

**D. DESCRIBE ANY NOTABLE ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED AT THE STATE OR SUBGRANT LEVEL TO IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF VICTIM SERVICES (I.E., NEEDS ASSESSMENTS, PROGRAM MONITORING, AND PROGRAM EVALUATION). INCLUDE TRAINING EFFORTS, AND USE OF VOCA APPROVED TRAINING FUNDS, IF APPLICABLE.**

**REVIEW OF CVSD PROGRAMS**

The Crime Victims Services Division (CVSD) had both a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) federal site review in June 2008, as well as, a STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) formula grant federal site review in September 2008. In addition, the Oregon Secretary of State's Office conducted a pre-audit of our Division. All three of these processes were very successful for CVSD and are outlined below.

**1. VOCA Site Visit**

Office for Victims of Crime federal site review occurred over three days on June 24, 25 and 26, 2008. This included a review of both the Compensation and the Victim Assistance Grant programs. CVSD staff met with the VOCA federal grant monitor, Bradley Mitchell. The first morning of the site visit was spent providing an overview of our Division and having staff from each program meet individually with Mr. Mitchell.

- a. Victim Assistance Program:** Mr. Mitchell reviewed twenty-five randomly selected sub-grantee files for compliance. He also reviewed the use of VOCA Administrative Funds, the Grant Management Handbook and conducted a programmatic review. It was gratifying to see the recognition in Mr. Mitchell's report to DOJ CVSD under promising practices of our work with respect to the Equity Allocation Study, Cultural Competence and coordination efforts with federal, state and local government agencies to address the needs of all crime victims.
- b. Compensation Program:** The Compensation Program review went equally as well. Mr. Mitchell conducted a programmatic review that included claims processing, the appeals process, as well as, the review of 24 random, sampled compensation claim files consisting of 12 approved and 12 denied claims. Promising practices identified by Mr. Mitchell included:
  - Our online access to all 36 county district attorney victim assistance programs that allow them to access status information pertaining to claims; and
  - Quarterly trainings to victim advocates, service providers and allied professionals around the state.

In both VOCA funded programs there were no findings for corrective action.

## **2. STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Federal Site Visit**

September 8-10, 2008 CVSD hosted the federal VAWA program manager, Melissa Schmisek. This federal site visit was comprised of time out in the field visiting programs that benefit from and use the VAWA funds. Ms. Schmisek started the visit at the CVSD office the morning of Sept. 8 meeting with the CVSD Director, Cynthia Stinson, and other staff that have assisted with the administrative VAWA monitoring. A CVSD Division overview was done that morning before taking Ms. Schmisek on a two and a half day road trip to visit multiple programs. This included a visit to the Native American Youth Association (NAYA), meeting with their program director, Tawna Sanchez, the CVSD Director and a member of the VAWA Advisory Board. The second day was comprised of visiting programs in Multnomah County District Attorney's Office with two Deputy District Attorneys in the morning and an afternoon visit at the Oregon Judicial Department with the Director, Alex Aikman and another member of the VAWA Advisory Board, Bealisa Sydlik. The third day of the site visit was spent on the Oregon coast visiting the Clatsop County Women's Resource Center which represented the law enforcement allocation of VAWA funds. Ms. Schmisek met with the Center director, Pat Burness, the Clatsop County District Attorney, Josh Marquis as well as the Chiefs of Police from the cities of Astoria, Seaside, Cannon Beach and representatives from both the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police. Later that same day Clatsop County Judge Paula Brownhill, a leader in Oregon's effort in judicial notification and firearms dispossession issues, met with CVSD staff and Ms. Schmisek.

In a follow up letter received by CVSD, Ms. Schmisek expressed a sincere appreciation of how the STOP VAWA funds are being administered, the commitment to collaboration and evidence of how these programs are addressing violence against women. She also stated that she appreciated the honesty and feedback from subgrantees of the challenges regarding the Muskie STOP progress reporting forms and implementation challenges for law enforcement in the area of forensic medical exam certification requirements.

## **3. Secretary of State Pre-Audit**

In July 2008, the Secretary of State's (SOS) office conducted a pre-audit of our Division. Divisions of State agencies are randomly selected by the Secretary of State's (SOS) Office to evaluate their business and operational practices. After receiving an overview of the Division from the Director, Cynthia Stinson, staff from the SOS office interviewed the majority of the Division staff individually from both the Victim Assistance and the Compensation programs. They were able to review grant files and victim claims files (with victim identifying information redacted) to gain an understanding of the work that the Division performs. There were no risk factors that warranted an audit. They did suggest looking into electronic confidentiality, by modifying information on our system so that no individually identifying information of compensation claimants is widely accessible in the state payment system. This work has been completed to minimize this risk factor.

## **MENTORING FOR VAP DIRECTORS**

The Victim Assistance Programs across the state have been challenged this last year with high turnover of program Directors. CVSD makes it a priority to offer technical assistance to new Directors soon after they come on board. This is coordinated between fund coordinators to give Director's an overview of the grants and the functions of the Division. This year we also asked some of our most experienced program directors to volunteer to mentor new directors in their first year. The response to our request for volunteer mentors was very exciting. We look forward to enhancing and recognizing our mentor's efforts in this next year.

### **REGIONAL DIRECTORS' MEETINGS**

In 2007, the Department surveyed all grantees from the various funds to determine the most effective way to deliver training and technical assistance. The results of the survey indicated that some of the main barriers grantees faced in attending the annual state-wide Director's Day training provided by the Department were travel time and staffing concerns. In order to make the annual Director's Day trainings more accessible, the Department decided to host four Regional Director's Day meetings throughout the state in Salem, Pendleton, Bend, and Roseburg. In total, 118 directors attended one of the four regional trainings.

The training topics were also determined using the feedback gathered in the survey. The topics included:

- Hot Topics in Crime Victims' Rights Law
- Leadership in Victims Services
- Writing Effective Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes
- Program Sustainability
- Volunteer Development in Government-based Programs
- Strategic Planning for a Sustainable Program
- How to Complete Crime Victims' Services Division (CVSD) Reports

For topics such as Writing Effective Goals, Objectives and Outcomes and Program Sustainability, we recruited some of the most experienced directors from the grantee pool who could share how they are using these processes and skills in their day to day program activities. By having a peer presenting the topic, we felt that the presentation would be more meaningful and realistic to program directors.

The leadership presentations were done by partnering with training professionals from Oregon's Department of Administrative Services. These presentations were the most popular sessions and requests for more training on this topic were made by several attendees in each of the four training regions.

In addition to the trainings, the Department also set up a mentoring program for newer directors. Through a mentoring program, newer directors would benefit from the expertise of more experienced directors, and new networking opportunities and

connections would be strengthened throughout the state. From the feedback obtained in the survey, we determined which directors were interested in participating in a mentoring program. We took this information and connected newer directors with more experienced directors so that they could meet and touch base at the regional trainings they were attending. The Department will continue to work on enhancing this process throughout the next year.

Overall, the response to the Regional Director's Day meetings was positive. Some of the grantees indicated they missed the networking opportunities provided by a state-wide training. As a result, the Department has decided to host regional Director's Day trainings every other year so that grantees may easily access state-wide and local trainings on a regular basis.

### **SEXUAL ASSAULT TRAINING INSTITUTE**

Under the auspices of the Sexual Assault Training Institute (SATI), the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF) provided multiple opportunities for the criminal justice system and allied professionals to receive high quality, discipline-specific training. The following trainings were held between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008:

- First Annual Campus Committee Colloquium & Meeting;
- Roots of Change: Preventing Sexual Violence in Oregon through Partnerships and Action Conference – 172 individuals participated;
- Sexual Assault: Conducting the Medical Forensic Exam – 20 trained SANEs attended; and
- Annual Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Training – 43 nurses from 17 counties and 23 agencies attended.

The SATF partnered with the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC) in presenting the NCVC's National Conference; Responses, Rights and Resources for Crime Victims. This conference was hosted in Portland, Oregon on June 2-4, 2008. Details of this conference can be found later in this section.

The SATF also presented training at its membership meetings. Training topics included:

- Precious Moments: Protecting Long-term Health and Mental Health in the Aftermath of Sexual Violence;
- The Overlap Between Mental Health and Sexual Assault;
- Mental Health Consequences of Sexual Assault;
- Confronting the Myth of Rape as a Misunderstanding; and
- Beyond Power & Control Model: Motivations for Sexual Offending.

### **STATE VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACADEMY**

The Oregon State Victim Assistance Academy (SVAA) continues to be an essential component to the training of victim service providers and allied professionals across the State. This 40-hour academic based victim service foundation training not only provides information and skills for advocates to work with victims of crime but also allows participants to network, share ideas and best practices. By completing SVAA participants can also earn four Clackamas Community College elective credits and it is one step in the process of becoming a certified Victim Service Specialist through the Oregon Certification and Standards Program.

SVAA is administered by the Crime Victim's Assistance Network (CVAN) which advocates for the rights of victims of crime and promotes victim services in Oregon. CVAN has recently elected a new Board President who has committed to resurrecting the advisory board for SVAA to put together a sustainability plan for the SVAA training materials. The plan will include updating the current materials as well as identifying victim services topics that need to be included in the core training or identified for advanced academy classes.

SVAA is funded through VOCA training funds and provided both a spring and fall training during 2008. A total of fifty-six (56) advocates from prosecutor-based victim advocate programs, children's advocacy centers, domestic and sexual assault programs, law enforcement and CVSD staff were trained. SVAA training, which became a VOCA grant requirement in 2007, for CVSD subgrantees employed by prosecutor-based victim advocate programs and funded through VOCA funds continues as a means of standardizing advocacy across the State.

Challenges identified in the 2007 federal report included handling larger class sizes, updating of materials and financial sustainability. CVAN has been able to stabilize some of their funding, which has reduced their dependence on VOCA funds in this next fiscal year. As mentioned above, updating of materials is being addressed and exploration of alternative facilities to accommodate larger class sizes, if needed, is being identified. Also, CVAN through their SVAA contract with CVSD has agreed that every other year, one training will be held in a more central or eastern Oregon location to accommodate victim services programs throughout the state.

### **IMPROVED DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND TRAINING**

The Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention (CAMI) Program has been striving to improve services to children through its ongoing commitment to working with community partners and multidisciplinary teams to ensure a quality response to child abuse in the state of Oregon. In order to verify that the CAMI dollars provided to local multidisciplinary teams (MDT) are being used for improvement of services, the CAMI Program reviews the MDTs' intervention plans that identify the needs of child abuse victims in their county and how CAMI funds will be used to meet those needs. CAMI dollars have been essential to the development of specialized community child abuse intervention centers that provide child-friendly, age-appropriate assessments to alleged

victims of child abuse and their families. Oregon currently has 19 child abuse intervention centers and 36 MDTs, one MDT in each of Oregon's 36 counties. Through the centers and MDTs, children and families are able to access specialized services and community resources.

In addition to providing funding to MDTs throughout Oregon, the CAMI Program also provides funding to five Regional Service Providers (RSPs). RSPs use CAMI funding to provide the following services to MDTs and community child abuse intervention centers:

- Complex case consultation;
- Peer review for forensic interviews and medical assessments;
- Forensic child interviewing training;
- Medical assessment training;
- Referral and information;
- Outreach; and
- Expert witness testimony and referral.

In order to coordinate these vital services and make the best possible use of resources, RSPs meet in person on a quarterly basis and participate in a monthly conference call. In doing so, these services are being consistently delivered throughout Oregon, benefiting Oregon children and families.

For more information regarding CAMI funded regional services, access the CAMI Program's website at: <http://www.doj.state.or.us/crimev/cami.shtml>

### **COMPENSATION AND RESTITUTION TRAINING**

The Crime Victims' Compensation Program (CVCP) offered quarterly compensation trainings to victim advocates and medical providers throughout the State of Oregon for the last three years. During this reporting period 66 individuals participated in the quarterly CVCP trainings. The trainings are free of charge and cover all aspects of claim compensability, as well as, information regarding grants administered by the CVSD, the VINE and ACP programs, the SAVE fund and the CVCP online claim look up website. The attendees also are guided through case studies in order to better understand claim determination and payment eligibility. Finally, the participants are subject to a nine page compensation test. After the successful completion of the test attendees are issued a CVCP number. The CVCP numbers are name-specific and are tracked through the CVCP Claim Management System. Since 2005, 312 individuals have attended the quarterly trainings and have been issued CVC numbers. Those individuals with CVCP numbers are able to use the "Expedited Determination Coversheet" (Attachment D) when submitting applications for compensation on behalf of victims. The purpose of the Coversheet is to ensure that claims submitted to the CVCP contain all the information required to determine claim eligibility at the time the application for compensation is received. In many cases, CVCP is able to determine compensability on the applications submitted with the Coversheet in a timely manner. Applications submitted without the Coversheet

delays the process and can take weeks or months to determine. Since the inception of the quarterly trainings CVCP has received 1352 claims submitted with the Coversheet.

The collection of restitution has continued to be in the forefront of victim issues particularly after the passing of the constitutional amendments concerning victims' rights. The CVCP has two in-house Revenue Agents who spend the majority of their time collecting monies that CVCP has paid on behalf of crime victims. In this reporting period the CVCP Revenue Agents collected more than \$608,681 in restitution and subrogation from criminal offenders.

The CVSD revenue staff remains active with the Oregon Restitution Network, attending quarterly meetings and trainings in Pendleton and The Dalles, Oregon. Revenue Agent Martha Shotwell is serving as the ORN President this year. The meetings focused on establishing best practices for parole and probation offices around the state in regard to the collection of restitution. During this reporting period, the revenue agents participated in the CVCP quarterly trainings and facilitated trainings to various parole and probation agencies, county courts and county victim assistance agencies throughout the state in order to educate these agencies on the role the CVCP takes in the collection process. CVSD Revenue Agents also spoke at the Oregon District Attorney's Association conference regarding the importance of ordering restitution. As mentioned during the last reporting period, the CVCP has also entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) that allows county court accounting clerks to assign delinquent criminal money judgments to the CVCP for collection, if named as a payee on the judgment.

### **CRIME VICTIMS' STANDING TO ENFORCE RIGHTS**

Oregon is one of the twenty plus states with constitutional victims' rights. These legal rights include reasonable protection, notice of hearings, and a right to a consultation with the district attorney before the court accepts a plea in a violent felony case. While Oregon's constitution provided strong rights for victims for many years, the constitution was explicit that victims could not legally enforce these rights; they were illusory rights.

In May, 2008, Oregon voters approved two measures to allow for victims to have standing to enforce their constitutional rights. These measures went into effect on June 19, 2008. Oregon's Attorney General, Hardy Myers, worked on a strong consensus bill to set up the statutory framework to guide victims' enforcement of constitutional rights. However, the bill did not pass out of the legislature's Ways and Means Committee prior to the constitutional amendments going into affect. The state judiciary, in conversation with stakeholders, incorporated some provisions for enforcement of the rights in the state's Uniform Trial Court Rules (UTCs) as a way to allow for enforcement prior to passage of the statutory framework. The UTCs include a complaint form designed to be victim-friendly, i.e., not requiring a legal background to complete, file and serve. Another strong consensus bill will go before the state legislature during its next session early in 2009.

The implications of the constitutional victims' rights amendments are yet unfolding. To date, very few victims have filed enforcement actions. Nonetheless, many Oregon district attorneys are filing certifications to inform the courts of what rights victims want to have honored in cases. Many conversations are taking place about compliance best practices, signs have gone up outside of courtrooms asking victims to check in with clerks, and the constitutional provisions are being integrated into general adult criminal and juvenile justice practice in Oregon.

Victims' rights are also a part of current conversations with the Oregon Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision, the Psychiatric Security Review Board and the Oregon Human Trafficking Task Force.

### **ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM**

The Address Confidentiality Program (ACP), which began in January 1, 2007, provides a safe substitute address to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, and to their family members, who have fled an abusive or violent situation and fear the abuser will use public records to find them and continue the abuse. ACP participants are able to request the substitute address be used by public agencies when a new public record is being created. Another essential function of the program is to provide a cost-free mail forwarding service of first-class mail to program participants.

The ACP Coordinator provides statewide trainings for government and non-profit victim assistance agencies. The ACP trainings provide victim advocates with detailed information to be used in assessing whether the ACP is an appropriate resource for a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking and when helping to sign up victims for the ACP. The ACP Coordinator has trained 336 advocates from 51 different victim assistance agencies in all 36 of Oregon's counties: and has also provided informational training to several state and local government agencies. Currently, the ACP Coordinator is researching a web based training option that would provide a more cost effective training while allowing more advocates across the State to be trained.

For this reporting period, the program received 123 applications for participation with a total of 317 active participants (including family member co-participants) and forwarded 8,713 pieces of mail.

### **COMMON PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

All CVSD subgrantees are required to submit periodic reports to CVSD on program outputs (e.g., numbers of victims served by crime type and types of services provided.) Subgrantees are also required to collect and report data on short-term outcomes, that is, the changes that victims experience because of the services provided. Since 2002, CVSD subgrantees have been required to collect outcome feedback from at least 10% of

appropriate clients<sup>1</sup>. For several years, CVSD allowed grantees to select the outcomes on which they would report. Since January 2006, all CVSD subgrantees have been required to collect and report on specific outcomes. The outcomes on which subgrantees report were developed by CVSD in collaboration with subgrantee programs. All types of victim service providers report on one general outcome measure. In addition, 3 types of providers (Domestic & Sexual Violence services programs (DV/SAs), District Attorney based Victim Assistance Programs (DA VAPs) and Child Abuse Intervention Centers (CAICs)) report on 2 measures specific to the type of services they provide. The table below describes the measures that are used. Reports are submitted quarterly and include not only responses to the measures, but also the number of surveys distributed and the number received.

**Common Outcome Measures Required for Use by All CVSD Grantees**

<b>Grantees Required to Use Outcome</b>	<b>Outcome Measure (Question)</b>
All CVSD Grantees	The services provided by this program helped me make informed choices about my situation.
DV/SA Providers	After working with this agency, I have some new ideas about how to stay safe.
	After working with this agency, I know more about resources that may be available, including how to access them.
DA VAPs	As a result of the information I received from this agency, I better understand my rights as a victim of crime.
	The information given to me by this agency helped me better understand the criminal justice system process as it relates to my case.
Child Abuse Intervention Centers (CAICs)	The staff of this agency treated my family with sensitivity and respect.
	The staff of this agency was supportive in helping me to access recommended treatment services for my child and family.

Because cumulative data for the final quarter of this reporting period has not yet been analyzed and because data from quarter-to-quarter is fairly consistent, data for the year from July 2007 through June 2008 will provide a snapshot of outcome results for the purposes of this report. For that period 30,355 forms were distributed by all subgrantee programs and 8,225 were returned for an overall return rate of 27%. As to substantive response:

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<sup>1</sup> Because grantees of funds administered by CVSD work with victims of crime who may be in crisis or experiencing trauma, they are given wide latitude in assessing which clients may be able to provide feedback. CVSD stresses that clients in crisis are not expected to provide satisfaction feedback.

- Of the 8,041 victims responding to the first required outcome, 91.3% agreed or strongly agreed that *“The services provided by this program helped me make informed choices about my situation,”* while only 3.3% disagreed (the rest had “no opinion”).
- 92.1% of the 3,717 DV/SA victims responding agreed that, *“After working with this [DV/SA] agency, I have some new ideas about how to stay safe,”* while only 2.7% disagreed.
- 87.7% of the 2,721 victims responding agreed that, *“As a result of the information I received from this [DA VAP] agency, I better understand my rights as a victim of crime,”* while only 6% disagreed;<sup>2</sup> and
- 91.4% of the 781 victims responding agreed that *“The staff of this [CAIC] agency treated my family with sensitivity and respect,”* while only 2.5% disagreed.

### **VICTIMS RIGHTS PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

About a dozen of Oregon’s crime victims’ rights require that a victim request the right in order for it to actually be a right. For example, a victim has the right to consult with a district attorney before the DA proffers a violent felony plea if the victim so requests. A district attorney may enter a plea without consultation if the victim did not ask in advance to be consulted.

In order to make the process of requesting victims’ rights as simple for victims as possible, the Oregon Crime Victims’ Rights Compliance Project developed a “Rights Request Form”. This form lists ten rights that a district attorney’s office or juvenile department would typically honor or facilitate. (The back of the form lists four rights that would typically come into play after a conviction.) A check-off box precedes each of the rights so that a victim may easily identify whether or not the victim wishes to exercise the requested right.

Beginning in October, 2007, CVSD began requiring district attorney-based victim assistants to report on how many victims requested each of the rights on the Rights Request form and what the victim assistants’ policy was for honoring the rights requested. Each quarter, between 1,300 and 2,134 victims asked to receive notice of critical stage hearings, making this the most requested right. (This particular right happens to be one of Oregon’s newly enforceable constitutional rights.) The second and third most requested rights were the right to consult with a prosecuting attorney about a violent felony plea and to be notified in advance of release hearings. (The right to consult is a constitutional right; the right to notice of release hearings is a statutory right related to the right to be notified of critical stage hearings.) The volume of requests of constitutional rights, a volume that increased over the course of the year, suggests that the impact of enforceability of those rights is substantial.

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<sup>2</sup> As a rule, the highest rate of disagreement on outcome measures is seen by the District Attorney based Victim Assistance Programs. Open ended comments included in surveys indicates that often this negative feedback reflects dissatisfaction with case outcome, rather than victim services provided by the grantee program.

The quarterly reports also allow CVSD to see where crime victims' rights practice is strong and where it might be improved. Victim assistants' work to provide notice of critical stage hearings alone is impressive and points to the need for improved technological support for victim assistants in providing such notice. The quarterly reports indicate that many victims are requesting rights and that victim assistants are developing sound policy and best practice for honoring those rights. CVSD's work in developing the Rights Request form for victims and then finding a way to evaluate victim assistants' response to the form has given a useful picture of trends in crime victims' rights practice in Oregon.

### **CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS PROJECT STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

The Crime Victims' Rights Project implemented and evaluated 86% of the strategic objectives identified in the strategic plan implemented in the first year of the Project:

- I.1 Advisory Committee Convenes Quarterly;
- II.1 Crime Victims Needs Assessment Updated;
- II.2 Compliance Implementation Plan Approved;
- III.1 Increase Number of Victims Informed of Rights;
- III.2 Increase Number of Victims Whose Rights are Honored;
- III.3 Increase System Providers' Knowledge of Rights;
- IV.1 Crime Victims Better Understand Rights;
- V.1 Crime Victims Get Notice of Rights;
- V.2 Key Stakeholders Establish Procedures for Compliance;
- V.4 Key Stakeholders Establish Training Design;
- V.5 Effectiveness of Project Confirmed (Implemented); and
- V.6 Viability of Project Ensured (Implemented).

The two objectives that were not met during the Project had to do with a crime victims' rights noncompliance response process, express authority for which has not yet been given by the Oregon legislature. This authority is expected to be passed by the legislature early in 2009.

The Project and ongoing Program are dependent upon collaboration with stakeholders:

- Advisory Committee membership and subcommittee/work group membership each held at 25 members;
- Statewide and national trainings engage system practitioners in learning about and discussion of crime victims' rights practice. Agencies who sent staff to participate in the Train-the-Trainer program increased their collaboration with our work. For example, one of the trainers trained facilitated a statewide high school student government training on victims' rights; and
- In addition to community involvement through the Advisory Committee, work groups and trainings, collaboration with law enforcement agencies, district attorneys, the Parole Board, the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB), mental health agencies, the FBI, the Federal Attorneys Office, judges, et al.,

increased through the Program Director's participation with the Governor's PSRB Sitting Work Group, Parole Board review work, the Oregon Human Trafficking Task Force, and the Multnomah County Court of Excellence Workgroup.

### **VICTIMS RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AT 2008 ODAA SUMMER CONFERENCE**

In collaboration with the Oregon District Attorney Association (ODAA) CVSD offers a training track for DA-based victim assistance staff at the ODAA summer conference. In July 2008, the VAP training track focused on crime victims' rights enforcement. This year's training was attended by Victim Assistance Providers (VAPs) representing 34 out of 36 counties. This training expanded upon the crime victims' rights enforcement overview provided at CVSD's regional trainings earlier that summer.

The ODAA Victim Assistance Program track included the following:

- What are a victim's constitutional rights?
- Which victims' constitutional rights must a victim request in order for the rights to be actualized?
- What is the current process for filing prosecutorial certification of compliance with victim's constitutional rights and how are DA's offices using the certification form?
- What does it mean that a prosecuting attorney may assert a victim's right? What happens when a prosecuting attorney declines a request to assert a victim's right?
- How may victims bring rights enforcement actions?
- How are some DA's using victims' rights waivers?
- When does the constitution allow a court to suspend the rights of organized crime victims or minor victims?
- What practices are victim assistants using to efficiently track and respond to crime victims' rights?
- What are recent developments in restitution practice?

The ODAA VAP training track allowed for informal conversation about the impact of victims' rights enforcement as well as the more formal presentations over a day and a half. Advocates were able to learn the latest legal developments and to share how they were responding to the developments within their offices. A secondary topic covered was around restitution collections and best practices. Included in this presentation was clarification on what role is played by the Crime Victim Services Division Revenue agents and the importance of getting compensation information from the Compensation Section to include in the restitution request.

Feedback from this training was very positive. Seventy percent of participants responded that they would like to participate in the VAP workgroup that is being facilitated by our Division to work on best practices and address common areas of concern.

## **VINES UPDATE AND VINES CONFERENCE**

The Automated Victim Notification System, known as VINES (Victim Information Notification Everyday) in Oregon, continues to be a useful part of a safety net for many victims. According to statistics received from the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC), the state agency administering VINES, there were 27,343 total e-mail and phone registrations to the Oregon VINE system during the reporting period. Also during this time period VINE received 105,930 incoming calls from Oregon and confirmed 30,713 phone notifications. On the VINE website, [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com) there were 71,225 e-mail notifications delivered to Oregon victims and the total searches (phone and web combined) was 998,446.

CVSD, along with DOC, is now exploring the possibility of adding a court notification module to the existing VINE system. Since the passage of an Oregon Constitutional Amendment in May of 2008 giving victims remedy if their rights are violated, the criminal justice system has been motivated to ensure that victims are informed of their rights and the court events associated with those rights. A court module, such as offered through VINE Court, could significantly aid DA's offices and courts in making timely hearing or change of hearing notifications to victims. Since VINE is able to notify people via phone and/or e-mail making several tries a day, it is more likely victims will be contacted successfully than with traditional mail and/or advocate calling methods.

In addition, the automated system can be used to notify offenders of court events, thus reducing the Failure to Appear (FTA) rate. Oregon's most populous county, Multnomah has been using a limited system to call selected offenders since 2005. The system has resulted in significant cost savings from reduced FTAs and the county anticipated saving \$1.9 million in 2007. We are hopeful, should an automated court system be implemented in Oregon, that it would include not only timely notification to victims, but cost savings to counties that might then be used to enhance other services to victims of crime.

## **FEDERAL TRAINING DOLLARS**

The Crime Victim Services Division has chosen to set aside 1% of the administrative dollars for the purposes of training of subgrantees.

For the third year in a row, CVSD was invited to host a Prosecutor Based Victim Assistance Track at the Oregon District Attorney Association's annual summer conference. Thirty-four out of 36 County Victim Assistance Directors attended the day and a half long training. Additional details of this training are under the Victim Rights Enforcement Training at 2008 ODAA Summer Conference heading earlier in this section.

CVSD continued its financial commitment to the Crime Victim's Assistance Network (CVAN) State Victims Assistance Academy (SVAA) in this reporting period. A total of fifty-six victim advocates from government based programs, non-profits, law enforcement and child assessments centers attended a spring and fall training held in Salem. Recognizing the importance of providing current information for advocates,

CVAN has committed to working with victim service partners to update the training materials and reevaluate both core and advanced training subjects in the curriculum to better educate Oregon's victim services providers.

The 2008 Director's Meeting, as mentioned earlier in this Section, took on a different format this year providing regional training instead of a training in a central location. Feedback from past years from program directors is that it often creates a hardship on them to be away from their programs for training. In order to make it easier for directors to attend, Director's Day went on the road providing training to programs in four locations throughout the State. The regional format was very well received by program directors. As a result, it is our plan to alternate years in providing a Director's Day to bring all statewide program directors together in one location and in alternative years to conduct the four regional Director's Day trainings.

### **SAVE FUND**

The Sexual Assault Victim Emergency Medical Response (SAVE) fund continues to be a valuable resource for victims of sexual assault in the State of Oregon. The fund was established to provide access to appropriate medical care for victims of sexual assault and to provide a means for collection of forensic evidence at no cost to the victim and without billing the victim's insurance.

Because many victims of sexual assault are not ready or willing to report the crime at the time of presentation to the emergency medical facility, HB 2154 was passed during the 2007 legislative session to allow victims to have time-sensitive forensic evidence collected anonymously. Victims of sexual assault are also able to receive a forensic medical examination even if they do not wish to notify law enforcement regarding the assault. It is hoped that more victims will be willing to seek medical attention and have forensic evidence collected if the pressure to report is eased. The forensic evidence is preserved for six months allowing victims the option to have what could become critical evidence available if they decide to report within that timeframe.

To date, 2576 victims have accessed the SAVE fund with 668 claims filed in this reporting period, a 16% increase from the last reporting period. Of the 668 claims, 330 of the exams were conducted by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE). The fund paid nearly \$308,579 during this reporting period, with the average payment to medical providers in the amount of \$462 per victim. The average number of claims received per month during the reporting period was 55.

This unique fund is a public/private partnership that relies on private donations, as well as, VOCA Compensation dollars and punitive damages settlements funds. During the 2005-2006 reporting period CVSD was successful in implementing an online donation mechanism for the SAVE fund ([http://www.doj.state.or.us/crimev/save\\_donate.shtml](http://www.doj.state.or.us/crimev/save_donate.shtml)). While the fund is fairly stable at this time, it receives no state general fund contributions. CVSD is exploring marketing strategies and ways to encourage private donations such as from hospitals, insurance companies and others.

## **NATIONAL CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

CVSD was fortunate to participate in both national conferences for VOCA administrators. The National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators Conference was held in Buffalo, New York and the National Association of VOCA Compensation Board's Conference was held in San Diego. Each conference was attended by three CVSD staff members. The staff attending found both conferences well organized and informative. It is refreshing to have the smaller conferences in alternate years as it provides an even greater opportunity to network with colleagues from across the United States.

During National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA) Conference, CVSD Director Cynthia Stinson was a panel presenter on Victims' Rights Compliance Programs. Ms. Stinson was also voted onto the NAVAA Board.

## **STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM**

CVSD currently administers \$1,584,858 in FY 2008 STOP VAWA Formula Grant Program funds to thirty-eight (38) non-competitive and fifteen (15) competitive subgrantees. Subgrantee agencies include: non-profit, non-governmental victim service providers, law enforcement, prosecution, and courts.

The Oregon VAWA Advisory Board is a partner in the discussions that will shape the 2009-2011 joint non-competitive funds allocation process see Section B. This joint allocation process includes the non-competitive STOP VAWA funding. The Board is also the vehicle by which the applications for competitive funds are reviewed and recommendations for funding are determined.

The *STOP VAWA Implementation Plan for Oregon, FYs 2007-2010* is the primary document that informs the funding allocation decisions of the Oregon VAWA Advisory Board and CVSD. Annual updates and adjustments to the *Implementation Plan* are drawn from the contributions of the Oregon VAWA Advisory Board and its community partners.

### **1. Office on Violence Against Women Site Visit to Oregon**

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) selected CVSD for a grant monitoring site visit which took place September 8-10, 2008. The purpose of the visit was to assess CVSD's compliance with the special conditions and regulations of the STOP VAWA Formula Grant Program, to learn about Oregon's progress in meeting the project goals and objectives outlined in the *Implementation Plan* and to provide technical assistance, if necessary. Additional detail about this site visit is reported earlier in this Section.

## **2. Annual STOP Administrator's Conference**

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) hosted its annual STOP Administrator's Conference in New Orleans, LA on November 27-29, 2007. Christine Heyen, STOP Program Coordinator, Karen Heywood, Assistant Director and Cynthia Stinson, Director represented the Oregon Department of Justice, CVSD. The purpose of the annual STOP Administrator's Conference is to provide updates on, and technical assistance for, implementing the STOP VAWA Formula Grant Program. All eligible STOP VAWA Program recipients, including the fifty states and the territories of the United States and the District of Columbia, are asked to attend.

Of special significance at the conference was the first membership meeting of the Association of VAWA Administrators (AVA). Sixty-one people representing thirty-eight states were in attendance and elected thirteen state administrators to the AVA Board. Cynthia Stinson was one of the thirteen state administrators elected to the AVA Board.

AVA's primary purpose is to encourage and facilitate mutual support, awareness and cooperation among states and territories administering VAWA grants. In carrying out this purpose, the Association seeks to provide a centralized resource for timely information and assistance, to be a collective voice for the advancement of improvements in the way criminal justice systems and human service professionals respond to violent crimes against women and to enhance the effectiveness of VAWA administration.

## **NATIONAL CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

Portland, Oregon served as the location for the National Center for Victims of Crime National Conference entitled, "Responses, Rights and Resources for Crime Victims," co-hosted with the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force June 2-4, 2008.

CVSD staff members were involved in making the conference a success. An opportunity arose for staff to volunteer their time in return for free conference registrations. Nancy Walker and Cathy Relang the VOCA Grant Monitors, Carol Schrader the Victim Rights Program Manager and Karen Heywood the Assistant Director of CVSD volunteered their time. This allowed CVSD to extend the training budget, send additional staff to the conference and provided volunteers the opportunity to meet and work with NCVC staff. Presentations were full of great, applicable ideas, strategies and data on topics ranging from *Cyberspace Safety* to *Trafficking of Domestic Minors* to *Ethics for Victim Service Providers*.

The conference was extremely informative and ripe with opportunities for networking. As an example, one VOCA Grant Monitor reports that she has since had contact with program staff in New York and Texas and was able to share resources and ideas with both. Should the opportunity arise in the future, CVSD will certainly assist with this conference again.