

OUTREACH AND ADVOCATE EXCHANGE

SPECIAL EDITION

SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

South Carolina Crime Victim Services Division

Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)

www.sova.sc.gov



First Quarter
July– September 2017

Article by Burke Fitzpatrick

Director of Crime Victim Services Division

No one is born understanding what it means to be a victim of violent crime. No one is born understanding the process of healing and how it can be helped, or hurt, by others. Certainly I wasn't. I had no exposure to domestic violence growing up in Brooklyn, New York, nor much exposure to violence of any kind other than school-yard fights. That was pretty amazing because neighborhoods in New York City in the late 60's and 70's looked like something out of a "Mad Max" movie. I almost escaped any real exposure to violence until the week before I traveled to South Carolina to go to graduate school. Riding my bike over the Brooklyn Bridge on a late summer day I ended up being robbed, beaten and stabbed. After I got stitched up at the hospital a cop loaned me 50 cents to take the subway back to Brooklyn. Such was victim's compensation in those days. A couple of weeks later, I was

studying criminal justice in USC's master's program.

My education in, and compassion for, victims of crime really started years later when I joined the staff of Governor Campbell's administration to manage a new law enforcement grant program, now called Justice Assistance Grants. In the offices next door were Victims of Crime Grant staff, including BJ Nelson, who I still work with every day 30 years later. BJ and her crew started my education process – I was not "woke". After all, I was a privileged white kid with a lot of formal education and, worse, a Yankee. But they worked on me, slowly revealing (and me, slowly understanding) the dynamics of domestic violence, the facts and myths of rape and criminal sexual conduct, and the lasting trauma and feelings of helplessness that many victims of violent crime experience.

And they hadn't even started to educate me on the secondary violence that victims experienced in our justice system at the time.

I'm still on the path, still learning... still trying to understand. After twenty-five years of administering Victims of Crime Act and Violence Against Women Act grant funds you'd think I would be an expert by now. No... but I know experts. Those are the people in our new division in the Office of the Attorney General. Those are the people with wisdom and compassion gained from experience. Those are the people who believe that the mission of aiding victims of crime is a worthy and honorable way to spend a career and a life.

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DID YOU KNOW?

The Attorney General's Office Silent Vigil will be Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 10am.

October is Down Syndrome Awareness month

November is National Child Mental Health month

November is Lung Cancer Awareness month

Human Rights Day is observed annually on December 10th

New DCVC Employee:

Scott Beard
DCVC Deputy Director

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HOW DO YOU SPELL ADVOCATES?

A—Accessible
 D—Devoted
 V—Valuable
 O—Optimistic
 C—Courageous
 A—Adaptable
 T—Tenacious
 E—Efficient
 S—Selfless

What Are Victim Services?

According to the National Organization for Victim Assistance, the needs of crime victims can vary based upon the nature and extent of the crimes. Specializations have emerged to address differing needs and perspectives.

For additional information please go to <http://www.trynova.org/>

I'm talking about all the folks in the Department of Crime Victim Compensation, the folks in the Department of Crime Victim Ombudsman, and my former "tribe", the Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants.

All of us, now in a single division in the Office of the Attorney General are this year, and for the first time, together. It's a big step forward.

As everybody knows by now, with the passage of Act 96 of 2017, victims of crime services provided by state agencies were largely consolidated in the Office of the Attorney General starting July 1st. We're only a few months old, but we are up and running, and we haven't missed a step in serving victims of crime or supporting the direct service providers on the state and local levels.

It was the honor of my professional career to be appointed the director of this new division, but I can take almost zero credit for the progress we have made so far. First and foremost, the credit goes to Attorney General Alan Wilson, who agreed to "adopt" us all. I have often wondered if, somewhere during the legislative process, he didn't look up at the ceiling and ask "Uh, you mean we don't have

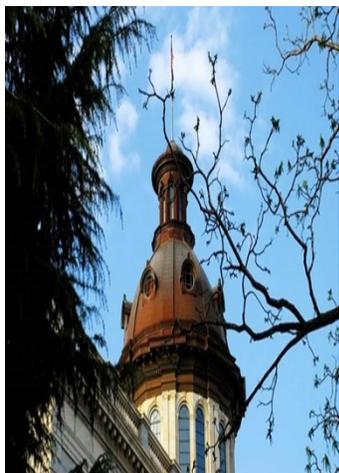
enough to do already around here?" But the fact is, he has embraced our new division and provided us with extraordinary support. This has also been reflected in his amazing staff led by Director of Administration Tammie Wilson. She manages a talented (and overworked) group comprising human resources, finance, information technology, procurement, and many other offices. These people have gone way above and beyond the call of duty to help us get set up, moved in, and become part of the AGO family. When you run into them, thank them as you would a First Responder – wow, they surely did respond to the challenge. Almost a 20% instant increase in the agency staffing and somehow they pulled it off without a hitch.

By the time you read this, it is likely that the grants staff at the Department of Public Safety will have moved into the office space on the fourth floor across from the Ombudsman and down the hall from the Compensation staff. I've spent a lot of time on the fourth floor already and couldn't be more impressed with the work that Compensation and the Ombudsman's staff do every day. And, frankly, it has been an eye-opening experience particularly with the Department of Crime Victim Compensation. I have quickly found

that this is complex and sensitive work. I had no idea there were so many moving pieces until I started learning how the compensation process really works. I tip my hat to each and every person in that department.

So, I have every confidence that our new division will quickly become recognized as an organization dedicated to excellence in our service to victims of crime. Years from now, looking back, I think that we will recognize that we were in a "Golden Age" in providing services to victims in South Carolina. We are in the right agency and have the unstinting support of the Attorney General. We have the resources to improve and innovate and we have the talent and drive to do so.

As for me, I want to hear from you about your ideas and vision for the future. My office is right down the hall and not hard to find. It's the same suite of offices I left in 1993 to join the Department of Public Safety.



Crime Victim

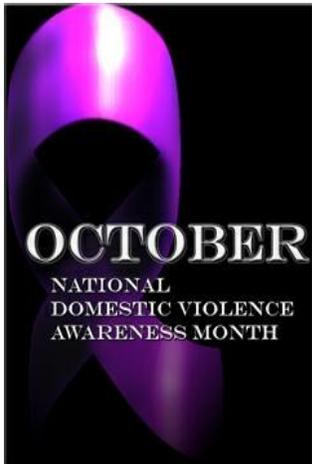
Compensation Checklist ✓

- [Proper Signature](#)
- [Last 5 Digits of SS#](#)
- [Date of Birth](#)
- [Phone #'s and Email Info.](#)
- [Incident Report](#)
- [Medical Insurance Info.](#)
- [Death Certificate if applicable](#)
- [Referral Information](#)

Contact Information:

Laura Hutchison
 Outreach Coordinator
 1205 Pendleton Street
 Columbia, SC 29201
 Phone: 803.734.0484
 Fax: 803.734.1708
laura.hutchison@admin.sc.gov

The Office of the Attorney General's Silent Vigil will be held October 3, 2017 at 10am on the State House grounds



Introducing the New DCVC Deputy Director

Article by Ethel Douglas Ford, CPM, Assistant Deputy Director

Continuing to stay focused and bridging the gap in victim services to help those who are hurting is the primary goal of the new Deputy Director for DCVC. Scott Beard has proven that helping those who are hurting and are eligible for the crime victim compensation program was a primary goal for him as he served as the Executive Director of the Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Board over the past five years. He has worked in the Baltimore area for the past five years providing leadership for their state's crime victim compensation program. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of victim services and returns to South Carolina to help lead the way for DCVC

During the First Quarter, DCVC was very active in the community.

The Outreach Coordinator conducted a programmatic site visit with Court Based Advocates in the Tenth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. The site visit was a success! The coordinator also conducted community networking in the Devine Street and Garners Ferry Road areas of Columbia, providing information to businesses regarding crime victim compensation. This continues to be a great outreach effort.

Additionally, the coordinator set up a display with a local high school to provide information on benefits and

as we embark upon the new consolidation under the Office of the Attorney General, South Carolina Crime Victim Services Division.

Mr. Beard received his Law Degree from Denver Law School and undergraduate degree from Clemson University. He went on to work at the 9th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office as a Project Director for several years before joining People Against Rape better known as PAR. He served for five years as the Executive Director for PAR, a sexual assault advocacy program offering free support and services for survivors of sexual assault in Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkeley counties of South Carolina.

As the new Department of Crime Victim Compensation

DCVC Outreach and Training

services related to crime victim compensation.

DCVC conducted trainings statewide during the first quarter. Among the training provided were to hospitals, a regional training hosted by the 13th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office and for non-profits. Training was geared towards service providers, administrative/support staff and victim advocates.

Specialized trainings were also conducted on Sexual Assault Protocol/Child Abuse Protocol, Restitution and Lost Wages. DCVC conducted a total of 6 trainings during the quarter and trained over 350 service providers. Participants were provided updated

moves forward to help those who are hurting, Mr. Beard will be a major contributor in ensuring that victims who are eligible are treated with dignity and respect as their claims are reviewed for eligibility and processed for compensation. He is an asset not only to the compensation program but to the citizens of South Carolina. I not only count it a pleasure to have him back in South Carolina in the field of victim services but an honor to work beside him!

Welcome back Scott! We missed you!

and detailed information on services and benefits provided to crime victims via compensation.

DCVC is excited about this year's South Carolina Victim Assistance Advanced Academy held October 25-26, 2017 in Greenville, South Carolina at the Greenville Police Department's Range, located at 688 Mauldin Road.

Please continue to follow DCVC Outreach and Advocate Exchange newsletter regarding information on upcoming special events and compensation updates.