

OUTREACH AND ADVOCATE EXCHANGE

SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE South Carolina Crime Victim Services Division



Third Quarter
January - March 2020

Continuity of Operations Plans

By CVSD Director Burke Fitzpatrick

As of this month, South Carolina joined our surrounding states in reporting infections from the COVID-19 virus. The Attorney General's Office, along with all other state agencies, are taking reasonable measures to protect staff and limit the transmission of this virus. We recognize that it is possible, should the situation worsen, that an executive order could be issued directing some state employees to stay at home to limit the spread of the virus. We hope that this will not become necessary, but if our staff is directed to stay home this will impact our day to day work.

The Crime Victims Services Division of the AGO has been planning for this possibility for several weeks. While all four departments provide critical services, two of those departments manage ongoing financial payments to subgrantees, providers and victims of crime. The work of the Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants and the Department of Crime Victim Compensation are vital to the funding of 144 separate grant projects and thousands of compensation requests.

We intend to do whatever it takes to continue operations, while at the same time protecting our employees.

Regarding grants, both programmatic and financial staff have laptops and scanners that can be taken home and we can continue to remotely access our grants management system and the state financial system, SCEIS. It will be cumbersome, but we intend to keep Requests For Payment and other transactions up to date.

The Department of Crime Victim Compensation does not have the same capability. The processing of claims must largely be done in-house. But, we are figuring out work-arounds so that victims of violent crime and the providers that serve them can get their claims processed in a reasonable amount of time.

Since we don't know exactly how long this public health emergency will last, I cannot predict how all this will work out.

However, you have my word that we will do everything we can to continue to be responsive to you and your agency.

Feel free to call me at any time during this health emergency concerning anything our division handles. My office number is 803-734-0787. My AGO cell number is 803-917-1439. My personal cell number is 803-414-0141.

*We are Here
to Help You!*



DID YOU KNOW?

SC Victims' Rights Week has been postponed. For additional information, please go to

www.scvan.org

April:

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

May:

National Stroke Awareness Month

June:

National Safety Day

WHAT'S INSIDE:

[DCVO Article by Veronica Swain Kunz](#) Pg. 2

[DCVAG Article by BJ Nelson](#) Pg. 3

[DCVAG Article by Tara Martin, Ph.D.](#) Pg. 3

[DCVC Compensation Article by D. Scott Beard](#) Pg. 4

[DCVC Community Outreach](#) Pg. 5

[DCVC Training and Publications](#) Pg. 6

[DCVO Article by Veronica Swain Kunz continued](#) Pg. 7

[Publisher/Editor's Contact Information](#) Pg. 8



DID YOU KNOW?

(excerpts and information from National Sexual Violence Resource Center <https://www.nsvrc.org> <https://ovc.gov>)



The National Sexual Violence Resource Center

The NSVRC's mission is to provide leadership in preventing and responding to sexual violence through collaboration, sharing and creating resources, and promoting research.

About Sexual Assault

Sexual violence happens in every community and affects people of all genders and ages. Sexual violence is any type of unwanted sexual contact. This includes words and actions of a sexual nature against a person's will and without their consent. A person may use force, threats, manipulation, or coercion to commit sexual violence.

Forms of sexual violence include:

- *Rape or sexual assault
- *Child sexual assault and incest
- *Sexual assault by a person's spouse or partner
- *Unwanted sexual contact/ touching
- *Sexual harassment
- *Sexual exploitation and trafficking

Update from the Crime Victim Ombudsman by Deputy Director Veronica Swain Kunz

Dear Fellow Advocates,

So many people who call us for help are dealing with some serious mental health issues. Our hearts break when we consider what it must be like to live with the fear, confusion and distrust they are dealing with! Now that we all are facing a pandemic, we anticipate their level of stress is even higher. They will likely face triggers that may leave them more distraught than usual. We found this information from the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) to be helpful when we speak to people we suspect may be living with a psychological disorder.

Empathic Guidelines

1. **Don't Criticize.** People struggling with any sort of mental illness are very vulnerable. Try to be supportive, and keep negative or nagging remarks to an absolute minimum. Keep a standard of respect.
2. **Don't press; don't fight; don't punish.** From Patricia Backlar's book, The Family Face of Schizophrenia:
"With this disease there is no fighting. You may not fight. You just have to take it and take it calmly. And remember to keep your voice down ... punishment doesn't work with this disease. Now that I have lived with a person with schizophrenia, it makes me very upset when I see mental health workers try to correct their clients' adverse behavior by punishment, because I know it doesn't work."
3. **If you want to influence behavior, ignore negative behavior as much as you can, and praise positive behavior every chance you get.** Studies show if you "accentuate the positive" people will want to perform the behaviors that earn them recognition and approval.
4. **Learn to recognize and accept primary symptoms, and residual symptoms, of the mental disorder.** Don't "jump start" someone in depression, or "shoot down" someone with mania, or argue with schizophrenic delusions. Tell them it's not their fault, and you are glad they called you. This type of support can relieve guilt and anxiety, even when someone is still in denial.
5. **Encourage independent behavior.** Ask what they feel they are ready to do. Plan for progress in small steps. Make short-term plans and be prepared for changes in directions, and retreats. Progress requires flexibility.
6. **Having made necessary allowances, treat people with mental illness, day-to-day, just like anybody else.** Expect the basics we all require to get along and set the same limits and expectations for reasonable order that would exist if they were well. All persons require rules of conduct and cooperative standards to live by.
7. **When communicating, listen and respond to the feeling behind the words.** Being empathetic with emotions lets individuals know you understand their painful predicament, respect their struggle and demonstrates that you are supportive.
8. **Empathy must also extend to each of us who struggle to understand and encourage those who are suffering from mental illness. Remember:** We can only try to do our best. We cannot do any better than that. Mental illnesses go through hard, intractable periods where helping those who suffer them is often difficult to do. We can hope, we can assist, we can keep on trying, but we can't produce miracles.

Hot Topic:

Subpoenas for Victim Information:

Please spread the word: many solicitors and officers still don't know that the SC Rules of Criminal Procedure were amended in January 2019 to include protections for victims' confidential information. The new paragraph (below) adopts a version of the federal rule intended to provide a protective mechanism when the defense subpoenas a third party to provide personal or confidential information about a victim.

(continued on page 7)

May is National Stroke Awareness Month



Stop Stroke-Act FAST-Spread HOPE

Excerpts from
<https://www.cdc.gov>

Preventing Stroke: Healthy Living

Healthy Diet:

Choosing healthy meal and snack options can help you prevent stroke. Be sure to eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables. Eating foods low in saturated fats, trans fat, and cholesterol and high in fiber can help prevent high cholesterol. Limiting [salt](#) (sodium) in your diet can also lower your blood pressure. High cholesterol and high blood pressure increase your chances of having a stroke.

Physical Activity:

Physical activity can help you stay at a healthy weight and lower your cholesterol and blood pressure levels. For adults, the Surgeon General recommends 2 hours and 30 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity, such as a brisk walk, each week. Children and teens should get 1 hour of physical activity every day.

No Smoking:

Cigarette smoking greatly increases your chances of having a stroke. If you don't smoke, don't start. If you do smoke, quitting will lower your risk for stroke. Your doctor can suggest ways to help you quit.

Limited Alcohol:

Avoid drinking too much alcohol, which can raise your blood pressure. Men should have no more than two drinks per day, and women only one.

AGO Hosts Annual Solicitation Workshop Announces Availability for 2020 Grants by Deputy Director BJ Nelson


Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants (DCVAG)

The Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants (DCVAG) is currently in the midst of its annual application cycle for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and State Victims Assistance Program (SVAP) grants. Our office announced the availability of funds in January and held our grant solicitation workshop on February 7, with over 60 people in attendance and over 100 participating via webinar. The online application opened in AGO Grants that

afternoon and will close on April 1 at 5:00 pm.

This year, staff is expecting a decrease in VOCA funding to about \$26 million for FFY2020, which is a significant decrease from \$34.7 million in 2019 and \$50.8 million in 2018. As a result of cautious management of the VOCA program in recent years, some unobligated funds are available to help mitigate this federal decrease and manage a slightly more gentle glide slope toward reduced federal funding. Therefore, in an effort

to reduce future awards, we are recommending 18% reductions for existing grant projects in their 2020 applications while giving each agency the discretion to make those reductions however they best see fit. While no projects are guaranteed funding and are approved based only by the Public Safety Coordination Council, an across the board 18% cut will allow DCVAG to continue funding nearly 100 agencies in 2020 and in the future.

 \$ Grant Funding

South Carolina Census of Victim Service Providers

by Tara Martin, Ph.D., Statistician

Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification, and Statistical Analysis (CVST)

You may remember participating in the [National Census of Victim Service Providers](#) that was sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Office for Victims of Crime in 2017. While that effort provided an overview of the number of victim service organizations in South Carolina, it cannot provide detailed information about where different types of services are available to victims throughout our state.

In order to develop a systematic understanding of the types of services provided to victims in South Carolina, the Victim Services Coordinating Council (VSCC) is sponsoring a statewide Census of Victim Service Providers. The Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification, and Statistical Analysis will be providing staff support to conduct the census. All organiza-

tions providing services to victims will be asked to participate in the census.

Your organization will be eligible to participate if it employs at least one person whose primary purpose is to assist people who are directly or indirectly harmed by a crime. That assistance could be in the form of ensuring victim safety, helping victims understand and participate in the criminal justice process, assisting victims with their recovery, and/or advocating on behalf of victims.

In addition to general information about the organization, the census will ask about the following:

- Services provided to victims
- Where services are provided
- Number of staff providing victim services

A person at the organization who has knowledge about the available services for victims and staffing is the best person to complete the census. This may be, for example, an executive director, director of victim services, or someone in human resources.

To help us create a list of contacts to receive the census, please email the following information to Tara Martin (tmartin@scag.gov):

1. Name of the appropriate organization contact
2. Position/title
3. Organization
4. Email address
5. Phone number

Please share and disseminate this information with other victim serving organizations. Thank you in advance for your participation in the Census of Victim Service Providers.



June Is National Safety Month

Excerpts from
<https://www.nsc.org>

Join NSC and thousands of organizations nationwide in celebrating National Safety Month.

Observed annually in June, National Safety Month focuses on reducing leading causes of injury and death at work, on the road and in our homes and communities. We provide downloadable resources highlighting a different safety topic for each week in June. Topics in 2019 were Hazard Recognition, Slips, Trips and Falls, Fatigue and Impairment.

NSC remains focused on saving lives and preventing injuries, including raising public awareness of the opioid epidemic, helping to reduce motor vehicle crashes and improving safety practices in workplaces all across the country. With your help, we can make safety a priority in our communities, on the road and at work

Share the Safety Message in June

Use a little bit of creativity to engage workers, families and communities in safety this June. These ideas should help get you started:

*Distribute the downloadable NSM materials

*Create newsletters or blog posts

*Hold a safety trivia contest with weekly prizes



DCVC Translated into Spanish by Deputy Director D. Scott Beard

Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)

Over the past two years, The Department of Crime Victim Compensation has been working to become a “Spanish language friendly” agency. According to the US Census Bureau as of 2019, Hispanics and Latinos made up 5.8% of the population of South Carolina or nearly 300,000 individuals.

DCVC agency staff members worked with a contractor, and Spanish speaking advocates throughout the state to translate internal and external documents. The external documents which include the Spanish language DCVC application can be located on our website: www.sova.sc.gov then click below the highlighted link “Espanol.”

A total of 16 external documents including forms, flyers, and posters were translated into Spanish. We also translated 40 DCVC form letters into Spanish so that Spanish speaking victims will be able to fully understand their rights with regard to receiving crime victim compensation in South Carolina. In addition, DCVC has two Spanish speaking staff members currently employed with the agency.

If you are an advocate working with a Spanish speaking victim of crime, you can now request a full complement of Spanish language services from our agency.

DCVC Spanish Documents



DCVC Application

Solicitud – compensación para víctimas de crimen

Compensation Brochure

Fiscalía General - Departamento de Compensación a Víctimas de Crimen

Payment and Reimbursement at A Glance

Panorama General De Pagos Y Reembolsos Y Formularios Complementarios

Employer's Lost Wages Support Report

Informe del empleador – Pérdida de salario/apoyo

Self Employment Verification of Loss Wages

Verificación de pérdida de salario para empleados autónomos

Mental Health Counselor's Report

Informe del Asesor de salud mental del DCVC
 Informe de Discapacidad/Pérdida de Apoyo del Médico
 de factura por funeral

Additional Counseling Session Form

Formulario de solicitud de sesiones de asesoramiento adicionales del DCVC

Physician's Disability Report

Informe de Discapacidad del Médico

Physician's Disability Loss of Support

Informe de Discapacidad/Pérdida de Apoyo del Médico

Funeral Case Status Form

Formulario de estado de caso por presentación de factura por funeral

Eligibility Criteria

Criterios de elegibilidad del DCVC



Department of Justice Victim Services Division

Overview:

The Victim Services Division (VSD) is responsible for ensuring that victims of crimes investigated by the FBI are afforded the opportunity to receive the services and notification as required by federal law and the Attorney General Guidelines on Victim and Witness Assistance. The VSD manages the day-to-day operational aspects of the Victim Assistance Program (VAP) in the 56 FBI field offices across the country as well as the FBI's international offices. In addition, the VSD is responsible for providing training and information that helps to equip FBI agents and other FBI personnel to work effectively with victims.

Mission:

To inform, support, and assist victims in navigating the aftermath of crime and the criminal justice process with dignity and resilience.

Vision:

Empowerment, dignity, and justice for every victim and global leadership to meet the evolving needs of victims now and in the future.

For additional information, go to <https://www.fbi.gov>

Community Outreach Services

Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)

Law Enforcement and Victim Advocate Outreach Initiative

DCVC has collaborated with the 6th Judicial Circuit for the next Law Enforcement and Victim Advocate training series. As a result of our collaboration, the following agencies were scheduled for training.

- Chester County Sheriff's Office and Chester Police Department - January 29, 2020
- Fairfield County Sheriff's Office - February 4, 2020 and February 6, 2020

DCVC will continue on an ongoing basis to track and monitor the impact of the training.

Outlined below is a breakdown of how many agencies and participants were trained in the 6th Judicial Circuit:

- Trainings Conducted - **4**
- Law Enforcement Officers Trained - **55**
- Victim Advocates Trained - **2**
- Total number of Law Enforcement Officers and Victim Advocates Trained - **57**

The overall training summary surveys indicated that the outreach initiative was beneficial for law enforcement officers and victim advocates. The trainings were successful!

The majority of the participants felt the training educated them on victim issues, and they could apply what they learned on the job.

Below are a few comments regarding what participants liked most about the training:

- Training was informative
- Videos were helpful; showing real life examples and the importance of the first responder
- Training provided a better perspective of dealing with victims

DCVC will continue to assess the outreach Law Enforcement and Victim Advocate outreach initiative to ensure that it meets not only the needs of DCVC but the needs of law enforcement officers and victim advocates statewide.

Georgetown County Victim Services Fair

The Georgetown County Victim Service Fair was initially scheduled for May 14, 2020 and later changed to Thursday, May 7, 2020 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at 333 Cleland Street, Georgetown, SC 29440 has until further notice. Once another date and time has been established, you will be notified via a Save The Date Flyer!

So, please be on the lookout for this flyer and the additional information regarding this event!





2020 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW)

<https://ovc.ncjrs.gov>

Every April, OVC helps lead communities throughout the country in their annual observances of NCVRW, which will be observed in 2020 from April 19–25. This year's theme is **Seek Justice | Ensure Victims' Rights | Inspire Hope**.

The weeklong initiative promotes victims' rights and honors crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf.

OVC also encourages communities to apply for funding to raise public awareness of victims' rights and services in communities during NCVRW. Learn more apply for the [2020 NCVRW Community Awareness Projects](#).

Sign up for the [National Crime Victims' Rights Week Subscription List](#) to receive -

- information about the release of the 2020 NCVRW theme, theme colors, and Resource Guide, and
- a complimentary online or print copy of the 2020 NCVRW theme poster.

DCVC Training and Events Statewide

Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)

The following is a list of upcoming DCVC training events.

Please note that future training is based upon the Governor's directive due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Therefore, when the "all non-essential travel" ban has been lifted, the training noted below will take place as scheduled. If the ban remains in effect, the training will be rescheduled for a later date.

Upcoming Training and Events:

- **May 12, 2020** - Pee Dee Coalition Regional Staff Meeting, Hartsville, SC
- **May 28, 2020** - Julie Valentine Center, Greenville, SC

- **June 2, 2020** - DCVC Basic Core Training for SCCADVASA. For additional information call 803-256-2900 or visit <http://www.sccadvasa.org>
- **August 25, 2020** - DCVC Basic Core Training for SCCADVASA. For additional information call 803-256-2900 or visit <http://www.sccadvasa.org>
- **November 17, 2020** - DCVC Basic Core Training for SCCADVASA. For additional information call 803-256-2900 or visit <http://www.sccadvasa.org>

DCVC is in the process of coordinating future training events across the state! Stay tuned!



DCVC Publications

Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)

If you are interested in requesting DCVC publication items, please go to www.sova.sc.gov. Once there, click on the For Advocates' tab. Next, click the Publications' tab to the left. Once you click the Publications' tab, you will be directed to our DCVC Publications' page. On this page, you may request a number of DCVC publication items such as the agency application, brochures, posters and flyers.

By filling out the Publication Request Form, a limited number of items previously mentioned will be sent to the address notated on the request form.

You may also feel free to download these documents from our agency website www.sova.sc.gov to use at your convenience.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 803.734.1900 and ask for someone in outreach.



Excerpts from National Center for Victims of Crime

<https://victimsofcrime.org>

Victim Advocates

Victim advocates are professionals trained to support victims of crime. Advocates offer victims information, emotional support, and help finding resources and filling out paperwork. Sometimes, advocates go to court with victims. Advocates may also contact organizations, such as criminal justice or social service agencies, to get help or information for victims. Some advocates staff crisis hotlines, run support groups, or provide in-person counseling. Victim advocates may also be called victim service providers, victim/witness coordinators, or victim/witness specialists.

Roles and Training

Advocates' responsibilities vary depending on their job description and where they work. Typically, the role of an advocate may include:

- Providing information on victimization;
- Providing information on crime prevention;
- Providing information on victims' legal rights and protections;
- Providing information on the criminal justice process;
- Providing emotional support to victims;
- Helping victims with safety planning;
- Helping victims with victim compensation applications

Update from the Crime Victim Ombudsman

by Deputy Director Veronica Swain Kunz

(continued from page 2)

The amendment requires judicial approval before service of a subpoena seeking personal or confidential information about a victim from a third party.

SCRCrimP Rule 13(a)(2) - Issuance of Subpoena for Personal or Confidential Information About a Victim

A subpoena requiring the production of personal or confidential information about a victim may be served on a third party **only by court order**. Before entering the order and unless there are exceptional circumstances, the court **must** require giving **notice to the victim** so that the victim can move to quash or modify the subpoena or otherwise object.

Fantastic Resource:

Whether you're a new prosecutor, law enforcement officer or direct service provider, **AEquitas** is your go-to agency for advice, training and direct assistance with DV and sexual assault cases.

AEquitas and its staff, comprised primarily of former prosecutors, work closely with governmental and nongovernmental agencies to promote a contextual, rather than uniform, approach to the pursuit of justice for victims around the world.

"We bring decades of prosecution experience and collaborative approach to offer advice and resources across disciplines. ... we're available 24/7 at **NO COST TO YOU.**"

Check them out! <https://aequitasresource.org>

Unique Training Opportunity:

We South Carolina Advocates should be proud that we have some of the strongest legal rights for crime victims in the Nation. As a Department that supports and enforces victims' rights, CVO recognizes **Meg Garvin** as one of our Nation's top experts and leaders in this field. We all have an incredible opportunity to meet Meg this April when she teams up with SCVAN for a training in Charleston.

Meg is the Executive Director of the National Crime Victim Law Institute in Portland, Oregon. Prosecutors, service providers and law enforcement are welcome to attend. This training qualifies for CLE and VSP hours.

Increasing Access to Justice: Victims' Rights in SC

Charleston County Public Library
68 Calhoun Street,
Charleston
Thursday, April 9, 2020
1:30pm-4:30pm

Register here:

<https://forms.gle/sCh1rJD3Lj1u1Nku6>

GREAT NEWS

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Spring is Here!

*All the flowers of all the tomorrows
are in the seeds of today*

Author Unknown



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