Part-Time Family Advocate**](https://www.napsa-now.org/get-informed/what-is-financial-exploitation/financial-services/)

Located in Bucks County, PA, the Bucks County Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC), a service of NOVA (Network of Victim Assistance), provides a safe and child-friendly environment in which the CAC staff, law enforcement, child welfare, prosecution, advocacy, medical and mental health professionals collaborate to implement effective and coordinated investigations of suspected child abuse and connect child victims and their families to medical, mental health, and other social services.

**Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Applicants must send a cover letter with salary requirements in addition to their resume to** [**DebGH@novabucks.org**](mailto:mmerolla@pa.gov)**. AA/EOE.**

**NOVA is currently working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.  Although the physical interview process is on hold, they are still reviewing all the applicants as they come in.  They will be conducting in-person interviews as soon as possible.**

[Return to top](#_top)

# Translating Justice

Crime victims who are Deaf and hard of hearing (D/d/HoH) or have limited English proficiency (LEP) need meaningful, effective, and equal access to crime victim services and criminal justice supports. Yet, all too often, these victims are denied access to critical services and supports because victim service providers and justice-related systems do not understand how to provide comprehensive language access, including their legal and ethical obligations to do so for all crime victims.

To address these critical barriers to justice, the Vera Institute of Justice, in partnership with the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, Casa de Esperazna’s National Latin@ Network, IGNITE, the National Center for Victims of Crime, Mujeres Unidas y Activas through funding from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), U.S. Department of Justice embarked on its Translating Justice initiative. This initiative provides nationwide training and technical assistance (TTA) to crime victim service providers and justice-related professionals to ensure language access is realized for victims with LEP and D/d/HoH victims. Click [here](mailto:mkatulis@pa.gov) to take the training course.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Having Critical Conversations Through A Diverse Lens

Marginalized populations experience many types of victimization within the United States and are often among the most victimized groups in the nation. Victims of crime are at risk for experiencing a range of mental health difficulties including posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, and substance abuse, which can be exacerbated when victim service providers lack diverse and inclusive awareness in the delivery of services. These workshops will provide the basic framework for having a conversation about diversity and inclusion and provide professionals with an overview of the challenges that various groups face in the aftermath of a crime, in addition to insight into working with these populations in a victim service capacity. Please click [here](https://preventipv.org/materials/racial-equity-tools?continueMode=true) to watch a recording of this webinar.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Capturing Victims’ Voices On Justice Through Research

On August 6, 2020, nearly 200 researchers, practitioners, and policymakers attended CVR’s first virtual research convening on Capturing Victims’ Voices on Justice through Research. Three keynote panelists shared their work and recommendations for researching diverse victims’ experiences and perspectives on different models of justice. Dr. Carolyn West presented her decades of research on Black women’s experiences of domestic and sexual violence. Dr. Jeanette Hussemann shared her [Perceptions of Justice project](mailto:gsavage@pa.gov?url=https://victimresearch.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=db5de61499b6cf77db23bb1ca&id=5d7703ca63&e=5da4b172af&data=02|01|KAbuckley@pa.gov|a077c32bb4454de1392f08d842105464|418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde|0|0|637331986232660381&sdata=LHIE1TNtDRbdD8Dg6ZsbJsiKiXF87pIKlCjD/vTMYLw=&reserved=0) capturing voices of human trafficking survivors and their views on traditional, procedural, restorative, and transitional justice. Dr. Henrika McCoy discussed her research on the victimization experiences of young men and boys of color. In breakout groups and as a whole, attendees discussed the benefits, challenges, and policy implications of engaging in this research, with a particular focus on the need for an intersectional lens and community-engaged approaches. CVR concluded the convening by sharing key resources to support researchers and practitioners in this work, including a call to join CVR’s [Researcher Directory](https://6deff1ab-fe5e-4ac3-b165-b9f057ae82dd.filesusr.com/ugd/f23aef_42f066e43b904c978b1f1749e751b9fb.pdf?url=https://victimresearch.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=db5de61499b6cf77db23bb1ca&id=dbdc2315f1&e=5da4b172af&data=02|01|KAbuckley@pa.gov|a077c32bb4454de1392f08d842105464|418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde|0|0|637331986232665358&sdata=5W0n/+bd+o6y5AWj8f30SVPl8MznIQ2TNvw89TMqLEs=&reserved=0).  Please click here to see the event [recording](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/UPDATED%20Strangulation%20Training%20Flyer.pdf) and event [slides](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/).

[Return to top](#_top)

# Restorative Justice And Gender-based Violence Webinar Resources

“In our commissions and committees, we, like so many others, are discussing policing and the criminal legal response to gender based violence, and seeking better, anti-racist alternatives. Over the last several years, we have jointly explored Restorative Justice models through conversations and discussions with Professors Leigh Goodmark and Quince Hopkins. We believe Restorative Justice is an option that can work well for gender-based violence cases and want to provide guidance to legal professionals working in this field. Our esteemed panel will discuss how Restorative Justice programs work generally and then offer specific guidance for gender-based violence cases, including a discussion of the Department of Justice-funded RESTORE program. Many are suggesting Restorative Justice as a key foundation for criminal law reform and we are eager to explore specifically how this practice would work safely in gender-based violence cases.” Please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/MKFamilyAdvocateSupervisor2020.pdf) to learn more.

[Return to top](#_top)

# NEW! Virtual: SOAR To Health And Wellness (Spanish) Training

September 2, 2020

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

By applying a public health approach, the 1.5- SOAR to Health and Wellness training seeks to build the capacity of providers to identify and respond to the complex needs of individuals who are at risk of trafficking, currently experiencing trafficking, or who have experienced trafficking.

Please click [here](mailto:sbrendling@pa.gov?sco-id=3922830304) for more information and to register.

[Return to top](#_top)

# NEW! National Prevention Town Hall

September 14, 2020

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. EST

Join storytellers, advocates & activists as we pivot our intimate partner violence prevention work in response to the racial inequities that COVID has laid bare, especially for Black individuals and communities across the country.

Please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Licensed%20or%20Soon%20to%20be%20Licensed%20Clinical%20Counselor.pdf) for more information and to register.

[Return to top](#_top)

# NEW! Identifying, Investigating, And Prosecuting Domestic Violence Strangulation Cases

September 23, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Strangulation has been identified as one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence and sexual assault: unconsciousness may occur within seconds and death within minutes. When domestic violence perpetrators choke (strangle) their victims, especially to the point of unconsciousness, it is not only a felony but it may be an at-tempted homicide. Strangulation is an ultimate form of power and control that can have a devastating psychological effect on victims. The inability to breathe is one of the most terrifying events a person can endure.

Please click [here](https://www.ncvctta.org/resources) to learn more and to register.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Victims Compensation Online Trainings

The following training will be held on August 27, 2020.

* Restitution Basics – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

The following training will be held on September 16, 2020.

* Loss of Support Clinic - 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The following training will be held on September 30, 2020.

* Crime Scene Cleanup Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

The following training will be held on October 7, 2020.

* Counseling Expenses Clinic - 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The following training will be held on October 14, 2020.

* Relocation Expenses Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

The following training will be held on October 21, 2020.

* “Wow, That’s Covered by Compensation” – 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The following training will be held on October 28, 2020.

* Basic Compensation – 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

All trainings count towards 1 hour of the required RASA/VOCA/VOJO training hours, except Basic Compensation, which counts towards 2 hours, and DAVE training, which counts towards 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Please click [here](https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/coronavirus-pandemic-child-abuse-risk-philadelphia-pennsylvania-suburbs-20200819.html?siteurl=pccd&service=6) to register.

A recording of the Sexual Assault Counseling Claims Legislative Change WebEx is available [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Development%20Assistant%20Job%20Announcement.pdf?siteurl=pccd&service=6). This training can be accessed at any time for viewing.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Pennsylvania Victim Services Training (PVST) Online Learning Management System

PCCD’s Office of Victims’ Services (OVS) offers its Pennsylvania Victim Services Training (PVST) Online Learning Management System to fill a need for easily accessible, high-quality, free training for victim advocates at PCCD-funded programs. PVST courses count for PCCD training hours and courses can be taken as the learner’s schedule permits. The PVST also keeps a record of a user’s course completion and credit hours earned.  The courses on the PVST are designed to complement, reinforce and enhance the PCCD Foundational Academy and the online offerings on the learning management systems operated by PCADV, PCAR and the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association.

The PVST is resource center for PCCD funded programs and allied professionals whose work brings them into contact with crime victim populations to receive free, quality, and easily accessible training. The training is Pennsylvania-specific, web based, and can be taken on the student’s own timeframe. There are currently 24 approved programs, totaling 48 hours of training, on the PVST.

To access the PVST, please click [here](https://apstarc.acl.gov/getattachment/Education/Briefs/APS-COVID-19.pdf.aspx). The registration code is 7223.

**The *Services for Older Adults* course identifies what resources are available for older (60yrs and older) or aging adults due them being the fastest growing population in Pennsylvania. As victim advocates, it is important to know about the resources available through Pennsylvania’s Aging Network that could make a difference in the lives of older adult victims of crime. This module discusses 10 services that victim advocates should know about when working with older victims of crime. Additionally, it advises what services and benefits are available, who governs those services and how to access them. Some of these services included are Legal, Health and Wellness, Home Support and more.  This course was developed in February 2019 and qualifies for 2 CEU’s as well as helps victim advocates who interact with Pennsylvania’s largest growing population to provide better care and assistance.**

[Return to top](#_top)

# HAVIN Presents: Lt. Mark Wynn: The Challenges Of Dealing With Domestic Violence From A Law Enforcement Perspective

August 27 – 28, 2020

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Family Violence cases are some of the most difficult cases that law enforcement must respond to. They are challenging, frustrating, heart-wrenching and unfortunately our reality. Mark helps us understand these cases in a way like no other, including the critical role that law enforcement and advocates play in the crime of Family Violence from a Pennsylvania Crimes Code perspective. Please join us to help our community members live a life free from violence by holding violent persons accountable.

Topics to be covered include:

* Domestic Violence 101
* Beyond the Obvious-Avoiding Dual Arrest, Dominant Aggressor Determination
* Civil Liability in Domestic Violence Incidents
* Stalking and Counter-Stalking
* Sexual Assault-Myths and Misconceptions
* Injuries, Ambush, and Fatality: Assessing Threats of Domestic Violence Perpetrators
* Victim and Officer Safety
* Building a Community Coordinated Response to Domestic Violence

Please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Training%20Coordinator.pdf) to learn more and to register.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Training Announcement: Generational Diversity In The Workplace & Communication Skills

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Learn how generational differences in the workplace and working with the public, especially crime victims, impact the ways we communicate and understand each other. This training provides tools for better communication among our colleagues, the public and our supervisors; and offers guidance to understand learning differences, knowing our audiences, and improving our messaging so that we can perform our jobs most effectively.  
  
One week before the training: Please provide to Amy Smulktis any situations or questions you have where communications could have been improved, for discussion among the group.  
  
**PCCD has approved this course for 2 annual training hours. *Class size is limited to 40 attendees***.

**Please click** [here](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?ClientCode=pdaa&E_ID=500215&RegType=ATT) **to learn more and to register. Registration closes on September 1, 2020.**

[Return to top](#_top)

# SAVE THE DATE: VIRTUAL 2020 KCIT Conference: Conscious Resilience After Trauma

“Keystone Crisis Intervention Team is excited to share the date for our 2nd statewide conference, September 22-23, 2020.  The theme of our Conference this year is Conscious Resilience After Trauma.  KCIT’s focus on building Conscious Resilience is an acknowledgement of the impact and emotional toll that trauma has on our clients, organizations, communities, but more specifically—you—the helper.”

The Conference will be held as a VIRTUAL EVENT on September 22-23, 2020.

For Questions: please contact Donna Welsh at [donna.welsh@novabucks.org](mailto:vmccloskey@pa.gov)

[Return to top](#_top)

# SAVE THE DATE: Network Of Victim Assistance Auction & Gala

Thursday, October 15, 2020

5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Warrington Country Club

1360 Almshouse Road

Warrington, PA 18976

This year's theme, An Evening in the Roaring 20's, will take guests back 100 years to the 1920's and will feature 20's themed food stations, dancing, drinks, entertainment and live and silent auctions. Auction items include a private dinner party at Bocelli's Italian Restaurant, a spring yard clean-up package, a garden tea party for 8, dining experiences, adventures and getaways, artwork, jewelry, museum, theater and sports tickets and much more! New auction items are added weekly. Event proceeds benefit NOVA’s work in both helping victims of crime and preventing violence through education and advocacy programs.

Tickets for the Auction & Gala are $85.00 per person. The dress code for the event is business casual or 1920's themed attire. To purchase tickets, make a donation, or receive more information, please click [here](https://education.victimsofcrime.org/courses/translating-justice/), or contact Jill Mann at 215-343-6543 ext. 6602. Those who are unable to attend the gala can still get in on the auction fun and bid on items online via [www.NOVA.givesmart.com](http://www.pccd.pa.gov), by clicking on "Register to Participate" and following the prompts.

[Return to top](#_top)

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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 Stacie Brendlinger at [sbrendling@pa.gov](https://ncvc.dspacedirect.org/bitstream/id/2854/Research%20Convening%20Slides_Capturing%20Victims%20Voices%20on%20Justice%20Through%20Research.pdf).

The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **September 9, 2020**. If you would like any training events, fundraisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Stacie Brendlinger at [sbrendling@pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Bucks%20County%20CAC%20Family%20Advocate.pdf) by Wednesday, **September 2, 2020**.

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 Stacie Brendlinger at (717) 265-8722 or via email at [sbrendling@pa.gov](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/).

[Return to top](#_top)

Pennsylvania’s [Office of Victims’ Services](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/) | 3101 North Front Street | Harrisburg, PA 17110 | (717) 783-0551

[www.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Human%20Trafficking%20Task%20Force%20Organizer.pdf)

**PA Crime Victims Website**

[www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Data%20Management%20and%20Quality%20Assurance.pdf)

**Twitter:** Paramecium.