



THE BEACON

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

SUMMER/FALL 2014

MESSAGE FROM AUDREY CRESS DIRECTOR OF VICTIM SERVICES

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Our Mission

Kansas Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services serves as a liaison between victims and department staff, the Prisoner Review 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.

The Office of Victim Services (OVS) has been keeping busy since our last newsletter. June 30th marked the end of Fiscal Year 2014, the date we count our annual statistics. In looking back over the last year, OVS served 9,601 people in FY14 and sent 15,433 notification letters. On June 30, 2014 OVS had 29,554 victims registered for notification services. Our four parole liaisons, three facility liaisons, two notification coordinators, victim/offender program specialist, and domestic violence program specialist are each devoted to providing quality services to victims. As Director, I am continually impressed and inspired by them.

The staff within OVS and many other employees throughout KDOC observed Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. There were several events, trainings and fundraisers planned throughout the month. Several facilities hosted trainings focused on "Domestic Violence from Behind Bars," the Northern and Southern Parole Regions hosted dress down days raising money for local domestic violence programs, and Hutchinson Correctional Facility held a successful donation drive for a local shelter program. Statistics show that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced physical violence, rape, or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their life. Initial statistics also reveal that 45-50% of KDOC inmates have a history of domestic violence perpetration. KDOC views domestic violence as a concerning issue and has committed to expanding

efforts to address domestic violence.

I am excited to announce that the OVS team is growing this fall. KDOC is in the process of expanding our Batterer Intervention Program (BIP). Currently, KDOC employs two BIP staff, who provide services in the Kansas City/Olathe and Wichita parole offices. We are in the process of hiring four new staff to expand our existing services. Part of the expansion includes providing BIP services to incarcerated offenders for the first time. Lansing Correctional Facility and Hutchinson Correctional Facility will serve as the pilot locations for the facility-based program. The other new staff will support our existing programming in the parole offices in Kansas City, Olathe and Wichita. The KDOC will also be working more closely with existing community-based providers to most effectively serve paroled offenders who are required to attend BIP in the community. Later in this newsletter, there is an article about the effectiveness of BIP programs across the country. We look forward to continuing the strong work already done by the KDOC BIP and partnering to create the most positive outcomes for victims.

In this exciting time of expansion, as always, please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions or thoughts at audrey.cress@doc.ks.gov.

BATTERER INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

MICHELLE MCCORMICK, BIP UNIT COORDINATOR FOR
THE KANSAS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

The Office of the Attorney General has focused on increasing the safety of victims while holding domestic violence batterers accountable through the work of the Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) Unit. There has been considerable progress in the last few years in Kansas, including increased access to certified programs statewide, increased use of evidence-based practices by batterer intervention programs, and statutory changes that enabled the development and statewide use of the Kansas Domestic Violence Offender Assessment tool to assess those who are referred by the court.

Working with those who batter can be both challenging, yet rewarding, work. Nationally, research repeatedly indicates that recidivism rates are reduced for those who complete a BIP.

- Massachusetts study: Those who completed a certified BIP were significantly less likely to be rearrested for any type of crime: 47.7 percent vs. 83.6 percent; any violent crime: 33.7 percent vs. 64.2 percent; violation of a protection order: 17.4 percent vs. 41.8 percent. (Bocko, S., C. Cicchetti, L. Lempicki, and A. Powell. *Restraining Order Violators, Corrective Programming and Recidivism*. Boston, MA: Office of the Commissioner of Probation, November 2004.)
- Dallas study: Twice as many program dropouts as completers were rearrested for any charge within 13 months: 39.7 vs. 17.9 percent; the difference for assaults was 8.1 percent vs. 2.8 percent. (Eckhardt, C. "Stages and Processes of Change and Associated Treatment Outcomes in Partner Assaultive Men." Final Report for National Institute of Justice, August 2003.)
- Chicago study: Of more than 500 court referred batterers to more than 30 BIP programs, recidivism rates after 2.4 years average were 14.3 percent for completers; 34.6 percent for noncompleters. (Bennett, L., C. Stoops, C. Call, and H. Flett. "Program Completion and Re-Arrest in a Batterer Intervention System." *Research on Social Work Practice*, 17(42)(2007): 42-54.)
- Florida study: The odds that completers would be rearrested were half those of a control group that were not assigned to a program. (Feder, L., and L. Dugan. "Testing a Court-Mandated Treatment Program for Domestic Violence Offenders: The Broward Experiment." Final report for National Institute of Justice, 2004.)
- Multi-state study: Abusers who completed their program reduced their risk of reassault in a range of 46-66 percent. (Gondolf, E. *Batterer Intervention Systems*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2002.)
- Topeka study: A review by court services found that 81 percent of those who completed the Family Peace Initiative Program in a five year time frame were not charged with another crime and did not have another protection order placed against them in that county.

To review the Kansas standards for batterer intervention programs or to view a list of certified programs in the state, please go to www.ag.ks.gov, select "Victim Services", and then select "Batterer Intervention". For more information please email michelle.mccormick@ag.ks.gov or call 785-296-3367 to speak with the BIP Unit Coordinator.

HELPFUL TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

National Children's Alliance
(800) 239-9950

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) 879-6682

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) 392-2255

CHAMPION OF JUSTICE AWARD—SUMMER 2014

BY JENNIFER BRENDEL AND KIMBERLY MAROTTA, OVS

The Champion of Justice is awarded to Kansas Department of Correction (KDOC) staff who work diligently for the safety of crime victims and/or public safety in general while supporting offender success. In a rare event, the Summer 2014 award is being awarded to a trio on the Hutchinson Correctional Facility's (HCF) Security Staff. This summer's award goes to:

Cpl. Zachary Burson**Cpl. Nathan Fears**

and

**Special Agent Supervisor,
EAI Troy Robinson**

Cpl. Zachary Burson took the time to talk with a visitor when things appeared "off" at a visit. After listening to their story, Cpl. Burson followed up with Enforcements, Apprehensions and Investigations (EAI) and security at the facility. At all times he treated the visitor/victim with dignity and respect.

As a part of this investigation, Cpl. Nathan Fears was asked to listen to the phone conversations between this visitor/victim and the offender. The

content of these calls was unsettling to many, but Cpl. Fears accurately documented it without judgment. He went beyond just the words that were being said and described the long pauses and stress that the victim's voice was showing. Based on evidence collected, HCF denied future visits/contact.

When others tried to pressure the victim and facility regarding the situation, EAI Special Agent Supervisor Troy Robinson reiterated to them that it was the offender's repeated actions that had cost him these privileges and the blame is solely on him for the consequences. Mr. Robinson also made efforts to make sure that the victim's cooperation with the facility was kept confidential so there would be no negative repercussions to the victim.

The victim had tried for a long time to get someone to notice what was happening and to make it stop, but no one had made any efforts to help until HCF staff reached out and listened. This intervention was truly a team effort. There were numerous people from the warden down that had a part in the services this victim received. It was a delicate situation and the victim was treated with dignity and respect and did not feel "looked down on" by staff. Staff documentation was professional and accurate without any personal judgment. By working together not only was the victim taken out of a stressful and painful situation, but they were shown that the KDOC cared enough to listen and ask what was needed.

These three gentlemen are Champions of Justice—thank you for your great work!



In honor of the Kansans who lost their lives at the hands of another, the Victim Services Division of the Office of the Attorney General and the Kansas Organization for Victim Assistance (KOVA) are co-hosting three Annual Remembrance Receptions:

- * Friday, December 12th at 1:00pm, Memorial Hall, Topeka
- * Tuesday, December 16th at 10:00am, Reardon Center, Kansas City
- * Thursday, December 18th at 1:00, Newman University, Wichita

The reception features a slideshow presentation of photos, quotes and remembrances in honor of those who have lost their life to violence. If you would like to attend the reception or contribute a photo to the slideshow, please contact 785-291-3950 or 1-800-828-9745 or email rsvp.reception@ag.ks.gov.

VICTIM NOTIFICATION FOR KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS SUPERVISED OFFENDERS

BY KIMBERLY MAROTTA, VICTIM NOTIFICATION COORDINATOR

“Giving Kansas crime victims a voice in corrections by providing information, services, and support with compassion and respect.” – OVS Vision Statement

Kansas legislation has set a list of crimes deemed “victim” crimes under the Kansas Criminal Code. For these crimes, victims are to receive written notification about certain changes in an offender’s supervision. If there is a chance that the victim might meet their offender on the street, OVS’s Victim Notification Coordinators have probably attempted to send a letter about it.

The Kansas Crime Victims’ Bill of Rights recognizes the following individuals as crime victims:

“Any person who suffers direct or threatened physical, emotional or financial harm as a result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime against a person.”

Victim information is collected by the county or district court during the trial process or at the time of sentencing. Once the offender transfers to Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) custody, the KDOC will request that information be forwarded to the Office of Victim Services (OVS). From the information provided by the county, any direct victims of crime or primary family members (in the case of minors or homicide victims) are registered into a confidential database that is maintained separately from all offender records. Witnesses, law enforcement, and other family members may also want notification on an offender and may request to be registered for notification. Also, victims of any offender under Department of Corrections supervision may be eligible for victim services – no matter what the crime the offender is supervised for committing.

Each month, Victim Notification Coordinators send out about 1,200-1,400 letters of notification. Notification starts with registration and information about available services and goes on to cover changes in supervision that could impact victim safety and to provide victims with the opportunity to express their ideas and opinions. The Office of Victim Services provides written notification to registered crime victims upon:

- Admission/Victim registration
- Consideration for assignment to work release or community work assignment

- Consideration for a clemency application
- Media appearance
- Public Comment Session/Parole Decision
- Escape (telephone notification provided)
- Inmate death
- Release from prison
- Sexually Violent Predator civil commitment and release
- Failure of an offender to report on post-incarceration supervision
- Transfer to another state during post-incarceration supervision
- Discharge from KDOC supervision
- Re-admission to a KDOC facility

Notification Coordinators run reports on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis to provide mail notification to victims. Most notification is sent with a minimum two week lead time before the supervision change takes place for a given offender. However, in some cases, sentencing changes caused by court orders, legislative action, or completion of programming that impacts release dates may reduce that lead time.

Victim Notification Coordinators also provide initial contact on the OVS toll-free phone line and by email at victimwitness@doc.ks.gov. Every day is different for notification staff as calls/emails/letters come in with questions or concerns about offender supervision and notifications that victims may have received. The questions/needs/wants that come to OVS through these contacts are varied and cover the entire range of services offered.

The two primary reasons for a victim to not have received notification are 1) victim information was never received by OVS to register them and 2) address information was out of date and victims were not reachable by letter. If you are a victim and you change your address, please contact OVS at our toll free number of 866-404-6732 or go online to http://www.doc.ks.gov/victim-services/notification_form so that your contact information can be updated and you are kept informed.

ABOUT: THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SCREENING TOOL, FOR USE ON AN INCARCERATED POPULATION

BY JANET GOOD, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE SPECIALIST

Domestic violence (DV) is a pervasive problem that has a significant impact on KDOC and victims in the community. Unlike convictions for sex offenses, that by their nature often immediately identify the perpetrators as sex offenders, domestic violence can be present in any offense.

In Kansas during 2012, there were 21,124 incidents of intimate partner domestic violence reported to law enforcement, that were charged under 86 different criminal statutes¹. Of these, only Domestic Battery indicates that domestic violence was a factor at all, and as Domestic Battery is a misdemeanor, offenders would not be given a prison sentence on this crime alone.

Currently, the only way in our system to determine who the perpetrators of these crimes are, is by a time-consuming review of an offender's records. Even then, a recent study of offenders in our Reception and Diagnostic Unit (RDU), where all new inmates enter the state prison system in Kansas, indicated that 31% of these new offenders have a clear conviction history of domestic violence, identifiable by a Domestic Violence Designation (pursuant to K.S.A. 22-4616), or by a conviction for Violation of a Protection Order or Domestic Battery. However, that number doesn't include any arrests or charges for DV offenses that didn't lead to a

conviction, or convictions for crimes such as Aggravated Assault, or Murder, that could definitely be domestic violence, but are not clearly identified. As such, there existed a need for a method to identify, in the incarcerated population, those offenders with a current or past history of domestic violence behaviors. To meet this need, the Domestic Violence Screening Tool was created.

About the Tool

The Domestic Violence Screening Tool is a six-question survey that asks an offender about any:

1. Police response for an incident with an intimate or dating partner
2. Arrest, charge or conviction of crime against an intimate or dating partner
3. Incarceration for a crime against an intimate or dating partner
4. Protection or restraining Orders
5. History of domestic violence related counseling or programming
6. Violations, sanctions or revocation of parole or probation due to an incident with an intimate or dating partner.

The current draft of the Screening Tool will be in paper format until a comprehensive IT system

is completed automate the questions and provide a system to store collected domestic violence information. Screenings will take place at the RDU, in parole and in all male correctional facilities for offenders currently serving time. Offenders identified as having a history of domestic violence behavior will then be subject to a process to determine their risk level and appropriateness for a KDOC in-facility Batterer Intervention Program, a KDOC parole-focused Batterer's Intervention Program or to receive a referral to a community provider for BIP. This new program will likely increase victim safety by having offenders engage in the most effective programming at the earliest stage of the correctional process and being held accountable for their actions. In addition, offenders will also benefit from having some of the financial barriers to obtaining programming addressed prior to release. For more information about the Domestic Violence Screening Tool, please contact Janet Good at 785-506-4193.

¹Kansas Bureau of Investigation (2013) Domestic Violence, Stalking and Rape in Kansas, as reported to law enforcement agencies, 2012.

FACILITY HIGHLIGHT: LANSING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY REX PRYOR—WARDEN

The Lansing Correctional Facility (LCF) is the oldest and largest correctional facility in the state of Kansas. Spread over some 2,711 acres, construction was started in 1864 and the first inmates were housed in 1868. The facility's 150th anniversary will occur in 2018, so there is a long and noble tradition of serving the citizens of Kansas. LCF's warden, Rex Pryor, began his journey in corrections in 1983 and he has worked his way up through the facility ranks.

The facility consists of two main areas. The first is the Central Unit, which is comprised of the 11 acre maximum security compound, located within the walled perimeter of the facility. The max security compound is the most prominent feature of the facility, with its large, limestone buildings, walls, and towers. The remainder of the Central Unit is made up of the 46 acre medium security compound, adjacent to the east of the walled perimeter and surrounded by dual chain link fence topped with razor wire. Medium has an intricate alarm system. Inmates in the max and medium compounds work on-site at a variety of both state and private industry jobs located on the prison grounds.

The second area is the 85 acre minimum compound known as the LCF East Unit, which housed only female offenders until they were moved to the Topeka Correctional Facility beginning in 1988. East Unit is located on Highway 5, a mile east of the Central Unit. The compound is five dormitory style living units and is encircled by twin chain link fences and razor wire. The offenders living at the East Unit work a variety of jobs within the facility or on maintenance work details outside the facility. Many offenders are also hired by private

companies located in the cities of Leavenworth and Lenexa.

LCF's inmate population is made up of approximately 2,400 men, with custody levels ranging from minimum to special management. LCF employs some 1,000 staff, with roughly 700 state employees and approximately 300 contractual staff. Of the 700 state employees at LCF, approximately 500 are uniformed correctional officers.

While the primary duty of the KDOC is to provide public safety and security, it is provided in two essential ways. The first is basic security, which ensures public safety by keeping the offenders safely and humanely incarcerated for the duration of their prison sentences. The other half of the equation is the implementation of the risk reduction concept, which involves taking the necessary steps to help the offender recognize and make essential changes in their behavior to reduce the probability of re-offending. This is implemented through a variety of programs, as well as staff utilizing cognitive reflection skills when interacting with the offenders. There is an extensive array of release planning and post-release support options made available to offenders. Statistics have shown that the more focus spent on preparing the offender for their release, the more ability he has for success.

The majority of the offenders spend approximately 10-12 hours in their cells. The remainder of their time is spent either working at one of the numerous jobs in the facility, in a class, or a program – or possibly on the recreation yard. Offenders who are not employed or attending programs are usually unable to do so

due to medical or behavior related security restrictions.

Offenders receive about 1.5 hours a day for recreation and are able to visit with their approved visitors Friday through Monday as well as designated holidays. They have access to a library on all three compounds and are allowed to purchase (or have family provide) books and magazine subscriptions which are subject to censorship regulations. Several other items of personal property are also available for offenders to purchase, if their incentive level allows. Offenders do not have authorized access to the internet or to cell phones, pornographic materials, illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco products.

If his incentive level allows it, an offender can purchase and own a television, which is connected to a cable system contracted through a satellite television service, paid for by inmates, that provides a similar service to other correctional facilities across the nation. The cable system helps address several important issues for the facility, including the removal of personal antennas from cells (always a security issue), and giving LCF the opportunity to broadcast risk reduction programming on the facility television station KPEN Channel 6. This station disseminates information to the inmate population much quicker and more effectively than relying solely on bulletin boards or announcements. The improved communication can and has reduced potential problems by alerting the offenders to pending changes or disruptions to normal operations. In addition, depending on an offender's incentive level, offenders can own several items of personal property that can be purchased in the facility.

Continued page 7

LCF Highlight—Continued from page 6

Offenders behavior must be appropriate to earn the right to have a television, MP-3 or MP-4 player, or other items of property as well as the chance to participate in arts and crafts programs, or act in Shakespearean plays. Their behavior affects how much they can spend at the canteen, whether their visits are conducted as contact or non-contact, and their eligibility for certain jobs in the facility. Inappropriate behavior can result in a disciplinary report, loss of job, income, custody, visiting, and more. Another possible sanction for disciplinary convictions includes the loss of good time which can cause adjustments to their release date.

There are numerous opportunities for offenders to work for privately owned industries (PI) where they are paid “prevailing wages” (minimum wage or above depending on the skill level and experience). PI workers are able to build a savings account to help the transition back into society. While employed for private industries, 25% of their wages are withheld for “room and board” which is made payable to Kansas Correctional Industries. No less than 5% of an offender’s gross wages earned in private non-prison based or prison based work release programs shall be deducted for the purpose of victim compensation. The amount deducted may be paid to the district court pursuant to an order for restitution or to the Crime Victims Compensation Board or a combination so long as the total is not less than 5% of the inmate’s gross wages. In FY 2013 and FY 2014 combined, \$675,967.72 was paid to the Crime Victims Compensation Board from offenders throughout the KDOC. There are approximately 400 LCF offenders working in private industry positions at this time.

Staff at the facility can take a sense of pride in their work knowing that they are making Kansas a better and safer place to live. Through their actions, they help protect society while performing their duties as corrections officers, role models, counselors, teachers, mentors, and fellow human beings. The actions and work accomplished at Lansing is an investment in tomorrow and beyond.

In addition to the staff, there are currently over 540 volunteers that donate their time and energy to assist offenders in becoming better equipped to handle life on the outside. LCF is the home of the Brothers in Blue re-entry program, a values based program designed to make an impact on the lives of the offenders that participate. Arts in Prison is not just art classes and music – it is a multi-faceted opportunity for offenders to step out of their comfort zone and participate in something that includes acceptance. Safe Harbor Prison Dog Adoption Program is not just an ordinary dog rescue group but rather a safe place for dogs to live and be cared for by someone who, in turn, may desperately need something positive in his life.

Doing the Work—

By Laura Farmer,
Victim Services Liaison II

Doing the Work is a segment in which we highlight a person within KDOC and how their position supports the KDOC Mission. In this edition, we highlight



Amy Dean.

Amy has been employed with the KDOC for 2 years. Amy is a program consultant, and is the Topeka Kansas Supported Housing for Offenders Program (KSHOP) Coordinator.

Amy works with high risk, mentally ill offenders as they reintegrate back into society. The overall program goal is reduce recidivism while maintaining safety in the community. KSHOP works with many community partners to ensure offenders receive the resources needed for successful reintegration including mental health, substance abuse, education, employment, housing, food, DCF, SSA, clothing, and more.

Amy said one of the more rewarding aspects of her position is seeing offenders succeed. “Most of these guys have been told for so long they can’t/won’t be able to accomplish the goals they set for themselves. So, the most rewarding part of working with this population is seeing them succeed, reaching their goals and seeing the look in their eyes when they realize they can reach their goals even if they seemed out of reach at some point and have been told they couldn’t.”

**What would you like to see information about
in a future newsletter?**

Email your suggestions— 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 SERVICES
LIAISONS**

Facility Liaison Services

Visitation/Contact Screening

Release Plan Screening

Cease Correspondence

Facility Tours

Advocacy at Public
Comment Sessions

Assistance with Navigating
the System

Parole Liaison Services

Safety Planning

Family Reintegration

Assistance with
Investigations/Sanctions/
Revocations/Morrissey
Hearings

Referrals/coordination with
Community Partners

**OFFICE OF VICTIM
SERVICES**

Kansas Department of Corrections
Office of Victim Services
714 SW Jackson, Suite 300
Topeka, KS 66603
Toll free: 866-404-6732
E-mail: victimwitness@doc.ks.gov



**NOTIFICATION
SERVICES**

Public Comment Session

Release Status—Parole,
Conditional Release or
Post-Release

Assignment to a Work Release
Program

Eligibility for a Community
Work Assignment

Application for Clemency

Supervision Revocation

Expiration of Sentence

Death of inmate

Escape

Application for Early Discharge

Interstate Compact

Sexually Violent
Predator Commitment

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Come find us at

[www.doc.ks.gov/victim-
services](http://www.doc.ks.gov/victim-services)

VICTIM INITIATED SERVICES

Public Comment Session Advocacy Program

Facility Tours

Victim/Offender Dialogue

Apology Repository

Personalized Web Page

www.doc.ks.gov/victim-services/personalized-offender-information