



# NAVSPIC

National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections  
Compassion - Equality - Service - Justice

999 Barretts Mill Road, W. Concord, MA 01742  
www.navspic.org

SUMMER 2010

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Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction

Jennie Marsh,  
Vice-Chairperson  
Kansas Department of Corrections

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New Hampshire Department of Corrections

Erin Gaffney Treasurer  
Massachusetts Department of Correction

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Washington  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear NAVSPIC Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer!

Our Conference Planning Committee and Board Members have been working feverishly to put the final touches on our upcoming conference in October! We're all very excited about the topics we'll be discussing and that once again OVC is supporting our conference. We are hoping to see everyone in Portland, Maine for the NAVSPIC Conference and Victim Offender Dialogue Summit, October 20th-22nd.

So much has been happening that is related to the work that we all do everyday. Between the ongoing budget crises our agencies are facing to reentry, victim notification, PREA, ACA Standards, victim offender dialogue, victim safety planning and executions ... we are all very busy!!! What a better time to take a moment to get re-energized and learn what other states are doing than by joining us at the conference!!

As you all know, we are a strong advocacy network, not only for crime victims, but for each other. Our profession has continued to strengthen year after year through everyone sharing information and experiences and building upon each other's great ideas.

I'm also thrilled to announce that we, the National Association of Victim Service Professionals, have just been formally recognized as a non-profit (501c6) organization!!! This has been years in the making, but we are now official!! I want to thank everyone, current and past Board Members as well as NAVSPIC Members, who helped make this possible, through our many debates over whether to become a 501c3 or 501c6 organization and finalizing our IRS application.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our conference as well as working with all of you in the coming years as we continue to strengthen our communication and develop additional ways to advance services for crime victims throughout the corrections' process.

Take care!

Karin Ho

# IMPACT OF CRIME PROGRAMMING

**Roxanne Swogger**

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

## **Power of the Personal Story**

**A**NYONE WHO HAS EVER facilitated an Impact of Crime Program knows that a key element to any victim-centered programming for offenders is hearing directly from those most directly impacted by crime: victims and survivors. When survivors speak to offenders through these classes, it provides a great opportunity for offenders to look into the lives of victims to better understand how their actions have impacted others, rather than only how crime has impacted their own life as an offender.

Victim impact presenters allow offenders to ask questions to assist the offenders with understanding the complexity and longevity of how victims are affected by crime. Many victims and survivors who choose to share their story with offenders involved in impact of crime programming often describe a sense of empowerment they feel and that they are truly making a difference.

The process for offenders who hear a crime survivor's story is unique. For many offenders, this may be their first encounter in realizing the impact their crime has had on someone other than themselves.

## **Impact of Crime Programming History**

Victim-centered programming for offenders formally began in 1998 with Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the California Youth Authority creating the first curriculum. Since that time, many other states have implemented victim impact programming for incarcerated offenders and offenders under community supervision. Through the years, while there have been variations in content and delivery, the utilization of victim impact speakers always remained a vital part of the program.

Implementation of the Impact of Crime Program incorporates group discussions, activities and victim impact panels with offenders. The overall goal of this program is to increase an offender's understanding of the effects of crime on victims and to increase empathy for those who have been a victim of crime.

In 2005, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) developed a national standardized Impact of Crime curriculum that underwent a rigorous multi-state evaluation to determine program effectiveness. The program examines the dynamics of various crimes such as: robbery, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, homicide, hate crimes and drunk driving. The dynamics of each of these offenses are explored to educate offenders about how each of these personal crimes affect victims and survivors differently. Impact of Crime Programming has been recognized as a great program, but had little research to back it up. While there had been a few individual studies over the years, there had been nothing nationally or large scale until OVC supported California, Tennessee, Virginia and Ohio in 2005 to collaborate in developing this curriculum and conduct a pilot study. Some of the key findings from the multi-state study was that the Impact of Crime class participants showed that knowledge of victims' rights and the facts about criminal victimization improved as a result of the program, whereas comparison group members who did not take the class showed no such improvement after the initial test. An additional finding was that class participants showed marked improvement in their sensitivity to the struggles endured by crime victims. These findings support the continued implementation of Impact of Crime programming for correctional populations.

Through this support of OVC, a strong foundation has been created that each state can in turn implement and continue

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NAVSPIC Newsletter

Editor:

Jennie Marsh

*Kansas Department of Corrections*

Graphic Design/Layout:

Mike Jones

*Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse*

# 2010 CONFERENCE

## REFINING OUR PRACTICE—OCTOBER 20-22 2010

**V**ICTIM SERVICE PROFESSIONALS in Corrections have been meeting both formally and informally whenever they had the chance over the last fifteen to twenty years. Once the National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections was formed in 2006, organizing and managing an annual national conference became a top priority for the organization. This year's conference will be in Portland, Maine October 20-22, 2010. It will be the fourth conference hosted by NAVSPIC and supported by a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime. The membership values these conferences as a way to share information, develop new skills and keep the field of victim services within corrections growing.

This year's program will give participants the chance to interact with experts in the field on a variety of topics of concern to victims advocates in corrections.

The first day will be devoted to Victim Offender Dialogue, a day led by Karin Ho and Jon Wilson.

On Thursday and Friday the topics will include:

- Crime Victims and Re-Entry, Anne Seymour Justice Solutions will focus on identifying "promising practices and programs in offender reentry that identify and address crime victims' and survivors needs and concerns," based upon a 2009-2010 national survey of corrections-based victim assistance programs. Discussion will also focus on victims' rights including notification, protection, restitution, participation, and victim-related programming such as impact classes and victim wrap-around. This promises to be a highly interactive discussion with plenty of time for participant questions and comments.
- Restorative Justice Panel-What does that Really Mean? How to Let Victim's Voices be Heard, presented by Amy Holloway (VT)
- An Overview of Domestic Violence: Issues and Impact for Corrections-Based Professionals, Trudie Gregorie, Justice Solutions. Domestic violence is an extremely serious social and criminal problem throughout the United States.

Understanding the dynamics of domestic violence and its profound short- and long-term effects and impact on victims is critical to effective interactions with both victims and offenders. The criminal justice system, including corrections, is an essential component of a coordinated, effective response to domestic violence. This presentation will examine these issues and identify the components of an effective domestic violence initiative within a correctional setting.

- Batterer Intervention Programs: This panel discussion will outline how states are using Batterer Intervention Programs in both facilities and communities to hold offenders accountable and be a part of a coordinated response to domestic violence. Standards and certification of BIPS will also be discussed.
- PREA-What States are Doing: What is the role of Department of Corrections Victim Services in PREA? Robert Dumont, Consultant to The Moss Group.

There are scholarships available for both professionals and crime victims. Please visit our website at [www.NAVSPIC.org](http://www.NAVSPIC.org) and click on the conference link to view information about scholarships, agenda, and registration.



We are looking for any of you (or other staff in your office) with the skills to assist with managing the NAVSPIC website. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Karin Ho at [Karin.Ho@odrc.state.oh.us](mailto:Karin.Ho@odrc.state.oh.us) or Peter Michaud at [pemichaud@nhdoc.state.nh.us](mailto:pemichaud@nhdoc.state.nh.us).  
Thanks for your help!

# CELL PHONE JAMMING

**C**ELL PHONES ARE BEING SMUGGLED into jails and prisons throughout the country, and are being used for many different things, but the most concerning to corrections-based victim service providers is that cell phones are being used to revictimize or create new victims. The NAVSPIC board is looking at what role our organization should take as this issue, specifically cell phone jamming legislation, gains traction nationally. In the meantime, we are providing the following information to educate and encourage you as NAVSPIC members to express your thoughts on this issue.

## **Legislation**

The legislation, S. 251 Safe Prisons Communications Act of 2009, was introduced last year and has already passed through the Senate. The Congressional Research Service summary of the legislation is as follows:

Safe Prisons Communications Act of 2009 –

### **Section 2 -**

Amends the Communications Act of 1934 to authorize the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to permit the supervisory authority of a correctional facility to operate a jamming system within the facility to prevent, jam, or otherwise interfere with unauthorized wireless communications by individuals held in the facility. Defines “supervisory authority” as the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the chief executive officer of a state, or the person in charge of a county or local correctional facility not under the authority of the chief executive officer of a state. Requires the supervisory authority: (1) to file a notice of intent with the FCC; and (2) if requested by the public agencies and commercial mobile service providers identified by the FCC, consult with them to determine the types of equipment, facilities and frequencies in use in the correctional facility’s area, and provide testing access to the outer perimeter of the correctional facility. Authorizes the supervisory authority upon completion of such procedures to file a petition with the FCC to install and operate a jamming system. Requires FCC action within 60 days of

petition receipt. States that an approved petition shall be: (1) valid for up to five years and renewable; and (2) terminated or suspended if the FCC receives notice from a commercial mobile service provider, supported by affidavit and documentation, that the correctional facility jamming device is interfering with commercial mobile service. Sets forth jamming use limitations. Requires a supervisory authority to: (1) destroy a jamming device within 60 days after an authorization expires; (2) destroy a jamming device that is permanently removed from service; (3) certify such destruction to the FCC; and (4) notify the FCC upon acquisition of any jamming device that replaces a destroyed device. Requires the FCC to maintain a petition database.

### **Section 3 -**

Requires the FCC to promulgate final regulations governing the use of wireless jamming systems in correctional facilities within 180 days of enactment of this Act.

### **Section 4 -**

Requires the FCC to: (1) adopt a final rule within 120 days of enactment of this Act establishing the criteria for the manufacture, sale, importation, and interstate shipment of jamming devices; and (2) maintain a website list of all approved devices.

## **More Information**

For more information about this issue and legislation, please visit the following links:

Full text of S. 251 <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill-text.xpd?bill=s111-251>

ASCA information about S. 251 <http://www.asca.net/documents/SummaryTalkingPointsofSafePrisonsAct.pdf>

## **News coverage:**

South Carolina

[www.postandcourier.com/news/2008/nov/22/prison\\_hosts\\_phone\\_jamming\\_demo62653/](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2008/nov/22/prison_hosts_phone_jamming_demo62653/)

New Jersey

[www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/08/cell\\_phones\\_are\\_hot\\_commoditie.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/08/cell_phones_are_hot_commoditie.html)



## Support for Legislation

The following is a letter signed by twenty state governors in support of the legislation, issued June 23, 2010

June 23, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Representative Boehner, Representative Waxman, Representative Conyers, Representative Barton and Representative Smith:

We write in strong support of the Safe Prisons Communications Act of 2009, which unanimously passed the Senate on October 5, 2009. The legislation awaits further action in your chamber; therefore, we urge you to swiftly pass it and send it to the President so that we can provide our corrections officers with a valuable tool for the protection of our communities.

The use of cell phones in America's prisons poses a significant risk to the safety of correctional facilities and communities alike. Heinous crimes – like the murder of criminal witness Carl Lackl in 2007, orchestrated via cell phone from a Maryland prison – demonstrate the urgent need for states to have access to every possible law enforcement tool to thwart inmate cell phone use. Unfortunately, current federal law completely prohibits states from using technology to jam cell phone signals, even in the limited setting of a prison or jail. Moreover, current federal law prevents states from even petitioning the federal government for jamming authority. As NGA existing policy reflects<sup>1</sup>, governors believe that this legislation – which would give states the ability to petition the Federal Communications Commission for jamming authority, if certain conditions are met – will provide corrections officials across the country with a crucial tool to impede the illegal use of this contraband by inmates.

Nine months ago, in a letter dated September 8, 2009 (attached), a bi-partisan group of 20 Governors wrote Congressional leadership urging support for this legislation. Since then, great progress has been made. As mentioned above, the Senate unanimously passed the legislation last October. In February of this year, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) conducted the first-ever cell phone jamming test at a federal prison – the Federal Correctional Institution in Cumberland, Maryland.

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<sup>1</sup> 16.2.5.1 Curbing Wireless Technology Use in Prisons (adopted 7/20/09).

Hon. Nancy Pelosi  
Hon. Henry Waxman  
Hon. John Conyers  
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Hon. John Boehner  
Hon. Joe Barton  
Hon. Lamar Smith

Earlier this month, the NTIA released the results of February's cell phone jamming test, and it showed no interference with federal operations of the prison within the testing area. The results of the NTIA's test show that jamming technology can effectively thwart illegal cell phones on the inside in a targeted way while protecting communities on the outside.

The success of February's NTIA test should give Members confidence that targeted technology exists to defeat illegal inmate cell phone use, without compromising public safety or interfering with legitimate cell phone use. Over the past several weeks, the NTIA has sought public comment about technical approaches to preventing contraband cell phone use in prisons. One such approach – now proven to be effective – is cell phone jamming technology, which states are currently barred from using. The Safe Prisons Communications Act of 2009 would change that – by giving states, for the first time, the ability to petition the FCC for jamming authority in the limited setting of prisons or jails.

The Senate has already unanimously passed the bill, and great progress has been made to prove its effectiveness and safety. Governors only need your help to provide access to this crucial public safety tool. We urge you to swiftly pass the Safe Prisons Communications Act of 2009.

Sincerely,



Governor Martin O'Malley  
Maryland



Governor Bob Riley  
Alabama



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
California



Governor Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Colorado



Governor Jack Markell  
Delaware



Governor Pat Quinn  
Illinois



Governor Chester J. Culver  
Iowa



Governor Mark Parkinson  
Kansas



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Hon. Lamar Smith



Governor Steven L. Beshear  
Kentucky



Governor Haley Barbour  
Mississippi



Governor Jim Gibbons  
Nevada



Governor Chris Christie  
New Jersey



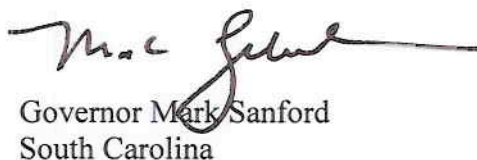
Governor David A. Paterson  
New York



Governor John Hoeven  
North Dakota



Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski  
Oregon



Governor Mark Sanford  
South Carolina



Governor M. Michael Rounds  
South Dakota



Governor Gary R. Herbert  
Utah



Governor John P. deJongh, Jr.  
Virgin Islands



Governor Joe Manchin III  
West Virginia

Enclosure

# BREAKING PATTERNS

## Prisoners Piece Together Their Lives One Quilt Block at a Time

**T**HE LAST BIT OF THE DRIVE to Jefferson City Correctional Center, a maximum-security state prison nestled in a small valley about four miles east of the Missouri State Capitol building, begs reflection: Its address is 8200 No More Victims Road, and its mission statement is clearly displayed on roadside placards that line the approach. The words “effective,” “community,” “committed,” “accountable,” fly by like a patient hitchhiker down on his luck. As you come over the hill, a sprawling mass of structures looking unmistakably like a prison, shiny and new, beckons. The roofs are a bright sky blue, their walls the drab hue of concrete, and the yards of razor wire lining the reinforced chain-link fence glisten in the sun like a mangled crown. Here, amid the fences and steel doors, a group of male inmates quilt for charity, attempting to repair a fraction of the damage they caused.

They quilt, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. five days a week, as part of a program called restorative justice, an ancient practice turned curriculum that equates a crime committed with a debt to be repaid. The world at large was introduced to elements of it by South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which sought to heal the wounds of apartheid through conversation and confrontation between the victims of human rights violations and the perpetrators. In the last decade, restorative justice programs, which promote similar dialogues between victims of crime and their offenders and reparative activities like quilting and gardening, have emerged in prisons and communities across America.

The men I met at JCCC, which opened in 2004, never imagined they would be sewing while behind bars, nor did they think it would be a key to confronting a life of crime. Now, they say, quilting quiets their minds and helps to rectify their pasts. They earn between \$20 and \$25 a month (a fraction of what they could earn making uniforms in the prison’s industry), but the act of giving back, although a veiled interaction with society, makes their lives relevant and the possibility of rehabilitation within reach.

Behind six steel doors and one metal detector, Patrick Starr, a well built, caramel-skinned man whose looks betray few of

his hard 41 years, greeted me with a smile. Starr is serving three consecutive life sentences plus 15 years for second-degree murder, armed criminal action and attempted robbery. In Kansas City, MO, he was a gang leader and drug dealer. In the quilting room he is the office clerk and administrative assistant. As I sat down and took out my notebook-recorders and cameras are strictly prohibited-I scanned the room: towers of cotton fabric and recycled denim jeans lined its perimeter. Two large tables displaying a quilt in mid-construction occupied its center. Next to me, I watched Starr lean over a yellow tackle box, unlock it and remove a pair of small office scissors and a rotary cutting blade. Years before, he was the last person anyone would want manning a box full of sharp objects. Today, after five years on the job, Starr is the most trusted man in the quilting room.

“You come in the door with a criminal mind-set and you have to separate yourself from that,” Starr said. “It’s a personal transformation.” But he admits how tantalizing that tackle box full of scissors is, and everyday he must shake off his criminal instinct all over again. “It’s like being a recovering addict,” Starr said. “To someone like me it’s more than a tackle box. It’s temptation.”

In a corner, Christopher Maldonado, 41, serving 22 years for assault of a police officer, armed criminal action and endangering the welfare of a child, used an X-Acto knife to cut a stencil. “I’m using a dangerous weapon; they let me do that here,” he quipped. Before prison there was culinary arts college in Providence, RI, and a successful career managing restaurants. Then came crack cocaine. Today, Maldonado spends his days cutting fabric for the quilts designed and made by the prisoners at JCCC.

Sitting at another table, Gerald Toahty, 47, serving life with the possibility of parole for second-degree murder, smoothed out the wrinkles on a finished quilt before folding it up and placing it carefully alongside a pile of others bound for charities like Backpacks of Love, Boys and Girls Town, and Honor Flight-a nonprofit that flies World War II veterans to their Washington, DC, memorial. The quilts, constructed with do-



Story by **Meribah Knight**  
Photography by **Chris Mottalani**

*This article originally appeared in the June/July 2010 issue of American Craft. Reprinted with permission.*

nated fabric, average four by five feet. They are simple and spare, a look true to the circumstances: these men are self-taught. On one, a floral border frames two large butterfly silhouettes; on another two teddy bears, a bunny and a puppy pile into a yellow rowboat amid curling blue waves and a starry sky. Bordering them are squares of light-blue plaid and recycled denim. On a third, a traditional Fool's Square block pattern is punctuated with bits of red yarn. Sometimes they try new techniques or a few scraps of brown corduroy—their masculine touch. But the fact is these men have few privileges, and that extends to their creativity. Their job is to make quilts for foster children and the elderly, not to practice their Log Cabin technique. Giving back is expression enough, they say.

Toahty, who has a degree in business administration from Kansas University, is the only experienced seamster of the bunch. He is Native American, and with the skills passed down from his mother and grandmother back in Oklahoma, Toahty is responsible for sewing the fabric blocks together and closing quilts up once the batting and yarning are done. "I can hand-sew my butt off," he added, proudly.

Down the hall, Travis Canon, 31, serving life without possibility of parole for robbery and first-degree murder, paints a picture of the Missouri State Penitentiary—the former prison that held JCCC inmates—onto a piece of fabric cut from a prison uniform. The painting will eventually be sewn into a tribute quilt for the prison, which opened in 1836. Larger specialty quilts are often made for charity auctions and worthy causes. On one sewn last year, blocks constructed with army uniforms donated by JCCC staff surrounded a painting of the flag raising at Iwo Jima. This partnership, unheard of in most prisons, fostered an unprecedented relationship between staff and inmates. "Their attitude changed completely," one correctional officer interjected during an interview with inmates. "It was inspiration to them to have that fabric."

Also unusual is the camaraderie among the prisoners. Maldonado and Canon are white, Starr is black and Toahty is full-blooded Comanche. In prison culture their collaboration



Patrick Starr

and friendship is unlikely. But here in the quilting room these social norms don't apply. Here doing the right thing is popular. "We all have the same common goal," says Maldonado, who attends church with Starr every Saturday. "Quilting in a maximum-security male prison might be seen as a recipe for ridicule, but it has only brought the men closer. "They are like family," said Pamela Dunn, JCCC's restorative justice coordinator. "They may give each other a hard time, but they don't let anyone else pick on them."

Studies and experts say restorative justice has shown substantial reductions in repeat offending for violent criminals. It has also become a popular tool for dealing with juveniles and—amid overcrowding—offenders of lesser crimes in lieu of prison time. At JCCC, where few, if any, of the inmates will see freedom to challenge recidivism rates, it has had substantial impact on the morale and safety of the prison.

The emphasis on such programs is unusual for a maximum-security facility, but Dave Dormire, JCCC's superintendent, has seen the benefits firsthand. "There is a world of difference as to how safe it is," he said. Compared to other facilities of

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## Victim Services in Corrections Around the Country

### California- Submitted by Terry Boehme

#### New Law Enhances Collection of Victim Restitution

**A** NEW STATE LAW in California is increasing the likelihood that victims with court orders of restitution will receive payment from their offender even after the offender's discharge from the state correctional system.

Under the new law, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is contracting with the California State Franchise Tax Board (FTB) to collect victim restitution from all offenders with court ordered restitution who are or ever have been under CDCR's jurisdiction.

In March 2010, CDCR began sending victim restitution cases for parolees and discharged offenders to the FTB for collection. The FTB uses the same method to collect victim restitution as is used for any citizen who has underpaid their taxes. Offenders may set up payment plans with the FTB. If they do not take any action to make payment, the FTB may garnish their wages and seize their bank or escrow accounts or other assets. FTB sends all payments to the CDCR's Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services (OVSRS) to send to the entitled victims.

CDCR is sending 1,000 new cases to the FTB each week. CDCR anticipates that all 60,000 impacted cases (representing \$2 billion in unpaid restitution) will be sent to the FTB by the end of 2010.

The California constitution guarantees victims' the right to be fully reimbursed by offenders for their fiscal losses resulting from crimes against them. This victim entitlement includes all types of economic crime as well as vehicular crimes and violent crimes. The average dollar amount of California's victim direct orders ordered by judges is \$27,000 per order. Consequently, virtually all offenders with such court orders leave CDCR's jurisdiction still owing most of their direct order obligations to the victims of their crimes. Prior to the law taking effect, when offenders were discharged from parole, no governmental entity helped victims collect the restitution

owed to them. Victims were left with trying to collect through the civil process.

For more information about OVSRS, visit our Web site at [http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Victim\\_Services/Adult\\_Program.html](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Victim_Services/Adult_Program.html).

### Kansas- Submitted by Camie Borsdorf

**O**N MAY 11, 2010 the Kansas Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services awarded the first ever "Champion of Justice" award. This award is given by the Office of Victim Services to recognize a KDOC staff person who works diligently for the safety of crime victims and public safety while supporting offender success.

On a quarterly basis, KDOC staff are asked to nominate other KDOC staff members who fit the requirements of this award. Each quarter a staff member is selected from these nominations to be the quarterly Champion of Justice nominee. Then, from the recipients of the quarterly nominations, an independent panel reviews these nominations and selects the awardee for the Champion of Justice of the Year. This year's recipient was Enforcement Apprehension and Investigation (EAI) Special Agent Brandon Bansemer. He was presented with this award at the KDOC Employee of the Year banquet by Victim Services Director Jennie Marsh.

This award will now be an annual event for our office to use as a way to recognize those employees within KDOC that go above and beyond for crime victims while supporting offender success.

An excerpt from the nomination of Brandon Bansemer:

*Brandon, on a daily basis, demonstrates a consistent commitment to crime victims, public safety, and offender success. While quiet and unassuming Brandon carries with him an attitude of respect for each person that he comes into contact with. Brandon has been known to talk with offenders about their questions and barriers to success, encouraging them to work with their parole officer and follow through on*



Special Agent Brandon Bansemer and  
EAI Director John Lamb

*classes such as cognitive thinking and batterers intervention programs all while taking the offender to jail upon arresting them. Knowing that his words and actions have impact on each offender that he comes into contact with he ensures that offender's know there is assistance available to them through their parole officer.*

*When it comes to supporting victims of crime, Brandon has been known to go above and beyond for crime victims without ever being asked. He has been known to give victims his work cell phone number to call if they have unwanted contact with an offender. Brandon believes strongly that victims deserve to not be judged and be treated with dignity and respect. He has several times offered and then driven women and children to shelter, after receiving clearance from the shelter, to ensure that the woman and her child would be safe, even going back out at 11pm after working all day to transport a victim to safety. Brandon on numerous occasions has accompanied Victim Services staff out to contact crime victims, especially domestic violence victims. During a home contact Brandon has been known to conduct a safety screenings of the victim's home pointing out different things the victim could do to increase their safety. Brandon also assists with other safety planning and gives the victim the clear message that they deserve to be safe, that KDOC supports them in staying safe and that they do not deserve the violence that has been perpetrated against them. Brandon has also been known to assist victims in planning for their safety prior to an offender's release from prison by going out and meeting with the victim and Victim Services*

*staff. After a safety plan has been developed Brandon uses the contacts he has within other law enforcement agencies to make sure that they have the information and case background to ensure a quick response by the law enforcement agency, if needed, for the victim's safety.*

### New Hampshire- Peter A Michaud

#### PREA: Improving Responses to Reports of Sexual Assault

May 2010 brought two events highlighting statewide efforts in improving how correctional and other agencies respond to incidents of adult sexual assault. For 2 days, The Moss Group of Washington, D.C. provided a comprehensive, "Investigating Sexual Misconduct: Training for Correctional Investigators." Attending were more than twenty investigators from NHDOC, county corrections and sheriff agencies. With consultants from Minnesota and New Hampshire, the Moss Group training included:

- o Legal issues related to the Prison Rape Elimination Act, staff sexual misconduct and inmate-on-inmate assault
- o Miranda, Garrity and other court decisions and case law
- o Ways to promote a positive agency culture
- o How to encourage reporting by both staff and offenders
- o Foundations for a successful investigation

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**PATTERNS;** *continued from page 8*

the same and lesser security around the state, JCCC has the lowest rate of misconduct and violence. “We don’t have a lot of serious fights; we don’t have serious assaults,” he said. “It also makes [the prisoners] feel good. It is just win-win.”

In 2009, Pew research placed a sobering number to the steady expansion of America’s prison population: one in 31 adults is under some form of correctional control and more than one in a hundred adults is behind bars. Second only to Medicaid, state corrections cost now top \$50 billion annually and eat up one in every 15 discretionary dollars. JCCC’s quilting program receives few of these dollars. It is given no state funding for its projects and relies solely on donations by individuals, groups and the dedication of inmates. Its annual budget hovers around \$2,000.

According to Missouri’s Department of Corrections, in 2008 about 41 percent of offenders volunteered to do reparative activities, which include sewing, gardening, crocheting and refurbishing wheelchairs and bicycles. The results were



Travis Canon



A prisoner-made quilt, auctioned off to benefit the Central Missouri Honor Flight organization, went for \$500 to Eugene Gruender, a World War II veteran, and Willa Smith of Sturgeon, Mo.

donated to shelters, daycare centers, nursing homes, hospitals and schools across the state. JCCC is proud to say it produces more quilts than any other correctional center in the state—even the women’s prison. Last year, through auctioning quilts, it raised \$7,000 for various charities. This past March the quilting group was represented in Fanfare of Quilts 2010, one of the largest such shows in St. Louis.

Beneath a poster of a red circle with a diagonal slash through the word “drama,” Starr reviewed the inventory of his tackle box. “It’s a job by itself,” he said. “Every needle, every scissor, every blade and every screwdriver must be signed in and out and accounted for at all times.” Starr said



Travis Canon and Christopher Maldonado

his biggest worry is the day someone comes in with a smile on his face and nothing to lose. “He might leave here and throw his life away.” In an incident last February, a box of needles went missing. Starr was held accountable and banished from the quilting room for three months. “It was 90 days of sheer brutality,” he said. Every morning he walked by and peered in the window, waiting for the day he could return.

“These are by no means the choirboys of the world,” Dunn said. “But if someone had told me I’d be working at a level five prison handing out razor blades, I never would have believed them.”

As I packed up my notebook and got ready to leave, Starr turned to me with a calm of a man who has repented of his

past and reconciled with a future of incarceration. “I am happy here,” he said. “People might not believe me, but I’m doing things here I never would have done.” As I drove down the hill, away from the razor wire and chain-link fences, I couldn’t help but notice that no signs lined the way out.

Meribah Knight, a freelance journalist in Chicago, has contributed to The New York Times, The New Yorker, and O, The Oprah Magazine. This is her second article for American Craft.

To donate materials to Jefferson City Correctional Center, contact Pamela Dunn at (573) 751-3224 x 1154 or [pamela.dunn@doc.mo.gov](mailto:pamela.dunn@doc.mo.gov)



JCCC, a six-year old maximum-security facility at 8200 No More Victims road, has emphasized restorative justice programs, with promising results in prison morale and safety.

## PROGRAMMING; *continued from page 2*

participating in research studies to further validate it's effectiveness. It is important that we all continue to build upon this curriculum and share ideas along the way.

The State of Ohio, for example, offers their version of a Victim Awareness Program that is based in the OVC model, but has added unique topics such as Forgiveness and Media Issues, as well as implemented a female-specific curriculum for female offenders. This program is operating throughout all correctional institutions and most Adult Parole Authority regions within the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. This Reentry approved program is recognized as an evidence-based program that is used to increase an offender's awareness about the impact of crime on a victim/survivor and the victim/survivor's family.

For anyone interested in implementing an Impact of Crime Program, it is recommended that you participate in specialized training to help ensure consistency and effectiveness. For fur-

ther information, talk to a local victim advocacy center and/or review the "Getting Started" section on the Office for Victim's of Crime website at: <https://www.ovcttac.gov/victimimpact/unit1.cfm>.

As someone who has both facilitated this program within an institution as well as coordinated it statewide, I know the Impact of Crime Program can have a great impact on offenders as well as survivors and look forward to working with other states as we all continue to build on the curriculum and research that has been developed in the coming years.

*Information about the standardized curriculum created through the Office for Victims of Crime can be found at: <https://www.ovcttac.gov/victimimpact/index.cfm>.*

*Additional information regarding research outcomes can be located at: [https://www.ovcttac.gov/victimimpact/evidence\\_based.cfm](https://www.ovcttac.gov/victimimpact/evidence_based.cfm)*

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## STATES; *continued from page 11*

- o Initial interview and evidence collection
- o Priorities of the first responder
- o Interacting with sexual assault victims
- o Interviewing, interrogation, and report writing
- o Prosecution issues

The second event involved a team of NHDOC staff and teams from every New Hampshire county attending a Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART) Summit sponsored by the NH Attorney General and NH Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence. The core members of any SART team include law enforcement, investigators, a prosecutor, a victim advocate, and a sexual assault nurse examiner. Mental health professionals are also included when the SART is in a correctional environment. The goal for new SARTs in New Hampshire is to improve reporting and enhance successful prosecution of adult sexual assault, with a victim-centered approach and a process for multidisciplinary case reviews. The SART Summit focused on guidelines from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, and presentations about the roles of law enforcement, prosecution, medical practitioners and victim advocacy. Presenters included experienced SART leaders from New Hampshire, Maine and Colorado. (For more information, visit [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org) and [www.mossgroup.us](http://www.mossgroup.us))

## New York State- Submitted by Janet Koupash

NYSDOCS Office of Victim Services has been asked to represent the Department on a state task force being formed to examine restitution collection. I will be a member of the task force examining the whole issue of how restitution for crime victims is implemented and can be improved within our criminal justice system. The DOCS has a policy to collect restitution (the Directive explaining our policy is available on the DOCS website at [www.docs.state.ny.us](http://www.docs.state.ny.us)) and my office distributes monthly reports to county District Attorney offices and Probation Departments. The reports document the open restitution orders the DOCS is currently collecting toward as well as the payments sent to the Probation Departments during a given month for that Department to disburse the funds to victims (currently it is a requirement of NY statute for Probation to be the disbursing authority). It is hoped through my participation in the task force, I can assist in streamlining the documentation that restitution has been ordered, the collection of restitution and the process to disburse restitution to victims in a timely manner. I regularly hear from victims who are owed restitution, and I'm really looking forward to the opportunity to improve the restitution order, collection and disbursement process here in NY.