

# OUTREACH AND ADVOCATE EXCHANGE

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



Second Quarter  
October - December 2018

### A Message From Attorney General Alan Wilson

During this holiday season when we reflect on the year and count our blessings, I wanted to thank you all for the work you do. You put in long hours that are often emotionally draining, work that

gets no glory or accolades. But your work means the world to victims of crime. In this season of giving, thank you for all that *you* give to help your fellow South Carolinians.

Merry Christmas and God bless you and your family.

Alan



### “Winter Is Coming?”

By Burke Fitzpatrick

### Director of Crime Victim Services Division

Many readers of our newsletter are either supported by or administer grants issued from our division. Almost all of the funds we manage are awards to the Attorney General's Office from the US Department of Justice - either Violence Against Women Act funds or Victim of Crime Act funds. So, we try to keep a close eye on the shenanigans in Washington DC and follow the ups and downs of their annual budgets. In the last few years, this rollercoaster has been going up. But, for how long?

For more than a decade South Carolina's VOCA allocation hovered between six and nine million dollars. The VAWA funding was, and still is today, around \$2.34 million. To support victims of crime service providers throughout the state, that wasn't really a lot of money. Most grants in those days were for a single advocate position to a non-profit or law enforcement agency. The projects did an

outstanding job with what they had to work with and generally we continued funding these programs year after year.

Four years ago Congress raised the cap on the Victims of Crime Act Trust Fund resulting in an award to South Carolina of about \$28 million. They followed up the next two years with awards between \$28 and \$30 million and last year (this still takes my breathe away) we received \$50.8 million in VOCA funding. Suddenly, we were in a position to recommend awards for every worthy project submitted to us. Plus, the federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) will now allow states to request waivers to the required 20% match on each grant awarded.

Judging by your reports and our monitoring of grant projects, you are serving more victims of crime than ever and providing better, more comprehensive

services. The VAWA program has remained steady and, although its Congressional authorization expired last September, it appears that Congress will continue appropriating VAWA funds for the states.

The question is: *What's next?* We don't know too much about the current federal funding year appropriations because Congress passed a Continuing Resolution extending last year's funding through the middle of December. When that runs out we will have a better idea on what to expect for victims of crime funding through September 2019.

But, grant funding cycles have often been compared to the stock market - there are inevitable ups and downs.

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### The Crime Victim Services Division Welcomes New Employee:

Denise Gray-DCVC  
Processing Services

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**DID YOU KNOW?****January:**

Human Trafficking  
Awareness Month

National Birth Defects  
Awareness Month

**February:**

National Missing  
Person Day (February 3rd)

**National Go Red Day is observed the first Friday in February (2/1/19) in recognition of heart disease and stroke being a number one killer for women. For more info, go to:**

[www.goredforwomen.org](http://www.goredforwomen.org)

**March:**

American Red Cross Month

**Victim & Witness Intimidation****The Problem****Article by D. Scott Beard****Deputy Director Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)**

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, DCVC along with the Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Office and the Charleston County Sheriff's Office sponsored a multi-disciplinary training addressing "Victim & Witness Intimidation."

Leading up to the training, DCVC conducted a survey of victim advocates to determine their experience with Victim & Witness Intimidation. More than 90% of respondents said they had observed victim & witness intimidation through their work. The findings mirror the national studies which show that victim advocates are often the first and maybe the only professionals to observe intimidation of victims and witnesses.

Following are three examples of Intimidation included in the survey comments:

*"Domestic Violence victims' abuser would contact her via texts and social media, making threats to take children and harm the family if victim does not come into office and fill out drop charge request."*

*"Victims are often intimidated to come to hearings and be in*

*same courtroom as defendant and particularly to speak to judge."*

*"During a court hearing regarding domestic violence the family of the defendant was sitting in the courtroom making gestures at the victim while testifying."*

These comments represent just some of the different types of intimidation that goes on every day, both in and out of the courtroom.

**What can we do to address the problem of Victim & Witness Intimidation?**

1. Be on the Lookout for Victim & Witness Intimidation;
2. Be able to recognize Intimidation - SEE Enclosed Guide;
3. Record Victim & Witness Intimidation in your notes and files for possible use by prosecutors, judges or others;
4. Report Victim & Witness Intimidation to your chain of command or to prosecutors

A community where law enforcement, prosecutors and victim advocates work together to com-

bat victim and witness intimidation will increase witness participation. This will in turn lead to more successful prosecutions and ultimately build a safer community for all its citizens.

There were 90 attendees and among those that attended were 10 lawyers, 1 judge and 79 others comprised of law enforcement and victim advocates across South Carolina.

Those in attendance earned continuing education credit towards VSP Hours, CLEE Hours and CLE Hours.

**Please refer to page 7 regarding Guide for Reports of Witness Tampering.**



**Table Rock, South Carolina**

Listed below are National Helplines: Toll Free and Online Hotlines by The Office for Victims of Crime located at: <http://www.ovcttac.gov> then clicking on Help for Crime Victims:



Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline: (800-422-4453)

National Domestic Violence Hotline TTY Hotline: (800-799-7233) (800-787-3224)

National Human Trafficking Hotline: (888-373-7888)

National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children: (888-818-7662)

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline: (866-331-9474) (866-331-8453)

Pathways to Safety International (domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking) (833-723-3833)

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) (800-656-4673)

Safe Phone Helpline (sexual assault support for the DoD community) (877-955-5247)

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## Help for New VSP's Department of Crime Victim Ombudsman (DCVO) Article by Deputy Director Veronica Swain Kunz

It was wonderful spending time in Myrtle Beach with the LEVAs and Solicitor Advocates at their conferences in November! It is truly inspiring to be surrounded by all of you who dedicate your lives to helping others through life's most difficult moments. Advocates are a special brand of people – passionate, empathetic and giving. We stand in awe of you and are deeply grateful for your guidance, dedication and heart.

We have so many new advocates joining the over 4,000 registered VSPs this year, thanks to unprecedented funding for VOCA grants. Brand new advocates are often placed in their jobs with little to no experience, and too many are expected to hit the ground running without even the most basic idea of what they are supposed to do.

The Crime Victim Ombudsman has developed a presentation for new law enforcement advocates called "LEVA Duties." This PowerPoint training outlines your legal duties to victims, and contains most of the other ways LEVAs are expected to help victims. The Victim Services Coordinating Council is developing a job description for LEVAs. Until we get that done, please call CVO if you have any

questions at **803.734.0357**, and email us at [CVO@SCAG.gov](mailto:CVO@SCAG.gov) if you would like to have a copy of the presentation. It's also a great tool to train your supervisors and coworkers about what you do!

### TRENDING ISSUES:

Recently, a number of new LEVAs have asked whether they are supposed to help victims of "property crimes" i.e., trespassing, thefts, and burglary (where the cost of property is under \$1,000). **The answer is YES.**

The definition of "Victim" in the SC Constitution is:

"Victim" means a person who suffers direct or threatened physical, psychological, **or financial harm** as the result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime against him. The term "victim" also includes the person's spouse, parent, child, or lawful representative of a crime victim who is deceased, who is a minor or who is incompetent or who was a homicide victim or who is physi-

cally or psychologically incapacitated.

What confuses many people is the language contained in the statutory definition of "criminal offense" in SC Code Section 16-3-1510:

(3) "Criminal offense" means an offense against the person of an individual when physical or psychological harm occurs, or the property of an individual when the value of the property stolen or destroyed, or the cost of the damage to the property is in excess of one thousand dollars.

Keep in mind that the Statute above was written in 1997. One year later, South Carolina amended its Constitution to ensure **ALL people** in SC who have suffered physical, psychological or financial harm are legally victims of crime. South Carolina helps victims "*Every Crime, Every Time.*"

Here's a tip: Constitutional law ALWAYS overrides statutory law. If you're confused about who is technically a victim, look to the constitutional definition of victim.

## Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC) Training and Events Statewide

During the second quarter the Department of Crime Victim Compensation conducted 9 trainings and trained approximately 263 participants regarding DCVC's program, services and benefits.

The agency was invited to par-

ticipate in the Regional Training for the Mortician's Association which was held on November 19, 2018 in Florence. During this event, DCVC was afforded the opportunity to reach a large number, approximately 60, of mortician's and funeral director's in and around the Florence area to

provide updated information as it relates to crime victim compensation and the allowable for funeral/burial expenses.

The training was a huge success!

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## Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification, and Statistical Analysis (CVST) Article by Deputy Director Kim Hamm

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Lifeline Crisis Chat  
[https://  
suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat)

National Sexual Assault  
Online Hotline  
<https://ohl.rainn.org/online>  
Espanol  
<https://ohl.rainn.org/es>

National Runaway Safeline  
Chat [www.1800runaway.org](http://www.1800runaway.org)

VictimConnect Chat (live  
anonymous referrals and  
support for victims of crime)  
[http://victimconnect.org/get-  
help/victimconnect-chat](http://victimconnect.org/get-help/victimconnect-chat)

Battered Women's Justice  
(800-903-0111 ext.1)

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Indian Country Child Abuse  
Hotline: (800-633-5155)

Federal Trade Commission  
Identity Theft.gov:  
<https://identitytheft.gov>  
Espanol:  
<https://robodeidentidad.gov>

National Center for Missing  
& Exploited Children  
(800-843-5678)

National Crime Victim Bar  
Association  
(844-529-4357)

National Organization for  
Victim Assistance  
(800-879-6682)

Substance Abuse & Mental  
Health Services Administra-  
tion National Helpline  
(800-622-4357)

U.S. Department of Justice  
Elder Abuse Initiative  
[www.justice.gov/  
elderjustice/find-support-  
elder-abuse](http://www.justice.gov/elderjustice/find-support-elder-abuse)  
Espanol  
[www.justice.gov/elderjustice-  
espanol](http://www.justice.gov/elderjustice-espanol)

2019 marks the ten year anniversary of the Victim Service Provider (VSP) certification program in South Carolina. We were innovators then, and we are still innovators now. South Carolina remains the only state with mandated certification and continuing education requirements for all victim service providers. We pride ourselves in elevating the field of victim advocacy and we continue to make strides in this work. In the last decade, approximately 4,500 Victim Service Providers and Notifiers have registered with our office!

The end of the year is always a busy time in our office as many VSPs are anxious to make sure they meet their annual training requirements. We are diligently working to keep our database up-to-date as we receive documentation from VSPs and training sponsors. As a reminder, all certified VSPs must receive 12 hours of approved continuing education each calendar year to remain in compliance as a certified Victim Service Provider. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding training requirements or visit our website, [www.ovsec.sc.gov](http://www.ovsec.sc.gov) for more information.

Beginning in January 2019, all new victim advocates will be trained with our updated curriculum, VSP 2.0, which was born from a multi-disciplinary team of victim service professionals and both vetted and approved by the Victim Services Coordinating Council (VSCC) in 2018. You can find the VSP 2.0 training requirement updates on our website at [www.ovsec.sc.gov](http://www.ovsec.sc.gov). VSP 2.0 provides a more detailed and specific basic core training to ensure all advocates, regardless of where they obtain their training, are getting the same core information on certain subject areas while adding additional options to further specialize training. Additionally, the VSP 2.0 curriculum includes new training areas such as Multi-disciplinary Collaboration and Self-Care that we believe will better equip new advocates in their careers as Victim Service Providers.

Another new initiative from our office includes the creation of a specialized Human Trafficking certification program. In collaboration with the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, our office is charged with the oversight and management of this new program. The inaugural cohort of Human Trafficking

service providers are set to be trained during Human Trafficking awareness month in January 2018, additional trainings for this specialized certification will be available multiple times throughout the year for eligible participants. This training is eligible to vetted service providers whose role is explicitly and/or primarily providing services to victims of Human Trafficking.

Although we are implementing many new initiatives, our mission remains the same: further professionalizing the field of victim services through ensuring proper training, certification of victim services providers, and analysis of relevant statistical data. We continue to work to fulfill our mission. We are extremely thankful for the work of our VSPs, many of whom go above and beyond the call of duty, and we are proud to be a part of the professional elevation of this important field. Cheers to a new year, new beginnings, new opportunities and many successes together!



**A Few Tips for Caregiver Support taken from the South Carolina Lieutenant Governor's Office On Aging under GetCareSC.com**

**Caregiver Support**

**Who is a caregiver?**

A caregiver is an unpaid friend or family member who cares for a frail or disabled adult.

**Caregiver Stress-**

It can be extremely difficult to find time to arrange care for your loved one while you juggle other family and work obligations.

**Watch out for these signs of caregiver stress:**

- Feeling overwhelmed or constantly worried
- Feeling tired most of the time
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Gaining or losing a lot of weight
- Becoming easily irritated or angry
- Losing interest in activities you used to enjoy
- Having frequent headaches or body pain
- Abusing alcohol or drugs, including prescription medications

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## Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants (DCVAG)

### Article by Deputy Director BJ Nelson

For more than twenty years, the Crime Victim Assistance Grant Program used a web-based system (GMIS) that was custom developed and supported by the Department of Public Safety (DPS). With the passing of time, the system operated on an outdated infrastructure, had enormous security flaws, and would not work well on new platforms. After transitioning to the Attorney General's office, the plan was to use the GMIS until a new system was purchased.

Earlier this year the Department of Crime Victim of Assistance Grants (DCVAG) was notified by DPS that they would be discontinuing support and disconnecting the GMIS system on October 30, 2018 for the victims of crime grants as well as for their grant programs.

That gave DCVAG a short time to select a vendor to create a new grants management system and complete the project. After months of daily meetings and teleconferences with the vendor for the new grants management system, the department rolled out its new grants management system (AGO Grants) portal October 31, 2018, the day before the next grants cycle began. Whew!

Training webinars are currently available for current subrecipients to learn how to log into the new system, view their current grant, and make any necessary changes/additions to their agency contacts and roles. Moving forward, training webinars will continue to be held weekly for staff and subrecipients that will address various topics as the

AGO Grants continues to improve and gain functionality.

By November 30, 2018, the plan is to grant full access to AGO Grants that will allow subrecipients to make requests for revisions and training approvals and be able to upload requests for payments through the system rather than mailing and emailing all of this information. Documentation that is required for grants management will be uploaded into AGO Grants by subrecipients – true paper reduction! And one of the most exciting parts of AGO Grants is that the new system will have the capability to add, subtract and do percentages within the grant itself with the touch of a button! So, let us know how you like the new system. Contact me at: [Bnelson@scag.gov](mailto:Bnelson@scag.gov).

## Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)

### Community Outreach Services

**[Law Enforcement and Victim Advocate Training](#)**

During the first quarter newsletter, DCVC announced the introduction of a new outreach initiative regarding training law enforcement and victim advocates. Since the announcement, DCVC has contacted 17 law enforcement agencies in the Second Judicial Circuit. Also, DCVC has received approval for 1.5 hours of CLEE credit from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy for this training!

As a result, the following law enforcement agencies have confirmed training:

- January 8, 2019 - Barnwell County Sheriff's Department

- January 22, 2019 - Ehrhardt Police Department
- February 12, 2019 - Aiken Department of Public Safety
- February 15, 2019 - Burnet-town Police Department
- February 19, 2019 - Aiken Department of Public Safety
- February 26, 2019 - Aiken Department of Public Safety
- February 28, 2019 - Aiken Victim Services Personnel
- March 5, 2019 - Aiken Department of Public Safety

DCVC will continue to coordinate and schedule training statewide regarding the crime victim compensation program, services and

benefits to ensure law enforcement and victim service providers are aware of available services.

**[Community Outreach](#)**

DCVC conducted outreach during The South Carolina Department of Education Fall Regional Workshops held in Columbia and Walterboro providing program information on services and benefits to approximately 150 participants.

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These symptoms can indicate depression, a serious disease that requires medical attention. If you have these symptoms or suicidal or suicidal thoughts, please see a doctor as soon as possible.

#### Help others help you

Many people will ask you, "Is there anything I can do for you?" Take advantage of their generosity by asking for something specific. It can be helpful to give the person a choice between several things that would help, so be prepared with a list and let the helper choose what he or she would like to do.



## "Winter Is Coming?"

By Burke Fitzpatrick

### Director of Crime Victim Services Division

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We are clearly on the up side now, way up. Does that mean the VOCA Trust Fund cap will be lowered in the future, perhaps down to 2015 levels? If so, programs across the state will eventually come in for a hard landing when the grants are cut back or cut out. No one knows at this point but our strategy here is to take a conservative course and hold some funds back each year.

That way, if Congress does go haywire and make drastic cuts to the VOCA program, we will have up to two years to prepare for cutbacks (or try to get Congress to come to its senses).

**So here is "The Ask".** As an advocate, administrator, executive director, police chief, sheriff or whatever your position, start laying the groundwork for these programs to become more independent and sustainable.

Private and local public sector funding, consolidation, fundraising and efficiencies should all be on the table. Then, *if* a "Funding Famine" should come, you will be ready.

## Department of Crime Victim Compensation DCVC Training and Events Statewide

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Outlined below is information regarding upcoming training and events statewide:

- January 26, 2019 - DCVC training for Palmetto State School Counselor Association Annual Conference
- March 12, 2019 - DCVC training for Beaufort County School District Counselors
- March 26, 2019 - DCVC Basic Core Training for SCCADVASA. For additional information call 803-256-2900 or visit <http://www.sccadvasa.org>
- April 2-4, 2019 - South Carolina Victim's Rights Week. For additional information call 803-750-1200 or visit <http://www.scvan.org>
- June 25, 2019 - DCVC Basic Core Training for SCCADVASA. For additional information call 803-256-2900 or visit <http://www.sccadvasa.org>
- September 24, 2019 - DCVC Basic Core Training for SCCADVASA. For additional information call 803-256-2900 or visit <http://www.sccadvasa.org>
- December 10, 2019 - DCVC Basic Core Training for SCCADVASA. For additional information call 803-256-2900 or visit <http://www.sccadvasa.org>



## Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC) Community Outreach Services

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As a result, the outreach coordinator coordinated with Beaufort County School District to conduct training for school counselors in Beaufort County on March 12, 2019 in Beaufort, South Carolina.

In addition, DCVC will conduct training with the Palmetto State School Counselor's Association

at their annual conference in Myrtle Beach on January 26, 2019.

### Victim Service Fair

The committee members for the First Annual Victim Service Fair, to be held in York County in the Spring of 2019, have worked diligently to coordinate this event. The second committee meeting was held on December 6, 2018. Committee members discussed information confirming location,

Save The Date Flyer, sponsors, donations and activities. The meeting was successful!

Please continue to follow our journey as we move forward providing Community Outreach Services statewide.

### Contact Information:

Laura Hutchison  
Outreach Coordinator

1205 Pendleton Street  
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Phone: 803.734.0484  
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[www.sova.sc.gov](http://www.sova.sc.gov)



**The Crime Victim Services Division  
wishes everyone a safe and Happy New Year!**



## Guide for Reports of Witness Tampering

Refer to this chart when you suspect a victim or witness is being intimidated

Who	What	When	Where	Why	How
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Defendant</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Defendant's family member</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Defendant's friend/associate</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Defense attorney</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does witness know the intimidator?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Can Witness ID the intimidator?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</li> </ul> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Force or violence</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Threats (explicit or implied)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Property damage</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Break-in or theft</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Coercion or extortion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Harassment or stalking</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bribery</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emotional manipulation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</li> </ul> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Before, during or after:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Call to 911</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Police response</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Charges issued</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hearing or trial</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Case disposition</li> </ul> <p>During:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Probation or parole</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</li> </ul> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Court</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Appointments associated with being a witness (police, prosecutor, advocacy, etc.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Home</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Work or school</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Socializing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Running errands</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</li> </ul> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is there an open case?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Did the intimidator give a reason for his/her actions?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does witness have suspicions regarding the intimidator's reason?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</li> </ul> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> In person</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Via third party Voice (phone calls, voice mail, etc.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Writing (letters, emails, texts, social media)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Technology (surveilling, hacking, etc.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</li> </ul> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

**Call police** when a victim or witness has been intimidated or pressured about contacts with police, prosecutors or court testimony. Some fatality review teams have identified witness intimidation as a **risk factor** in domestic violence homicides. **Witnesses reporting intimidation should be connected with a victim advocate for safety planning.**

Created by Rhonda Martinson, JD, at the suggestion of a victim advocate