



THE BEACON

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

FALL 2010

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

BY JANET GOOD, OVS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SPECIALIST

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Back in 1981, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence created the very first “Day of Unity” as a way to bring together advocates all across the nation who were working to end violence against women and children. It wasn’t long before that single day of unity evolved into an entire week devoted to awareness activities at the local, state and national levels. Support for the movement increased and the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was held in 1987, the same year the first toll-free national domestic violence hotline made its debut.

Today, Domestic Violence Awareness month is recognized and celebrated across the nation and is supported by an annual Presidential Proclamation. Stronger than ever before, the focus of the movement is to draw attention to this problem that affects every community, yet the original intent still remains - the first Monday of Domestic Violence Awareness Month is still observed as a Day of Unity.

Please join us this month to pay tribute to those who have died because of domestic violence, to support those who have survived, and to connect those who work to end violence.

Our Mission

Kansas Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services serves as a liaison between victims and department staff, the Kansas Parole Board, and victim service providers. We are committed to providing crime victims the opportunity to express their ideas and opinions. We will approach our work from a victim-focused perspective.

Reaching Out, Making a Difference

In Kansas an estimated 106,419 women, or about 10% of the population are victims of domestic violence each year ¹. Chances are, you know someone for whom this grim statistic is a reality. But if someone in need reaches out to you, do you know how to help? The following information can help guide you if you take that step to help make someone’s life safer.

http://www.helpchangekansas.com/10_Things_You_Can_Do.html .

Nat’l Domestic Violence Hotline (800) 799-SAFE [7233] 24 hrs/365 days a year.

Nat’l Teen Dating Helpline (866) 331-9474

(1) Docking Institute of Public Affairs. (2007). *Domestic Violence Victim Services Awareness, Use and Satisfaction Report*.

CHAMPION OF JUSTICE FOR FALL 2010 QUARTER

BY LAURA FARMER, THERESE SCHROER, AND KIMBERLY MAROTTA

The Fall 2010 Champion of Justice Award goes to. . .

Don Schwartz,
Parole Supervisor,
On behalf of The Topeka Parole Unit

Under the leadership of Don Schwartz, the Parole Officers of The Topeka Parole Unit are Champions of Justice for their actions promoting public safety and supporting victims of crime.

A couple of years ago, the Office of Victim Services made an effort to identify all parole violations involving Personal Conduct to ensure victims involved were linked for notification and received the appropriate referrals to assist them in staying safe. The details of the Personal Conduct violations are readily available in the computer system, but did not always make it to the Office of Victim Services Liaisons. When the effort began, most months resulted in four to six cases referred

for follow up and as many as 10 violations not referred.

In the past few months, that has changed. From July through September of this year, the Topeka Parole Office has referred 100% of all victims of Personal Conduct Violations committed by offenders on supervision to the OVS Parole Liaisons without any reminder or prompting. It should be noted that the Parole Officers' dedication and commitment to ensure victims have access to information, resources, and referrals provided by OVS staff is commendable.

Because of the example and leadership of Parole Supervisor Don Schwartz, the dedicated Parole Staff for the Topeka Parole Unit have focused on the details which matter most of all. They are consistently showing a willingness to assist crime victims whenever an opportunity is presented, while ensuring that offenders are supported in their successes and yet still being held accountable for their crime is what makes Don Schwartz's team Champions of Justice. Congratulations to Don and his team! The OVS Staff truly appreciate all your hard work and dedication.

RECOGNITION/AWARENESS CALENDAR

October

National Crime Prevention Month

Week Without Violence
(18-22)

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women(25th)

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

America's Safe Schools Week
(17-23)

December

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

National Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week (3-9)

Make a Difference Day (23rd)

November

MADD, Tie One on for Safety

Universal Human Rights Month

RECOGNIZING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOW YOU CAN HELP

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION COMES FROM
RESOURCES PROVIDED BY THE YWCA AND KCSDV

WOULD YOU RECOGNIZE A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Common signs:

- Heavy makeup
- New bald spots
- Scrapes, bruises, cuts, or fractures
- Frequent injuries
- Loose or broken teeth
- Cigarette burns
- Bite marks
- Rope burns
- Welts with the outline of a belt buckle or other weapon

COULD YOU BE A VICTIM?

- Are you often afraid of your partner?
- Is your partner overly jealous?
- Do you avoid certain topics or spend a lot of time figuring out how to talk about certain topics so that you do not arouse your partner's anger?
- Do you ever feel that you can't do anything right for your partner?
- Is your partner controlling and won't let you see your family and friends?
- Does your partner insult you?
- Do you sometimes wonder if you are the one who is crazy, that maybe you are overreacting to your partner's behaviors?
- Do you sometimes fantasize about ways to kill your partner to get him or her out of your life?
- Are you afraid that your partner may try to kill you?
- Do you feel that there is nowhere to turn for help?
- Are you feeling emotionally numb?

- Were you abused as a child, or did you grow up with domestic violence in the household?
- Do you sometimes feel like you deserve to be physically hurt?
- Are you afraid of losing your children and pets if you leave your partner?

BE A SAFE FRIEND: HOW TO START A CONVERSATION WITH A VICTIM

Start a Conversation.

Provide an opportunity to talk in a safe place. Start the conversation by saying, "You seem so unhappy. Do you want to talk? I'll listen and I'll keep it between us."

Listen and Believe.

Listen without judgment, believe what she tells you, and acknowledge her feelings. Confusion, anger, sadness, guilt, numbness, helplessness, hopelessness, and self-blame are all normal feelings for a victim of abuse.

She's not a Helpless Victim.

Don't treat her like a child, or a helpless victim.

Explain her Rights.

Explain that she and her children have a right to peace and security in their own home. Refer her to an advocate, attorney, or other supportive professional for more information.

Offer Your Support.

Let her know you are there to support her, and you will help her however you can.

Make a Referral.

888-END-ABUSE and the domestic violence program serving your area.

Be Ready to Help.

You never know when the call might come.

You May Need Support.

The Kansas Crisis Hotline is available for you too. Call 888-END-ABUSE.

HELPFUL TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

National Children's Alliance
(800) 239-9950

National Center for Victims
of Crime
(800) 394-2255

National Domestic Violence
Hotline
(800) 799-7233

National Mothers Against
Drunk Driving
(800) 438-6233

DUI Victim Center of Kansas
(800) 873-6957

National Council on Aging
(800) 424-9046

National Center for Missing &
Exploited Children
(800) 843-5678

National Sexual Violence
Resource Center
(877) 739-3895

National Organization for
Victim Assistance
(800) TRY-NOVA

Office of Crime Victims Advocacy
(800) 822-1067

Rape, Abuse, and Incest
National Network (RAINN)
(800) 656-4673

Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse
(800) 638-8736

National Clearinghouse for
Alcohol and Drug Information
(800) 729-6686

Stalking Resource Center
(800) 394-2255

OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES - HIGHLIGHT ON VICTIM NOTIFICATION COORDINATORS

BY KIMBERLY MAROTTA, AMBER RAY, AND MOLLY TURNER

In order to best assist crime victims, the KDOC Office of Victim Services (OVS) has three Victim Notification Coordinators (VNC) on staff. Their job is to notify of certain types of changes with an offender that could impact victim safety and to provide victims with the opportunity to express their ideas and opinions. If there is a chance that a victim might meet their offender on the street, one of the VNC has probably attempted to notify about it. By law, crime victim information is kept in a separate confidential data base from other KDOC records. Reports are run on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis to provide mail notification to victims. Notification Coordinators also track requests for information that comes from phone calls or face-to-face meetings with victims who contact our office with questions or concerns. It is important that victims keep their contact information up to date if they want to continue to receive notification.

Molly Turner began working for the KDOC in July 1997 and has worked for OVS since November 2000. Molly provides notification to victims about special parole hearings, re-entry programs, media programs, and early discharge from parole. She coordinates the public comment session program and provides case histories to the Kansas Parole Board (KPB) when victims request them. She also provides follow up with victims who attended these sessions to answer their questions once a KPB decision is made. Much of Molly's time is spent answering the OVS toll free hotline and general Victim Notification emails. No phone call is ever the same, nor is any story we ever hear the same. Every day is different as a victim notification coordinator. The questions and needs that come to OVS through these contacts are varied and cover the entire range of services that OVS offers so Molly is well versed in all of our services.

Amber Ray began working for OVS in June 2008 and has been in her position as Special Programs Notification Coordinator for the past year. Amber provides notification and maintains the data systems for victims of offenders involved in the following special programs:

- Sexually Violent Predator – Kansas law allows the state to try certain sex offenders as predators in civil court after their release from the Department of Corrections. All violent sex offenders are screened. However, only those offenders who have both a qualifying offense and a mental abnormality or personality disorder will be considered for civil commitment to the Sexual Predator Treatment Program at Larned State Hospital for an indefinite period of time, subject to annual review.
- Interstate Compact - the option to have an offender's Court Service, Community Corrections, or Parole supervision transferred to another state.
- 4th DUI - offenders are supervised by Community Corrections after the offender serves the required jail sentence.
- SRS Mental Health notification - provides assistance to the victims of those defendants that are found not guilty by reason of mental defect or are not able to stand trial due to being incompetent. This is a fairly new initiative by the Office of Victim Services and went into effect July 1, 2010.
- Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) - detains and deports those offenders that have entered the US illegally and are sent to ICE post-incarceration to determine if that offender will be deported.
- Out of State Detainers - a warrant pending with another state to which the offender must report

immediately to address the warrant/pending charges.

Amber provides training to other KDOC employees as needed on these special programs so that state/federal guidelines for program administration are met. She works closely with victims over safety concerns arising from these special situations by providing appropriate community referrals. Amber serves as a liaison between victims and the Attorney General's Office, KDOC staff, the Kansas Parole Board, county victim/witness coordinators, and county prosecutors.

Kimberly Marotta has been with the OVS for almost a year now. She sends over a thousand letters a month to victims starting with their registration when the offender comes into the facility. Victims are notified about clemency applications filings, work release and private industry job opportunities available to minimum custody offenders, KPB public comment sessions for upcoming parole decisions, escapes, and parole/post release dates for offenders currently serving time in a facility. Victims are also notified about offenders on parole/post release who are absconders, apprehended, or condition violators as well as offenders who are no longer under KDOC supervision due to sentence max or death. Kimberly also provides information about OVS to victims of crime, community victim advocates, and KDOC employees through our brochures, web pages, and newsletter.

To contact our Victim Notification Coordinators, call:

Molly Turner	620-331-7787
Amber Ray	785-296-6362
Kimberly Marotta	785-296-3333

Or reach any of the OVS staff at our toll-free number at 1-866-404-6732.

TOPEKA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

KEVIN PELLANT, WARDEN

Topeka Correctional Facility (TCF) is committed to upholding the mission of the Department of Corrections with recognition of and attention to the gender specific needs of women inmates. As the only state correctional facility for women, female inmates serve their entire period of incarceration at TCF. TCF houses all custody levels: Medium and Maximum custody inmates are housed at I Cellhouse (maximum) and J Cellhouse (medium). Minimum custody inmates are housed among four dorms at the Central Unit Compound. TCF has the capacity for 727 inmates. The average daily population for FY2009 was 567. TCF provides a full range of correctional services and programs to meet the gender specific needs of female inmates. In addition, TCF provides inmates with the opportunity to participate in the following programs:

Inmate Family Reintegration Services (IFRS) and the Women's Activity Learning Center (WALC)

The IFRS program maintains positive relationships and fosters healthy connections between incarcerated women and their children. The classes offer women opportunities for growth in their parenting skills, knowledge of child development and nutrition. The women also work on craft projects for the United Methodist Women to give back to the community. Communication with the caregivers of their children, whether it is a private home, foster care, group home or institution, is supported and encouraged when authorized. Child centered visiting areas and parenting skill building activities provide the incarcerated parent and their families the ability to reintegrate with confidence and support. Mother/infant bonding is available for mothers and their babies for the first six weeks of the baby's life if the caregiver is able to bring the infant to the facility each day. TCF supports new mothers who

choose to nurse their babies by providing the necessary equipment.

Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts Beyond Bars

Programs provided through the Inmate Family Reintegration Services/Women's Activity Learning Center offer the children of incarcerated mothers a scouting opportunity with guidance from local Girl Scout and Boy Scout Councils.

**Growing Through Loss**

This grief group allows inmates to have a better understanding of the characteristics of grief and loss by increasing self-awareness of their grief and its impact. Losses can come in many forms including death, divorce, abandonment, loss of freedom, and loss of parental rights. Inmates process their grief through telling their story, journaling and art projects. The program is presented by volunteers from the community.

Volunteer-Provided GED Programming

Since 2005, volunteers have provided a structured opportunity for inmates to earn their GED diploma. In FY 2009, fourteen inmates earned their GED through the program.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES**Kansas Specialty Dog Services (KSDS)**

TCF partners with KSDS to train guide and service dogs for persons with dis-

abilities. Inmates volunteer to provide puppy socialization, intermediate training and service dog training. Each stage varies from four to 20 months during which the dog lives with an inmate trainer and is supported by a secondary trainer and mentor. Since 1996, the program has graduated more than 100 dogs. "Pooches and Pals," an inmate organization with a staff sponsor, raises funds to cover program costs such as veterinary care and training supplies.

"Blue Ribbon" Dog Program

TCF partners with the Helping Hands Humane Shelter to provide basic dog obedience training and grooming for dogs in eight-week cycles. Inmates are selected to provide this service that becomes their job assignment. Dogs in the program are generally older, larger and less likely to be adopted. Upon graduation, the dogs receive a "Blue Ribbon" and return to the shelter with a higher probability of being adopted. Since 1996, hundreds of dogs have been saved.

RE-ENTRY INITIATIVES**Shawnee, Sedgwick and Wyandotte County Re-entry Programs**

Administered by the Department of Corrections, these programs prepare and assist offenders transitioning back into the Wichita, Topeka and Kansas City areas. The programs' community partners include representatives from: law enforcement, businesses, job service/training agencies, political representatives, landlords, mental and medical health providers, victim services, and faith- and community-based organizations.

We are on the Web!

www.doc.ks.gov/victim-services

OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

Kansas Department of Corrections
Office of Victim Services
900 SW Jackson 400-N
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: 620-331-7787
Toll-free: 866-404-6732
E-mail: victimwitness@doc.ks.gov



**“ G I V I N G K A N S A S C R I M E
V I C T I M S A V O I C E I N
C O R R E C T I O N S B Y P R O V I D I N G
I N F O R M A T I O N , S E R V I C E S
A N D S U P P O R T W I T H
C O M P A S S I O N A N D R E S P E C T ”**

VICTIM INITIATED SERVICES

Public Comment Session
Advocacy Program

Facility Tours

Victim/Offender Dialogue

Parole Liaisons

Facility Liaisons

Apology Repository

Personalized Web Page

www.doc.state.ks.us/victim/victim.asp

NOTIFICATION SERVICES

Public Comment Session

Release Status—Parole, Conditional Release or Post-Release

Assignment to a Work Release Program

Eligibility for a Community Service Work Assignment

Application for Clemency

Supervision Revocation

Expiration of Sentence

Death of inmate

Escape

Application for Early Discharge

Interstate Compact

Absconders

Sexually Violent Predator

VICTIM SERVICES LIAISONS

Facility Liaison Services

Visitation/Contact Screening

Release Plan Screening

Cease Correspondence

Facility Tours

Attend Public Comment Sessions

Assistance with Navigating the System

Parole Liaison Services

Safety Planning

Family Reintegration

Assistance with Investigations/Sanctions/
Revocations/Morrissey Hearings

Work Closely with Community Partners

Provide Referrals