



THE BEACON

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

SPRING 2010

MESSAGE FROM JENNIE MARSH, DIRECTOR OF VICTIM SERVICES

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'Tis the legislative season! In addition to the budget talks going on in the legislature this year, there are some important bills making their way through the legislature that impact crime victims. HB 2440, introduced by House Corrections & Juvenile Justice Committee Chairperson Pat Colloton, expands the right to victim notification to a new group of victims that had not been previously identified on a state-wide basis. Defendants who are found to be incompetent to stand trial, or found not guilty because of lack of mental state, are committed to the custody

of SRS, at which time notification often stops. HB 2440 will ensure that our Victim Notification office receives information about status changes and hearings for these offenders, so that victim notification can occur consistently around the state in these cases. HB 2517, also introduced by Chairperson Colloton in the House Corrections & Juvenile Justice Committee, will create a domestic violence "tag" on any criminal charge committed as an act of domestic violence. If enacted, this bill will enable the Department of Corrections to identify those who have

been found guilty of domestic violence and target services to that type of offending behavior.

Both bills are working their way through the legislative process as we speak. The Office of Victim Services has been active in both bills and continues to support the concept of accountability for domestic violence offenders and notification to all victims regardless of the offender's status. Feel free to give our office a call if you have any questions about the legislation.

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK CONFERENCE COMING IN APRIL

by Kimberly Marotta

As part of Crime Victims' Rights Week, three days of workshops and meetings will be coming up soon. The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence will be holding a preconference institute on April 20th featuring Evan Stark, who will be speaking on "Coercive Control: A New Model for Criminal Justice and Other Responders to Domestic Violence." Then the 13th Annual Crime Victims' Rights Conference will begin with the theme "Crime Victims Rights: Fairness, Dignity, Respect" on April 21st and 22nd in Topeka. The conference will feature six keynote speakers and 32 workshops which examine ways to assist crime victims and survivors. Jennie Marsh, OVS Director, will lead two sessions—"After the Conviction: KDOC Victim Services" and "Offender Incarceration and Reentry in Tight Budget Times." Victim Services Liaison Therese Schroer will provide another session—"Teaming Up for Victims' Safety." For more information on the conference, go to http://www.ksag.org/files/2010_CVRC_Brochure_PDF.PDF or call 785-291-3205.

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.

CHAMPION OF JUSTICE AWARD

BY CAMIE BORSODORF AND KIMBERLY MAROTTA

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

EAI Special Agent Brandon Bansemer!

Brandon, on a daily basis, demonstrates a consistent commitment to crime victims, public safety, and offender success. While quiet and unassuming, Brandon carries with him an attitude of respect for each person that he comes into contact with. Brandon has been known to talk with offender's about their questions and barriers to success, encouraging them to work with their parole officer and follow through on classes such as cognitive thinking and batterer intervention programs, all while taking the offender to jail upon arrest. Knowing that his words and actions have an effect on each offender that he comes into contact with, he ensures that offenders know there is assistance available to them through their parole officer.

When it comes to supporting victims of crime, Brandon has been known to go above and beyond—even giving victims his work cell phone number to call if they have unwanted contact with an offender. Brandon believes strongly that victims deserve not to be judged but to be treated with dignity and respect. He has several times offered and then driven women and children to a shelter, after receiving clearance from the shelter, to ensure that they would be safe, even going back out at 11p.m. after working all day to transport a victim to safety. Brandon on numerous occasions has accompanied Victim Services staff out to contact crime victims, especially domestic violence victims. During a home contact, Brandon has been known to conduct a safety screening of the victim's home—pointing out different things the victim could do to increase their safety. This gives victims the clear message that they deserve to be safe, that KDOC supports them in staying safe, and that they do not deserve the violence that has been perpetrated against them. After a safety plan has been developed, Brandon uses the contacts he has within other law enforcement agencies to make sure that they have the information and case background to ensure a quick response, if needed, for the victim's safety.

Brandon also gives out resources to crime victims when he comes into contact with them as a routine part of his job. During this contact, he always gets as much information as possible from the victim, offers them contact information to Victim Services, and then passes on the information he has received to Victim Services staff so that they can follow up with the victim as well.

EAI Special Agent Brandon Bansemer stands out as a Champion of Justice because he works daily to ensure that offenders are supported in their success while still being held accountable and that the safety of crime victims and the general public are center to all of these actions. Congratulations, Brandon! The OVS Staff truly appreciate all your hard work and dedication.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**April**

National Crime Victims' Rights Week
April 18-24, 2010
www.ovc.gov/ncvrw

Nat'l Child Abuse Prevention Month
312-663-3520
www.preventchildabuse.org

National Sexual Assault Awareness
& Prevention Month
717-909-0710 or 717-909-0715 (TTY)
www.nsvrc.org

Alcohol Awareness Month
www.ncadd.org

May

National Missing Children's Day
May 25, 2010
www.missingkids.com

National Correctional Officers and
Employees' Week
May 2-8, 2010
www.aca.org

Nat'l Peace Officers Memorial Day
May 15, 2010
National Police Week
May 13-17, 2010
www.nationalcops.org

Older Americans Month
800-877-8339
www.aoa.gov

June

Internet Safety Month
<http://www.nationalcoalition.org/internetsafetymonth.asp>

National Safety Month
www.nsc.org

BATTERER INTERVENTION PROGRAMS IN KANSAS BY MICHELLE MCCORMICK, BIP UNIT COORDINATOR

“Does Batterer Intervention *really* work?” “What do I need to do to get certified?” “Are there any certified programs in my area?” “In domestic violence, some things will never change...why bother? They are just going to get back together anyway...” These are just a few of the many questions we have fielded in this first year of the Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) Unit of the Office of Attorney General Steve Six.

This Unit was created as a result of years of work toward improving the statewide response to domestic violence. The goal is to join efforts to increase the safety of victims while holding domestic violence batterers accountable. One focus of the BIP Unit is to implement a training and certification program for current providers of batterer intervention programs. The certification process was created to provide the criminal justice system, the community, and ultimately victims of domestic violence with the assurance that BIP’s across the state are striving to utilize best practices and offer the best services possible.

It is important to note that the field of Batterer Intervention is relatively new. However, current research indicates the best scenario to create non-violent behavioral change in batterers requires a community coordinated response and a BIP that meets core elements. While current research has provided this base for effective practice, further research will refine approaches.

To become a certified BIP these core elements must be achieved:

Completion of a domestic violence assessment for all referred offenders,
Victim contacts which centralize the safety of the victim,
Group modality as the primary intervention with the batterer,
Group meets for a minimum of 24 weeks,
Collaboration with the domestic violence advocacy agency in their area,
Follows reporting requirements to the Courts/ Probation/District or County Attorney or other referral source and,
Facilitators have the appropriate domestic violence training and experience as detailed in the Standards.

The standards for certification are detailed in *Essential Elements and Standards of Batterer Intervention Programs in Kansas*. To view these standards or a list of certified programs in the State please go to www.ksaq.org, select “Serving Victims”, and then select “BIP Unit”.

Another equally important goal is to help underserved communities without access to BIPs, gain access by providing technical assistance towards the development of new programs. We are engaging potential providers in many communities to fulfill this need.

For more information please email mmccormick@ksaq.org or call 785-296-3367 to speak with the BIP Unit Coordinator.

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

Nat’l Org 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

NEVER BROKEN**BY DAKOTA MARIE DAVIS-RUSSELL**

I look into the mirror and stare back at the Soul that I find within my deep brown eyes. I recollect on the memories that flash through my mind like a rolodex of snap shots, every image still carries its own feeling and emotion.

I can still feel the bondage of being held captive in his basement, I can feel the violation of the unwanted sex still crawling underneath my skin, I can feel the grindy desert sand embedding itself in my open flesh wounds. I feel the crackling of cartilage and the tingling sensation of my life slipping away as he crushes my throat. I can still feel the strength of enduring nine months of being battered and yet, never being broken.

I also see the anger deep within my soulful eyes that wants to inflict the same pain on him. I also see the wisdom to know better than to be such a hateful person in return. I've learned that the greatest vengeance that I could have is to be better than he ever thought I could be.

So.. I carry on with my life and my lessons learned. I have come from being a battered girl hiding behind bodyguards and living in domestic violence shelters to a Woman who stands alone in her own name. I am a solider, I am an artist, a singer, a model, a songwriter, a designer, and a student well on my way to a Ph.D. I am beautiful from the inside out, and best of all I am a Mother to two beautiful daughters who see my strength and echo my walk.

I am fortunate to have been able to surround myself with great friends that have unknowingly taught me to appreciate good friendship and love and have given me unbelievable amounts of hope. A friend of mine has left a lasting footprint on my life's walk. He has always said to " Walk by Faith, Not by Sight " This has allowed me to love and trust freely again through the faith I have found in letting go.

So... as I remove myself from this mirror that I'm staring into, I enter the sanctuary and find myself in the Good Lord's Grace, silently filled with joy of being there. I sit in the 3rd pew from the front and listen diligently to the Pastor. He preaches about forgiving and forgetting, purpose in life and everything happening for a reason. I still have a lot to give, a lot to say and a lot to do. I still have my freedom, my strength, my drive, my happiness and my life and it ain't over yet.

WICHITA WORK RELEASE FACILITY EMMALEE CONOVER, WARDEN

Welcome to the Wichita Work Release Facility located in downtown Wichita, KS. The work release program was founded in 1976 with a 22 bed co-ed facility located on North Fairmont Street. As the program began to grow to 55 inmates, it was relocated to North Market Street in 1978 where it expanded to 100 inmates by 1988. In 1989, KDOC terminated its community residential contract with VIP Inc., creating an influx of additional program participants that increased capacity to 182 inmates being housed between the Wichita Work Release Facility and another building leased by KDOC to house the overflow. In November 1990, the Wichita Work Release Facility was moved to its current location at the corner of Emporia and Waterman streets with a capacity of 198 inmates consisting of 188 males and 10 females. In 1996 the Administrations of Wichita Work Release Facility and Winfield Correctional Facility were combined, making WWRF a division of WCF as it is today. In 2002 the women's work release program was transferred to Topeka, allowing the addition of 52 beds for a total capacity of 250 inmates.

Today, the Wichita Work Release Facility houses 16 permanent party (facility based job) inmates and 238 program participants for a total of 254 male inmates. Wichita Work Release Facility is a minimum custody state prison designed with the purpose of preparing selected individuals for release and to assist them in successfully transitioning back into the community as law abiding citizens. Work release offers a unique opportunity to maintain facility objectives while allowing program participants to leave confinement and work in the community

while remaining under close supervision and within a regimented structure.

Program participants focus on obtaining and maintaining full-time gainful employment in the community as required. Each participant is expected to obtain employment in a timely manner and are subsequently required to pay 25% of their gross wages toward room and board fees; 5% toward court costs and restitution; pay child support directly from their paychecks to the Kansas Payment Center as ordered; pay for transportation, clothing, toiletry items and any other outstanding debt, with all remaining funds being saved for their release. At the same time, participants are responsible for their own medical and dental expenses and maintenance of their bunk area and general use areas of the facility.

In addition to accessing the community for employment purposes, each inmate housed at Wichita Work Release Facility has the opportunity to attend religious services at public worship centers, use of a designated Wal-Mart for shopping and canteen purchases, use of the public library, medical and dental services once employed for 30 days and other community resources such as substance abuse treatment programs. Due to the close proximity of the Wichita Parole Office, inmates are also given access to meet with their assigned Parole Officer prior to release from KDOC and to attend programs and classes offered at the Parole Office such as the Batterer Intervention Programs.

All inmates, permanent party and program participants, are screened for participation in various programs, classes and workshops while at work release. Some of the programs and

classes currently being offered at work release are: AA sessions each week, Relapse Prevention Classes, Basic Budgeting workshops and Thinking for a Change cognitive classes. Through referrals and cooperation with other agencies and departments we are also able to coordinate inmate participation in classes such as the Offender Workforce Development Workshop, Batterer's Intervention Program, Out Patient Substance Abuse Treatment Programs and Parenting Classes. In addition, inmates requiring assessments for further treatment needs in the area of substance abuse and domestic violence are given an opportunity to obtain these assessments prior to their release to Parole Services.



The Kansas Department of Corrections employs approximately 50 personnel at WWRF, consisting of mostly security staff, followed by corrections counselors, administrative, accounting, medical/mental health and food service contract staff. Proudly, each employee here is dedicated to the KDOC vision statement of "A Safer Kansas through Effective Correctional Services" and continuously provides encouragement and much needed tools for risk reduction through evidence based practices.

CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION BOARD

BY FRANK HENDERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CVCB

The Crime Victims Compensation Board (CVCB) was established by the Kansas Legislature in 1978 to provide monetary compensation for out-of-pocket medical expenses, loss of earnings or support, burial expenses, and other costs associated with the treatment of injuries sustained as a result of being a victim of a violent crime. Compensation provided in fiscal year 2009 was a record \$4,624,953. In the first 31 years of its existence, from 1978 through 2009, the Board granted payments to crime victims totaling \$58,320,945. While financial assistance alone does not provide complete restoration, monetary aid can relieve some of the immediate pressures and stresses that compound the consequences of crime

An application for compensation may be filed by:

- (1) The victim;
 - (2) A dependent of a deceased victim;
 - (3) A third person other than a collateral source; or
 - (4) An authorized person acting on behalf of any of the above.
- The claim must be filed within two years of the incident (Child sexual assault claims are based on the date the crime was reported to law enforcement officials).
 - Compensation for mental health counseling may be provided if a claim is filed within two years of testimony to a claimant who is, or will be, required to testify in a sexually violent predator commitment of an offender who victimized the claimant or the victim on whose behalf the claim is made.
 - The victim suffered bodily injury or death as a result of the criminal actions of another.
 - Mental health counseling because of emotional trauma resulting from a violent crime.
 - The incident occurred in Kansas, or was committed outside the United States against a person whose domicile is in Kansas.
 - The incident was reported to law enforcement officials within 72 hours or would have been reported within that time except for a valid reason.
 - The victim and/or claimant fully cooperated with law enforcement officials during the investigation and prosecution of his or her case.

- Economic loss must exceed \$100 except in cases of sexual assault.
- The claimant was not the offender or an accomplice of the offender.

Compensation payable to a victim, and to all other claimants sustaining economic loss because of injury to or death of that victim, may not exceed \$25,000 in the aggregate (\$5,000 for funeral expenses). There were 1,358 new claims received in 2009. Awards were granted on 1025 claims, for an average of \$4512 per claim.

The Crime Victims Compensation Board is totally funded by offender-based sources at the state and federal levels. The monies come from the following sources:

- 11.99 percent of all fines, penalties and forfeitures remitted from Kansas district courts.
- Fines, penalties and forfeitures from federal convictions. These funds are administered through Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants. States may apply for a grant each year equal to 60 percent of the total awarded to victims from state funds in the previous federal fiscal year.
- Court-ordered restitution from offenders, subrogation, and refunds.
- Kansas Department of Corrections. Five percent of the gross wages of inmates employed in a private industry program other than work release, a portion of supervision fees from parolees and probationers, and administrative fees assessed to inmates for maintenance of their trust accounts are paid to the Crime Victims Compensation Fund.

Compensation may be awarded only if the Board finds that, unless the claimant is awarded compensation, the claimant will suffer financial stress as the result of economic loss that is otherwise reparable. A claimant suffers financial stress only if the claimant cannot maintain the claimant's customary level of health, safety and education without undue financial hardship.

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.ks.gov/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