



# National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections

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**Lacey, WA 98509-3145**

## STEERING COMMITTEE

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Marketing / Membership  
Ohio State Department of  
Rehabilitation and Corrections

**Dan Levey**  
Programs, Arizona DOC

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## CURRENT MEMBERS

Alabama  
California (CA Youth Authority)  
Colorado  
Kansas  
Louisiana  
Maine  
Nevada  
New Hampshire  
New Jersey  
Washington (DSHS Vic/Witness  
Notification Program)  
Anne Seymour, (lifetime)  
West Virginia

## **ARE YOU READY TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO JOIN?**

By Bill Stutz

Have you ever heard there is strength in numbers? Have you ever felt that you wished there was a “stronger voice” in the direction and work you are doing? Do you feel that victim services in corrections are not at the level of priority you wish it was? Do you want to be at the grass roots of building an organization that will influence and shape your program? Do you want to be connected with individuals like yourself, committed to providing services to those impacted by crime? Do you want to influence the direction of victim services in corrections not only in your state but nationally? If you answered yes to just one of these questions, here is your chance to make a difference and be apart of an organization that will get the job done!

We are every excited to announce that we have been diligently working toward what we feel will be a very information, supportive, network in which colleagues can share promising practices, experiences and strategies. The *National Association of Victim Service Professions in Corrections (NAVSPC)* is well underway and we are planning our first conference in early 2007. WE need your help and support!

Enclosed with this newsletter is a membership application to join the NAVSPC. We encourage all victim service providers within your organization and state to make the commitment to becoming a member. Together we can make a difference and establish a strong voice around the all important work you have committed yourself towards. Together we can influence the directions of victim services in corrections and together we can shape and offer meaningful programs to those impacted by crime.

So please, turn to the back of the newsletter and take a few moments to fill out the membership application and mail it with your membership dues. **Don't be the one who is left out!** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact anyone of the steering committee members.

Thank you.

## IMPACT OF CRIME PROGRAM AT THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) has included crime victims in its mission statement because victims are important constituents of the agency. ADC incorporates a restorative justice model in its operations. A critical component of restorative justice is holding offenders directly accountable by accepting responsibility for their criminal conduct, expressing remorse, and repairing the harm they have caused crime victims. For many offenders, this is a journey that is difficult to face and many do not know where to start. The first step for an offender to take is to understand the impact that their actions has had on their victim, their victims' family and the community. The ADC has initiated the Impact of Crime on Victims Class (ICVC) to specifically address this issue. This class was developed with crime victims and staff. The focus of the program is crime victims and inmates are not given any credit for attending the classes.

The ICVC program gives victims a voice and brings the offender face to face with not just a crime but a person directly affected by that crime. Offenders no longer think of crime in the abstract but instead, how their actions affected others. One offender wrote, "I didn't realize that (it) doesn't matter what my crime is, what I did has affected so many people. It has been a while since I thought about what I did and thanks to this class; I have reached a different level of perception and acceptance of what I did."



Offenders who participate in this class, attend a 10 week program that meets twice per week. Each week covers a different type of crime spanning: substance abuse, robbery and property crimes, drunk driving, child abuse, crimes against the elderly, assault, domestic violence, sexual assault and homicide. The last class covers restorative justice. Our guest speakers are victims/survivors of that particular crime who volunteer their time to share their story and the impact it had on their lives. When a victim/survivor is not available, we rely on subject matter experts to discuss the impact. Offenders who participate, do not get any special consideration for parole or other benefits. What they do get from the program is understanding of the emotional, physical and psychological impact of their actions. This allows them to take their first step towards accountability, expressing remorse and making amends.

The ICVC program was piloted in November of 2005. By November of 2006 the class will be at 9 complexes throughout the state. The 10<sup>th</sup> complex will be on board by the first quarter of 2007. We have had approximately 200 inmates statewide, participate in the class and at each unit that has held a class, there is a waiting list for the next class. Both crime victim survivors and offenders have praised the class for taking that first step in **MAKING NO MORE VICTIMS.**



### First Satellite Broadcast Training for Victim Services within Corrections

In September, the National Institute for Corrections (NIC) conducted a national satellite broadcast training for victim services within corrections called "*Achieving Excellence in Correctional Victim Services through Collaboration*". Victim advocates, prison staff, parole officers, community corrections staff and many other justice professionals participated in this, first-ever, interactive training with over 150 sites across the nation.

Victim advocacy within corrections is a fairly new profession and is one that is still developing. With 'collaboration' as the overarching theme and 'victim sensitivity' as the foundation, examples of best practices within the following four different categories were discussed during the NIC training.

- Victim Rights
- Offender Accountability
- Measurement
- Resources

During the Victim Rights segment, participants learned about the history of legislation and the importance of having well-written, meaningful laws pertaining to victim rights.

Some of the most effective methods of achieving offender

accountability is to include the perspectives of crime victims. Correctional agencies were challenged during this segment to look at existing programming and determine if there were ways to include victim information, as well as implementing new strategies, such as Impact of Crime Programming, Victim Offender Dialogue, victim-centered batterer's intervention programming, Neighborhood Accountability Boards, wraparound services and many more.

How programs and services for crime victims can be measured and the importance of having extensive and culturally competent resources available for crime victims were also topics discussed during this four day training.

There were six trainers: Trudy Gregorie, Justice Solutions; Karin Ho, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Kip Lowe, Justice Consultant; Peter Michaud, New Hampshire Department of Corrections; Camen Rodriguez, Cook County Adult Probation Department; and Jill Weston, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

If you missed the training, there is still an opportunity to view the broadcast! This complete training will be made available through NIC soon. Keep checking the [nicic.org](http://nicic.org) website for more details.

**The National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections is in the initial stages of planning a conference for Spring 2007. Possible sites are New Orleans, Los Angeles or Portland, Maine. Please e-mail your preference to [Denise.Giles@maine.gov](mailto:Denise.Giles@maine.gov)**

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## ACA Standards for Victim Services

The Corrections-based Victim Services Standards that we have worked on and discussed since Aug 2003 have finally been approved by the Standards Committee. The short history is that we first discussed the need for these standards in Aug 2003 and decided to approach the ASCA Victims Committee for assistance to draft standards that would address the appropriate issues and be in the language and format acceptable to the ACA standards process. Anne Seymour and I approached the ASCA Victims Committee, and they were agreeable to the importance of this and to assisting with drafting. In Jan 2004, our committee discussed the list of issues and service components that needed to be addressed by such standards and it was decided to send these out to the current corrections-based victim service providers nationwide for review. This was done and in Aug 2004, this list was submitted to Richard Stalder, who was the incoming President of ASCA and a strong advocate for victims needs being addressed in corrections, and to the ASCA Victims Committee as a whole at their meeting. They agreed to work with our committee to draft standards for our review and comments and to then introduce the proposed standards to the ACA Standards Committee. Both Joe Lehman and Richard Stalder agreed to be the liaisons to work on these standards. In Jan 2005, our committee examined the standards drafted by Richard Stalder, which were based on our committee's suggestions and the recommendations from the corrections field victim service providers. In Aug 2005, our

committee examined the final edited version of the standards (see attached), which were submitted by R. Stalder to the ACA Standards Committee, and were reviewed by them for the first time. (See attached Standards Committee minutes for Aug 2005: Proposals 05-64, 05-65, 05-66, 05-67, and 05-68.) When you compare the two attached documents, you can see all the submitted standards were addressed in the proposed standards, although the format was edited to fit the format for ACA standards. As the minutes reflect, the proposed standards were considered so important that they were tabled to an ad hoc Victim Sub-committee formed by 5 members of the Standards Committee for further discussion. In January 2006, the Standards Committee reviewed two proposed standards for corrections-based victim services that came from the ad hoc sub-committee that had reviewed and further worked on the initial standards reviewed in August 2005. (See attached Standards Committee minutes for Jan 2006: Proposals 06-03 and 06-04.) If you compare the Aug 2005 standards with the Jan 2006 standards, you will see that Proposals 05-64, 05-65, and 05-66 correspond to Proposal 06-03; and Proposals 05-67 and 05-68 correspond to Proposal 06-04. The comments of the full Standards Committee reflected in the minutes certainly show the value and importance the Committee placed on these standards. It is expected that the standards will appear in the next revision of the manual (even years).

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**“Impact of Crime on Victims” Programs  
Update on Office for Victims  
of Crime-supported Project  
By Anne Seymour**

In 1985, the concept of “Impact of Crime on Victims” (ICV) programming for offenders was first initiated in the California Youth Authority. The original intent of this innovative approach to offender education was to help youthful and adult offenders understand the impact of their offenses on their crime victims, their own families, their communities and themselves.

The growth of ICV programs in adult and juvenile correctional agencies is *phenomenal*, from the first national survey in 1989 that identified IOC programs in less than ten percent of states.<sup>1</sup> Today, it is estimated that nearly 30 states sponsor *some form* of IOC programming in criminal, juvenile justice and school venues, including teen courts, diversion, probation, parole and institutional corrections. According to a 1998 national survey the Association of State Correctional Administrators conducted of adult correctional agencies<sup>2</sup>: 40 percent sponsor some type of IOC programming; 23 percent have program policies and procedures; and 43 percent provide training to staff about IOC programs. A 2004 National Institute of Corrections survey found that 73 percent of adult institutional corrections agencies

sponsor some form of IOC programming.<sup>3</sup>

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) within the U.S. Department of Justice, which has provided long-standing support to corrections-based victim services initiatives, has for the past 18 months supported a national-level Project to promote a standardized curriculum for ICV programming. The goal of the “Standardized Victim Impact Curriculum for Corrections” Project is to develop, implement and evaluate a standardized victim-centered curriculum for use in juvenile and adult, institutional and community-based correctional settings. The Project is guided by a 15-member Advisory Board, including 12 crime victims and survivors. It also utilizes the “Victim Impact: Listen and Learn” videotape/DVD produced by OVC, which includes vignettes of various survivors talking about their experiences as crime victims and, in many cases, offering their suggestions for offender accountability.

The Project has taken the “best of the best” curricula and related resources developed since 1984, and revised and updated the information. A rigorous program evaluation component developed in partnership with the University of New Haven (UNH) in Connecticut has been added. The Project’s curriculum is currently being pilot tested in correctional settings in Ohio, California, Tennessee and Virginia.

The Project’s Director is Sharon English, a national victim advocate who co-founded the original ICV program concept in California in 1984. According to English, the new curriculum created, piloted

and evaluated through the OVC Project will prove invaluable to states that seek to implement or improve ICV programming for youthful and adult offenders.

**The pilot sites are reporting excellent results so far. In Virginia the victim speaker talked about identity theft. After the session, one inmate stayed back to tell us that until that night, until being in this class, that he did not think he had a victim. He credits the curriculum and the speaker with ‘waking him up’ and now wants to find out if there was long-term harm done to his victims. Another site is San Quentin and English recently told me, “If this can work in SQ, it can work anywhere. We knew the original material was on target; it just needed new arrows. The commitment by OVC to make sure the information was victim centered makes a good product even better. We anticipate many state correctional systems wanting to implement or re-implement these types of offender accountability projects using the new and excellent documents.”**

Upon completion of the Project’s final products, all members of the National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections will be provided with information about how to access Project resources.

*Anne Seymour has been a national victim advocate for over 22 years, and is a member of the “Standardized Victim Impact Curriculum for Corrections” Project Team.*

<sup>1</sup> Seymour, A. (1989). “Victim Services in Corrections.” Washington, D.C.: Office for Victims of Crime.

<sup>2</sup> Seymour, A. (1998) “Policy Manual for Victim Service Programs in State Correctional Agencies.” Washington, DC: Office for Victims of Crime.

<sup>3</sup> National Institute of Corrections. (2004) “Corrections-based Services for Victims of Crime.” Washington, DC: National Institute of Corrections

# National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections

## Membership Application

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DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME

**HOME ADDRESS:**  
CHECK HERE FOR PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS

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AREA CODE/PHONE

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E-MAIL ADDRESS

**WORK ADDRESS:**  
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AGENCY/CORPORATION

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ADDRESS

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CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

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AREA CODE/PHONE AREA CODE/FAX

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E-MAIL ADDRESS

TAX ID # 57-1211509

**\*\*Description of Membership Categories\*\***

- ❖ **Support Membership:**
  - This membership is aimed towards Directors of Correctional Agencies (Director, Commissioner, Secretary)
- ❖ **National Membership**
  - This membership is aimed towards Official Representatives of National Associations
- ❖ **Associate Membership**
  - This membership is aimed towards students in an accredited academic institution
- ❖ **Community-Based Victim Service Providers**
  - This membership is aimed towards Non Government agencies providing Victim Service or Advocacy
- ❖ **Allied Correctional Organizations**
  - This membership is aimed towards Law Enforcement and Correctional Agencies
- ❖ **Professional Corrections-Based V/S Providers Charter**
  - This membership is aimed towards Prison and Institution employees
- ❖ **Corrections-Based Victim Service Program**
  - This membership is aimed towards correction based victim services programs with staff of five or less

- MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:**  
(U.S. and U.S. Territories)
- ❖ Support Membership (Directors)  \$75
  - ❖ National Association Representatives  \$50
  - ❖ Associate Memberships (students)  \$15
  - ❖ Community-Based Victim Service Providers  \$15
  - ❖ Allied Correctional Organizations  \$50
  - ❖ Professional Corrections-Based Victim Service Providers Charter  \$35
    - 3-Year  \$75
    - Life  \$250
  - ❖ Corrections-Based Victim Services Program (up to 5 staff)  \$75

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**SIGNATURE**  
**MAIL COMPLETED FORM AND PAYMENT TO:**  
Bill Stutz, Chairman and Treasurer  
P.O. Box 3163  
Lacey, WA 98509-3145