



National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections

Please note change in Post Office Box Number: **P. O. Box 3163, Lacey, WA 98509-3145**

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West Virginia

SAVE THE DATE

By Bill Stutz

Save this date.... put it on your calendar....circle the time.... but most important you should attend! The first annual conference of the National Association of Victim Service Professional in Corrections (NAVSPIC) is being held Oct 19th and 20th in Orlando, Florida.

As you know, the steering committed has been working very hard in getting the Association up and running for some time and we have decided that 2007 is the year for the first meeting. Victim Service professions in Corrections have not been together for some time to renew relationships, share ideas and learn of the promising practices taking place around the country. THIS IS WHY THIS MEETING SO GOING TO BE SO IMPORTANT!

We are working on the agenda for this 2 day event, so we welcome and invite your input. We want to make this conference your conference, so please contact anyone of the steering committee with your ideas for topics of interest and events.

A very important event that will occur will be the election of officer for the Association, so watch for more information about the ballot and election process in the coming months. Also, think about if you might be interested in serving in a leadership role of this first ever National Victim Services Providers in Corrections Organization. Victim services in corrections is changing and together, we can make a difference!

As an added bonus, our conference will be piggy backing on the VOD (Victim Offender Dialogue) Summit being held at the same location as the NAVSPIC conference. The date of the summit is Oct 18, 2007, so we want you to attend this as well.

So save these dates and please plan to attend. We will be providing special privileges to standing members of the Association, so if you have not joined, it is not too late! All you have do is simply fill out the attached membership application attached to this Newsletter and mail it with your membership dues. Don't be left out! Watch for more information about this conference and special events in the coming months.

VICTIM ADVOCATES:

WHERE WE WERE WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE NEED TO BE!

(condensed)

By Brett M. Macgargle, MPA.

WHERE WE WERE ...

For nearly twenty years I've worked with crime victims in various capacities and have seen drastic changes for the betterment of victim rights and services. Back in the early 80s it was a pretty tough sell amongst my conservative criminal justice cohorts to change and open up the system to allow victims a definable voice, even though at the time, President Reagan published a bold Task Force Report outlining many progressive recommendations to improve the plight of victims (10).

Why the hard sell? Like many in the criminal justice profession, we thought we were the guardians of the process, and to be good stewards of the taxpayers' dollar, we needed to shepherd the offender along in the criminal justice system, seeking retribution over reparation without outside interference from the public.

It was assumed, since we were educated, well-trained and experienced in the complexities of the system, that we were best suited to create and implement the necessary changes in procedure and laws governing the criminal justice system. We were fooled into thinking that we were the experts at changing the system from within, but found out the hard way through lawsuits filed by victims and the public that our coveted system was flawed, seriously flawed. In the past two decades, justice agencies have adopted practices

carved out from best practices in state-of-the-art jurisdictions. Over half the states have been trained in these practices and changed their philosophical foundations and mission statements governing the way they do business that is considered victim friendly. Other states have followed in the same measure to the point where providing at least solid, basic information and involvement is guaranteed to victims, but more is needed (6).

Years ago, like many who worked in victim services, when I was professing the merits of improving victim rights, I often heard from my colleagues that I was soft on crime, a touchy-feely person, and victims only slow the process down and interject too much emotion in the decision-making components of our system. Somewhere along the way, through countless college courses, on-the-job trainings, and being schooled by our astute colleagues and supervisors, we diminished our innate ability to care and listen to those who are hurt by crime.

All justice folks know this, especially in the ranks of law enforcement: We can become callous to the horrors of crime, desensitized to the endless over-detailed stories from countless victims and general citizenry. As a psyche-coated protection measure, we develop this common trait well-known and much documented in the profession

WHERE WE ARE ...

Throughout the past two decades victims have demanded and created a lot of changes in the process. Practitioners in the criminal and juvenile justice systems, responding to throngs of complaints, made significant changes to address victims' needs. Victims' Bill of Rights legislation and changes in states'

constitutions have opened up the system allowing victims greater access to information and involvement. This has eased some of the pain associated with crime and has reduced some of the frustration leading to re-victimization often caused by the realities of our past and current process. The positive changes have brought forth a surge in the creation of victim advocate offices and personnel who are highly trained to assist victims throughout the system.

WHERE WE NEED TO BE...

We have come a long way, but much work is still needed. The profession of victim advocacy is in great need of a philosophical shift. Responding to a victim's needs, after the trauma, is just part of the answer to healing the wounds of crime. Victim advocates primarily deal in a reactionist mode, helping victims after the crime occurs; this is completely necessary and admirable. This is our primary goal and we've done it well!

Now victim advocates, who have accomplished so much, must extend their talents toward preventing victimization from ever happening. We already do a lot of work in the arena of preventing revictimization, but we must tender our efforts towards primary prevention, working with the young, at-risk population to stop them from becoming perpetrators altogether, stopping victimization before it starts. In the past we have provided some effort towards this end, but we need much more.

You can read Brett's complete article at:

http://www.appanet.org/way_we_are.html



**ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
PROGRAM**

When Dora Schriro was appointed Director of the Arizona Department of Corrections in January 2004, she brought with her a new vision and fresh philosophy of making victims an integral part of the Arizona Department of Corrections. The Restorative Justice philosophy was embraced and implemented in all facilities associated with the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC).

Restorative Justice focuses on empowering victims and having offenders accept responsibility for their criminal conduct, express remorse, and repair the harm they have caused crime victims. Through the ADC Office of Victim Services, offenders give back to the community, as well as organizations that serve victims. Crime victim organizations identify needs that can be addressed by offenders such as building furniture for domestic violence shelters, making toys and playgrounds for child crisis centers, and constructing crime victim memorials throughout Arizona. Offenders also have assisted with moving a crime victim agency to their new facilities; refurbishing bicycles for children in domestic violence shelters, making ribbons for crime victims rights week. Offenders also participate in fundraising activities for victim organizations statewide. In fiscal year 2006, Arizona offenders raised over \$151,000.00 for

victim organizations statewide. Offenders also provided over 3,400 hours towards restorative justice projects which would be an equivalent impact of \$17,800.00. This makes the fiscal impact to Arizona crime victims in fiscal year 2006 to be over \$169,000.00.

A critical component of restorative justice is holding offenders accountable by accepting responsibility for their criminal conduct and expressing remorse. 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. 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."

Another component of restorative justice is to offer victims the opportunity to meet with the offender in a safe environment in order to facilitate the healing and recovery process. The Victim Offender Dialogue is being developed as part of the services offered to victims of violent crime whose offender is housed in the Arizona Department of Corrections.

In the ADC Office of Victim Services, we strive towards the restorative justice values of putting victims first, holding offenders accountable and encouraging offenders to repair the harm they caused to the fullest extent they can. We continue to reach out to victims

and victim agencies in order to support their needs as much as possible. The ADC Restorative Justice program is part of the ADC Office of Victims Services which provides comprehensive services to victims including notification, accompaniment to parole and commutation hearings, assisting with orders of protections, restitution, etc...

**Victim Issues Related
to Prison Rape and
Sexual Assault Project**

Karin Ho
**Office of Victim Services
Ohio Department of
Rehabilitation and Correction**

As a result of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), those of us working within correctional agencies know that there have been great strides to improve response to prison rape and sexual assault over the past few years. Policies have been developed and training has been conducted to help insure that that staff understand how to respond when an inmate is sexually assaulted.

For many states the implementation of PREA never included a component specifically focusing on the actual impact on the victim and how to support them both short and long term.

Recently, the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center at the Medical University of South Carolina was awarded a grant/cooperative agreement from the Bureau of Justice Assistance within the U.S. Department of Justice to take a closer look at "Victim Issues Related to Prison Rape and Sexual Assault" nationally. Hopefully, this project will produce valuable resources to anyone in the field who would

like to implement measures to support victims of prison rape and sexual assault.

This project has four major goals:

- 1) Review and summarize major research and expert opinion about sexual assault and focus on it's applicability to prison rape.
- 2) Prepare training materials and protocols addressing various issues related to prison rape, including but not limited to: barriers to reporting, mental and physical health consequences, effective mental health treatments and victim-centered forensic examination protocols.
- 3) Develop a pilot and test training curriculum and other materials developed.
- 4) Foster collaboration between correctional agencies and rape crisis centers in addressing prison rape victims' services needs.

A national advisory board made up of correctional staff, rape crisis advocates, researchers and several others has been established to work on this project over the next several months. If you are a corrections-based victim advocate, look for more information in the future about this project. Once complete, you should receive information about how to obtain the training curriculum and other materials developed through this project to utilize in your own state.

Here are a few additional resources on this topic:

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) has published a great resource called the "Prison Rape Guide" that is available on their website www.pcar.org under 'resources'

The National Institute of Corrections (NIC) website www.nicic.org under 'activities'

Victim Impact Classes Live On By Sharon English

Twenty-two years ago, the creators of the "Impact of Crime on Victim" (ICV) class curriculum had no clue the program would be so successful, be so widely replicated, or how important the contribution would be to offender programming and crime victim involvement. They just thought they were finishing an assignment by the due date!

In 1984, then-California Youth Authority Director Jim Rowland was troubled that the young offenders spent most of their leisure time lifting weights, watching television, and playing ping pong. "Can't we do better? Can't they spend their time learning about the harm they have caused?" he asked?

So began the ICV classes. Now, several years later, the program is being implemented in several states, but is the subject of a discretionary grant Project funded through the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). The funding was awarded to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, formerly known as the California Department of Corrections and the California Youth Authority, through its Office of Victim and Survivor Services.

The goal of the "Standardized Victim Impact Curriculum for Corrections" Project was to develop, implement and evaluate a standardized victim-centered curriculum for use in juvenile and adult, institutional and community-based correctional

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 was tested in correctional settings in Ohio, California, Tennessee and Virginia. The famed San Quentin California State prison was one of the pilot sites.

The initial emphasis for the classes was to have the offenders (both adult and juvenile) learn about the injury they chose to inflict on their victims and about the losses victims suffer. The topics of property crime, robbery, child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, and homicide are taught under the umbrella of victims' rights and services.

A key component in the material is the "power of the personal story" as taught by guest speakers who are victims or survivors, or victim service providers. This aspect has proved to have the most impact on the offenders, as well as on staff involved in ICV implementation.

The Project piloted the curriculum from October 2005 to March 2007. The products for the class included a highly interactive Offender Workbook and a Facilitators' Guide. A significant piece of the newly developed curriculum is the inclusion of the OVC "Victim Impact: Listen and Learn" videotape/DVD, which highlights the personal experiences of 14 crime victims and survivors

The evaluation component of the project involved a pre- and post-test for both the participants and a control group. The Project Team recently met to discuss the pilot phase of the project and to go over the findings from the

evaluation. The findings from the evaluation indicated that there was significant progress in the areas of Victim Rights, Victim Facts, and Victim Sensitivity. While the study of the project is not complete, the question of "Does it Work?" is beginning to be answered. Additional data are being collected about the ICV groups for possible future analysis of impact to examine a range of potential impacts, such as a reduction in infractions within institutions, and/or increases in the amount of restitution paid by participating offenders. Dr. Mario Gaboury is the lead evaluator, along with his colleague Dr. Chris Sedelmaier at UNH.

An unanticipated benefit of ICV programs over the past two decades has been the training of both institutional and community corrections staff, who became immersed in victim awareness and who are now some of the nation's most active advocates for crime victims, their needs and concerns.

For the offenders, they report that the classes are the most important thing they do since they address what they have *done*, and how they can try to repair the damage and take responsibility. Victim/survivor speakers who participate in ICV programming report an incredible commitment to trying to "make things better" in the system, and satisfaction in their contributions to helping offenders understand the harm that their criminal or juvenile actions have caused to their victims, their own families, and their communities. They welcome having a voice in correctional programming and knowing that their contributions are immeasurable.

ICV classes have been replicated in over 40 states in various forms, in both adult and juvenile settings. Hundreds of volunteer speakers have participated and

thousands of offenders have completed the course.

So—does it work? This question is constantly raised and, although some states such as Washington, Iowa, and California have conducted evaluations over the years, Dr. Gaboury's work in Connecticut is the most recently published. His article "Victims' Voices in a Correctional Setting: Cognitive Gains in an Offender Education Program" is available in the Journal of Offender Behavior, 2004. The article is now cited as the most comprehensive and positive evaluation.

As a part of the effort to educate criminal justice and allied professionals on ICV programming and the standard curriculum, Project Team Members along with representatives from the four pilot sites will be presenting information at various national conferences this summer. The targeted conferences include the American Parole Probation Association in Philadelphia July 7 - 11; American Correctional Association in Kansas City August 11-16; National Organization for Victim Assistance in Reno, NV July 22 - 27; and the National Center for Victims of Crime in Washington D.C. June 18-20.

Sharon English is the Director of the "Standardized Victim Impact Curriculum for Corrections" Project. She is a former Deputy Director with the California Youth Authority, and a former member of both the National Institute of Corrections Advisory Board and American Corrections Association Board of Governors.



INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR ADULT OFFENDER SUPERVISION

Victim Representative Teleconference
Meeting February 22, 2007 4:00 PM EST

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 PM. Nine victim representatives were present. Pat Tuthill chaired the meeting and welcomed all participants and guests. She asked everyone to introduce themselves and their position.

The agenda was reviewed and Pat Tuthill asked Don Blackburn to address the group regarding state councils. He presented the following:

- Overview of the Compact and explained that the legislation requires a State Council be appointed in each state or territory with a victim representative as a member to be active and represent victim interests to their state council.
- Role of victim representative on state council is to be active and bring to the state council public safety and victim concerns regarding how the Compact rules impact these issues.
- Goal of ICAOS is to have active state councils advising commissioners on operation of compact, rules, public safety, victim issues, and compliance issues.
- Sex offender issues have surfaced in many states and the victim representatives can reach out to victim organizations and report back to the state council the atmosphere and concerns regarding sex offender transfers, travel and victim safety.

Pat Tuthill encouraged victim reps to reach out to victim

organizations in their state to provide education and awareness of the Compact and solicit input from these organizations on victim issues to inform their commissioner and state councils. Outreach and support from other victims' organizations is essential to victims' interest being represented.



***SECOND ANNUAL
VICTIM OFFENDER
DIALOGUE SUMMIT***

ANNOUNCED

By: Karin Ho

Planning is underway for the second annual Victim Offender Dialogue Summit October 18, 2007 in Orlando, Florida.

After the success of the first national gathering for victim offender dialogue facilitators in Minnesota in March 2006, those of us who were there knew we had to plan another event soon for us to continue sharing experiences and discussing issues common to all of us.

As an added bonus, this year's Victim Offender Dialogue Summit is being held in partnership with the National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections (NAVSPIC), who are planning their very first national conference October 19th and 20th, immediately following the Dialogue Summit at the same location. We are hoping anyone interested will be able to attend both events.

For those of you who were not able to participate in the Victim Offender Dialogue Summit in 2006, some of the topics discussed included: "How to implement dialogue and get agency-wide buy-in", "Inmate or institution initiated cases", "Domestic violence and the dialogue process", "Program

evaluation", "Comparison of facilitator training for dialogue", "Staff and volunteer oversight", "Working on cases when offenders 'don't admit", "Surrogate offender or alternative options for the dialogue process".

Speaking for myself, I found it very energizing to have the opportunity to talk with nearly 30 others doing this work nationally and brainstorm ways to resolve some issues or learn new, innovative approaches to the dialogue process.

We are very excited to be planning our second national gathering and hope anyone interested is able to come. Please look for more information once logistics are finalized for the summit.

At this point, Karin Ho is asking for topics anyone would like to have on the agenda for the Victim Offender Dialogue Summit to send them to her email address:

karin.ho@odrc.state.oh.us

by August 1st. The topics that are most requested will be given priority and added to the agenda. Unfortunately, with a one-day event, not all topics will be able to be included, but we will do our best!

Hope to see everyone in Florida!!!



National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections

Membership Application

____/____/____
DATE

NAME

HOME ADDRESS:

CHECK HERE FOR PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

AREA CODE/PHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

WORK ADDRESS:

CHECK HERE FOR PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS

POSITION/TITLE

AGENCY/CORPORATION

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

AREA CODE/PHONE AREA CODE/FAX

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

SIGNATURE

MAIL COMPLETED FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Bill Stutz, Chairman and Treasurer
P.O. Box 3163
Lacey, WA 98509-3145