



## 2022 NAVAC Conference

*DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown*  
September 13, 2022 – September 16, 2022

**\*\*\* As of 06-02-22 \* Subject to Change \*\*\***

### Keynotes and Guest Speakers:

- **Scarlett Lewis with Shannon Desilets** - Choose Love Movement
- **Kelli Dunham** - Fight Flight Freeze Laugh: Using Humor to Combat Vicarious Traumatization, Handle Stress... And Have Fun!
- **Lenny O'Keefe with K9 Liberty and Justin Breton with K9 Patch** - The Role of a Police Comfort Dog

### Plenaries

#### **Accountability Letters: The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly**

Introduction to New Hampshire Accountability Letter Program. We will explore concepts of bad, good, and harmful letters. Then form small breakout groups to examine and discuss case examples from NH.

#### **An In-depth Look at Ohio's Victim Offender Dialogue Program; Facilitator Selection, Training, Retention and Program Management**

Ohio's robust Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD) program will be discussed. VODs are very important to the healing of the survivor and the individual who has agreed to participate in this process. Equally important are the facilitator(s) assigned to the case to promote healthy outcomes. Selection of VOD facilitators in Ohio is a mindful process as it is the foundation for the future work that happens in promoting healing. Skills required to maintain an active program while affording the ability to adapt, nurture and grow while keeping program integrity will be discussed. Selection, training, and retention of the gifted facilitators is discussed in this presentation.

#### **Vicarious Trauma and Burnout**

Victim services work, particularly in corrections, is both challenging and meaningful. Finding ways to meet these challenges, manage the negative effects and avoid burnout is essential for individuals and their organizations. Bringing awareness to the positive benefits of the work, including meaning, engagement and efficacy are critical areas of resilience. Recognizing one's need to build resilience is an ongoing process the begins with the intentional focus on self-awareness, and includes building supportive relationships, holding hope and maintaining perspective. This workshop will explore ways that staff and supervisors can enhance individual and team wellness and build their resilience.

## **Planning for Excellence**

Victims' services are essential components of corrections agencies and releasing authorities. Victims deserve reliable programs with quality services. But how do we get to stability and quality when we are so often operating in crisis mode?

Planning for excellence.

In this experiential session, you will learn how to plan for program excellence and be able to articulate the outcomes of the services you provide to receive the vital resources necessary to support your services and the people who provide them, ensuring that victims receive the quality services they deserve.

## **The Voices Inside: How Volunteering Inside a Max-security Prison Helped Me Forgive the Man Who Murdered My Brother**

In 2020, Liberty Miller participated in a victim/offender dialogue with the man who murdered her brother. In this session, she will approach this topic with vulnerability and candor, speaking of the fear she experienced prior to her VOD, the anxiety and panic that overtook her moments before sitting across a table from the man who ripped her family apart, and the healing that came from forgiving him.

## **Workshops**

### **Assistance for Crime Victims - the New Hampshire Victims' Compensation Program**

Ensuring access and opportunity with crime-related expenses for all victims of violence, is a principal goal for compensation programs. This presentation will discuss how the Victims' Compensation Program provides services and assistance to crime victims and their families. Learn about eligibility requirements, the application process and compensable assistance.

### **Collaboration with Other State VOD Programs: Working Together for a Successful VOD**

This workshop will discuss how to collaborate with another state agency when you have either an offender housed in another state or a victim house in another state and how you can work together for a successful VOD.

This workshop will review the following:

- Differences between VOD programs in other states
- Learning to adapt to the other states program
- Lessons learned from the other state
- How to make the VOD successful when working with another state

The workshop will give an overview of a NH/PA VOD case and go over the above the above points with the process of how it went with all the good point and obstacles you might face.

### **Empowering Victims and Maximizing Their Healing Through Active Engagement in the Rehabilitation of the Incarcerated.**

"I don't want them to do to anyone what they have done to me. They must understand the harm they caused. " Harm impact statements as part of victim impact awareness classes create opportunities for survivors to share their harm and thus hold those who committed similar acts of violence accountable for their actions; this creates experiences of great empowerment and deep healing.

Two violence survivors will share their experience of participating in Victim Impact Awareness Classes and Accountability Letter Writing and how it allowed them to use their pain, despair, and growth to be of great benefit to themselves and the incarcerated.

## **Evolving Victim's Needs in Texas VOMD Program**

The TDCJ Victim Offender Mediation and Dialogue Program (VOMD) started in the late 1990's. Since the inception of the program, the VOMD in Texas has had to adjust to the varying needs of the victims, as well as the complexities of all varying crime types. This workshop will discuss the development and use of the VOMD policies and preparation processes to include working with dual victims, sex offenses, domestic violence, creative alternatives and minors. We will also discuss the evolutions of technology in VOMD to include Zoom meetings and dialogues, as well as IVSS and the victim's portal.

*Mark Odom, Texas Department of Criminal Justice*

## **Ensuring Victims' Rights in the Post-Conviction, Appeal and GEI process**

Learn about Oregon's innovative approach to providing a robust array of services to victims in the post-conviction process. The session will include program development, community partnerships and ensuring that victims have a meaningful role in the post-conviction process.

## **Facilitating Rigorously Victim-Centered VOD Preparation in a Rapidly Growing World of Offender-Focused Prison Restorative Justice Initiatives**

Summary pending

## **Georgia's Unique Approach to Serving Crime Victims Post Conviction**

In 2005, the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles and the Georgia Department of Corrections combined their offices of victim services to form the Corrections and Parole Board Office of Victim Services. On July 1, 2015, with the creation of the Department of Community Supervision, the office began serving victims for all three agencies and is now the Georgia Office of Victim Services. This office provides post-sentencing support to more than 30,000 crime victims, their families, and members of the community. This workshop will demonstrate how Georgia has created a single point of contact for crime victims during the post-conviction phase of the criminal justice process.

## **Investigations and PREA**

Panel and group discussion about inmate victims of prison rape. As a result of this panel discussion attendees will better understand the dynamics of prison rape, the investigative process, efforts to keep inmate victims safe and the continued work of Prevention, Detection and Responding.

## **Line of Duty Death: what we learned after the murders at the Iowa Anamosa Penitentiary**

In March of 2021, two staff members were attacked and killed by inmates at the Iowa Anamosa State Penitentiary, another staff member was taken hostage, and another inmate was critically injured. This session will focus primarily on the response of the IDOC's Staff Support Teams across the state of Iowa to this unprecedented incident. This session will include a discussion of lessons learned, and the process of developing of a Line of Duty Death Manual for corrections.

## **The Mend Collaborative VOD Model: A survivor-centered restorative model of VOD facilitation.**

The Mend Collaborative provides survivor-centered restorative VOD facilitation. Our co-facilitation teams include pairs of survivors and people who are formerly incarcerated. We will share our model and its benefits through a case presentation.

## **NIC National Update**

An update of NIC work in the area of post-conviction victim services, staff trauma response and the facilitated dialogue project.

## **NAAVI, Enhancing Victim Experiences Through Technology**

Do you have dreams for a fully customizable, comprehensive, user friendly, and victim centered notification and case management system? In October, 2021, the VADOC Victim Services Unit collaborated with InfoStrat to launch NAAVI (Notification And Assistance for Victim Inclusion). In this session, you will get an in depth, behind the scenes look at how NAAVI has revolutionized post-conviction victim services in Virginia. NAAVI has enhanced Virginia's program review through data analysis and clever reporting, has improved direct services to crime victims, and provides for more efficient use of staff time.

## **Post-Conviction Assistance for Victims (PAV) Hawai'i: Pavhawaii.com, An Innovative Solution to Post-Conviction Advocacy**

Post-conviction programming in Hawai'i, like in many states, are fragmented, underfunded, and difficult to navigate. In 2019, a national strategic plan identified fragmentation of victim services in Hawai'i as a barrier to providing quality victim services. In response, key partners developed Pavhawaii.com. The website centralized post-conviction programming in one easy-to-access domain; allowing for increased accessibility to resources and providing a comprehensive mapping of victims' rights and services for crime victims throughout the criminal justice system. Presenter(s) will detail the process and highlight the need for innovative solutions that are both comprehensive and accessible to victims of crime.

## **The Process of Healing for Victims and Survivors**

This workshop will explore the range and variety of ways that victims and survivors find healing after experiencing a violent traumatic crime. It is important for those of us assisting victims to remain open and curious to what a particular victim will find healing so that we may do our best to create that opportunity. How do we make sure we are maintaining both the needs for protection and empowerment when supporting the healing of crime victims and survivors? How do we navigate with skill when "forgiveness" and "closure" come into the conversation?

## **Providing Trauma-Informed Services and Support to Survivors from Immigrant Populations**

The session will cover the unique challenges Survivors within immigrant populations face when trying to connect to services. It will also cover how navigating different systems can compound the trauma immigrant survivors experience. The presentation will provide examples of having a trauma-informed approach when working with immigrants, including connecting attendees to local and national services.

## **Supporting Crime Victims in Post-Conviction Exonerations**

In collaboration with the Office for Victims of Crime, Healing Justice has created a set of new resources for supporting crime victims and survivors around post-conviction exonerations and prisoner release. Included in these resources are practical tools for service providers and peer-to-peer opportunities for victims. This session will present these new resources, share first-hand stories by victims, and offer recommendations and tips for victim services in these cases.

## **TRAUMA: Through the Lens of Correctional Staff Providing Victim Services to Our Employees**

Victim advocates provide amazing services for crime survivors, but often are not involved in working directly with employees who are assaulted or experience traumatic critical events in the line of duty. This workshop will explore how victim services is the perfect partner to support staff and promote staff wellness.

## **Victim Restitution Matters: Four Lessons from Hawai'i to Ensure Financial Justice for Crime Victims**

For many victims, restitution is the primary pathway to mitigate financial impacts of crime. However, the restitution process is often fraught with barriers. Hawai'i tackled these obstacles head-on and ultimately increased the number of offenders paying restitution and the amount of restitution disbursed to victims. As a result, the state upended commonly held assumptions about the ability of offenders to pay restitution. Presenters will discuss Hawai'i's approach which combined institutional and policy changes with interagency collaboration to prioritize restitution, and will highlight Hawai'i's new automated restitution data dashboards. Attendees will explore how their states can take similar actions to improve restitution programs to ensure financial justice for victims and accountability for offenders.

## **VOD Case Examples - Learning from our Challenges, Celebrating our Courage**

It is important to have a safe place to discuss honestly what we face in this life changing work of VOD. With victims and survivors, we are constantly challenged to ensure safety and protection while at the same time building a sense of agency and empowering victim voice in the VOD process. Using our 20 Essential Principles as a guide, we will deeply examine case challenges. Bring your questions and difficult cases to this workshop. Through group discussion we will mine the wisdom and experience in the room to learn how to ensure the quality of our services.

## **Volunteers in VOD**

Discussion on using volunteers in the VOD process and how California has used the process for over 10 years.

## **"Yeah, I'm All Set"**

Both Nicole and Kerri had started the preparation process for Victim-Offender Dialogues in the state of NH. Nicole is the survivor of childhood sexual assault and her perpetrator, her dad, was sentenced to 10 years of incarceration. Kerri's son is a survivor of sexual assault at the hands of their trusted friend/neighbor. Both Nicole and Kerri began the VOD process with two willing participants; however, along the way, both Nicole and Kerri decided that they no longer wanted to continue in the VOD process. This session will cover why both Nicole and Kerri chose to stop the VOD process and why they still feel that they received what they needed out of the process. Neither Kerri nor Nicole felt that starting the VOD process was not a good use of their time. As VOD facilitators, it is important to know that although victims do not finish the VOD process, it does not mean that they did not have any healing within the process or that it was not valuable or vital for them.