



THE BEACON

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

SUMMER 2010

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MESSAGE FROM JENNIE MARSH DIRECTOR OF VICTIM SERVICES

Over the next few months, the Office of Victim Services will be sending out a satisfaction survey to a randomly selected pool of victims/survivors who have been served over the last year. Accountability to those we serve is a top priority, and asking for feedback is one primary way of doing this. Also this summer, we are implementing a file review process, which will involve a comprehensive review of the services that each staff person is providing, in order to increase service quality.

We will also be conducting a survey this summer of those victims/survivors who have attended public comment sessions in the past year. For those of you who have not had to attend a public comment session, it is a public hearing held by the Kansas Parole Board every month in different locations around the state. The sessions are designed to

give victims/survivors and any other member of the public (including offender families/supporters) the opportunity to comment on the parole consideration of an offender. With a few exceptions, this primarily applies to those offenders who were sentenced prior to July 1, 1993 under old sentencing laws. Because the public comment sessions process is difficult for many victims, we have tried different ways to make it a little easier. We want to know what else can be done to make the process easier for you.

In addition to these things, we are always open to comments, questions, or ideas about our services. If you would like to talk with me about any of your experiences with KDOC Office of Victim Services, I would love to hear from you at (866) 404-6732 or jenniew@doc.ks.gov.

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.

“IN EVERY COMMUNITY, THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE. IN EVERY NATION, THERE ARE WOUNDS TO HEAL. IN EVERY HEART, THERE IS THE POWER TO DO IT. “

– MARIANNE WILLIAMSON

CHAMPION OF JUSTICE AWARD

BY CANDITA MCNEAL AND KIMBERLY MAROTTA

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

Risk Reduction and Reentry (R3)
Coordinator/ Reentry Program &
Release Planning Supervisor

Carolyn Graves!

Carolyn is one of those rare people who have the ability to “step out” and see an issue from all sides. She is adamant that the safety and security of the public is number one on her agenda.

Carolyn has a firm grasp of how to utilize the Victim Services Liaisons’ help and doesn’t hesitate to work in unison with anyone who has a “stake in” or opinion related to the case. Her open-minded attitude makes others feel “safe” in bringing concerns to the table. Carolyn consistently thinks about victim safety first and is quick to point out challenges with offenders’ release plans. She may hear an offender make a remark during her dealings with them that “throws up a red flag” indicating a previously unreported victim issue. When this happens, Carolyn doesn’t hesitate to bring it to OVS’s attention, even though it often requires her to toss aside months of release planning efforts and changes all her hard work, yet she never hesitates to do so.

When she talks to victims on the telephone, Carolyn is sensitive to their concerns and explains how

working with Victim Services will be to their benefit. No one ever feels like she has just “passed them off” nor do they ever doubt her commitment to both public safety and offender success. No matter how busy her day is, or how many files are sitting on her desk, she will stop what she is doing just to listen.

Carolyn has served on various committees to further the risk reduction efforts of the KDOC. Recently she served on the Wrap-Around Committee for the Federal Grant to Encourage Arrest and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program (GTEAP) along with various members of law enforcement and victim services across the State of Kansas.

Carolyn is a great asset to Ellsworth Correctional Facility and to the Department of Corrections. Not only does she care about staff, she cares about the inmate’s needs, as well as the victims among the community!

Carolyn Graves stands out as a Champion of Justice because she 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, Carolyn! The OVS Staff truly appreciates all your hard work and dedication.

RECOGNITION/ AWARENESS CALENDAR

July

Nat'l Probation, Parole, & Community
Supervision week (18-24)

Bereaved Parents Month

Freedom from Fear of Speaking
Month

National Make a Difference to
Children Month

Social Wellness Month

Independence Day (4th)

August

National Night Out (3rd)

National Safe at Home
Week (23-27)

National Women’s Month

Be Kind to Humankind
Week (25-31)

September

National Alcohol & Drug
Addiction Recovery Month

National Preparedness Month

Baby Safety Month

Remembrance Day (11)

National Respect
Day (18)

International Day of
Peace (21)

IMPACT OF KDOC BUDGET CUTS

BY JENNIE MARSH, OVS DIRECTOR

In April 2010, the Office of Victim Services did a presentation at the Kansas Crime Victims Rights conference regarding the impact of budget issues on crime victims. The following is a summary of that presentation.

Correctional Facilities

Over the last two years, 612 beds have been lost to budget cuts. Thankfully, the good work that the KDOC has been doing over the past several years to decrease parole revocations and new crimes committed by parolees allowed the initial reduction in beds to occur with minimal impact to community and victims safety. However, as the beds continued to decrease, the population rose as a result of new offenders coming into the system after their conviction. As of April 22, 2010, the facilities were 115 beds over capacity. The correctional facilities are all at or below "operational", or reduced, staffing levels, which has been the case for at least half of the last decade. Overcrowding and reduced staff levels have historically had an impact on staff safety.

Parole

Over the last two years, the budget cuts to the Parole Division have resulted in a decrease in staff and a dramatic decrease in programming and safety tools. As of April 2010, 18 parole positions were held open due to shrinkage, resulting in rising case loads for the remaining officers. The number of GPS units available to track offenders shrank from 320 to 160 statewide, with 140 being used for the highest-risk sex offenders and 20 used for other offenders who pose the highest safety risk in the community. Drug testing has decreased, with testing only done if there is probable cause to believe an offender has been using (as opposed to random testing). In addition, Batterer's Intervention Program funding has decreased.

Programs

In FY 2010, KDOC lost 63% of all state funding for offender programs. Some programs have been completely eliminated, and all have been reduced to some extent. For example, the Sex Offender Treatment Program has been reduced

from 312 slots to 152, which has resulted in some sex offenders being released without ever receiving treatment. All community residential beds funded by the KDOC (also known as "halfway houses") have been eliminated, which has resulted in more inmates being released homeless, a risk factor for criminal recidivism. All Day Reporting Center programs, which were used as a daily check-in and treatment facility for the highest risk offenders, have been eliminated. Substance abuse and vocational programs, which address two more of the highest risk factors for recidivism, have been dramatically reduced as well.

Victim Services

While Victim Services has lost funding for three positions, thankfully we were able to replace the funding for two of those positions with federal grant funds. While we have had to reduce the level of screening of offender release plans for safety issues, we have not had to dramatically decrease services to victims.

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) 392-2255

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN 2010

The following are just a few bills that were passed during the 2009-2010 Kansas legislative session:

HB 2440—Mental Health Notification

The KDOC Office of Victim Services worked with a committee of representatives from the Council of State Governments, the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, victim advocates, prosecutors, county Victim/Witness staff, a legislator, mental health consumer organizations, and community mental health centers to craft a bill that would address the basic right to notification for victims of those offenders who are committed to the custody of SRS, having been found incompetent to stand trial or found not guilty by reason of lack of mental state. See the article on page 5 for more information. The bill went into effect on July 1, 2010.

HB 2517—Domestic Violence

The KDOC Office of Victim Services testified before the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice and the Senate Judiciary Committee supporting this comprehensive bill, also known as the “Domestic Violence Tag” bill. The bill allows for a DV “tag” to be placed on a criminal conviction in order to better track the history of domestic violence of defendants in the criminal justice system, and will provide statistical information regarding domestic violence. It also requires courts to order domestic violence evaluations, which will aid in the supervision and treatment of these offenders. The bill also limits diversion of domestic violence defendants to those who have not had more than 2 prior diversions in the last 5 years. This bill goes into effect on July 1, 2011.

HB 2468—Registration Requirements

This bill amends current statute to increase the registration requirement from 10 years to a lifetime obligation for offenders convicted of anticipatory crimes (i.e. attempt, conspiracy and solicitation) related to the commission of certain sex offenses when the victim is under the age of 14. Those offenses are Aggravated trafficking, Rape, Aggravated indecent liberties with a

BY JENNIE MARSH, OVS DIRECTOR

child, Aggravated criminal sodomy, Promoting prostitution, and Sexual exploitation of a child.

SB 386—Security of Personal Information

This bill amends current statute to permit prosecutors to redact vehicle ID numbers and personal identifiers such as birthdates, social security numbers, taxpayer identification numbers, drivers license numbers, account numbers of active financial accounts, home addresses and personal telephone numbers of any victims or material witnesses. If the prosecuting attorney does provide the defendant’s counsel with unredacted vehicle identification numbers or personal identifiers, the defendant’s counsel shall not further disclose the unredacted numbers or identifiers to the defendant or any other person, directly or indirectly, except as authorized by order of the court.

HB 2509—Civil Litigation in Child Sex Crimes

This bill creates a private cause of action whereby a person who, while under the age of 18, was a victim of an article 35 crime (sex offense), incest or aggravated incest that resulted in a conviction and the crime resulted in the production of child pornography may sue the producer, promoter or international possessor of the child pornography. The victim may recover attorney’s fees and damages which are at the minimum \$150,000. The Attorney General may represent the victim in the civil litigation. The bill’s provisions do not apply to acts done in the performance of duty by any: (1) Law enforcement officer of the State of Kansas or any political subdivision thereof; (2) Forensic examiner; (3) Any prosecuting attorney, as defined in K.S.A. 22-2202, and amendments thereto; or (4) Any bona fide child advocacy organization, including, but not limited to, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

These are, of course, just a few of many statute changes from this legislative session. If you are interested in information about any of these bills, or others, please visit the Kansas Legislature Bill Search page at: <http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-legisportal/bills.do>.

OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES—HIGHLIGHT ON PAROLE LIAISONS

BY CAMIE BORSODORF, THERESE SCHROER, BOBBIE ALLEY, AND LAURA FARMER

In order to best assist crime victims, the KDOC Office of Victim Services (OVS) has staff members dedicated to working within the parole offices. These positions, called Parole Victim Service Liaisons or PVSLs, focus on victim safety and their needs while an offender is in the community. The PVSL collaborates with parole staff to ensure that victims have a voice in parole supervision and their concerns are taken into consideration when managing an offender.

Each of the PVSLs is a specialized OVS staff member that works directly with crime victims to ensure that their safety needs are identified and addressed. Currently, there are four PVSLs located across the state in parole offices to assist with safety services. The State of Kansas has two Parole Regions, with the state divided into half length-wise. Each PVSL team covers one-half of the state from Missouri to Colorado. Areas covered by each PVSL team are as follows:

- ◆ Therese Schroer and Laura Farmer jointly cover the Northern Parole Region of the state.

This includes the parole offices in Kansas City, Olathe, Lansing, Lawrence, Paola, Ottawa, Topeka, Manhattan, Junction City, Salina and Northwest Kansas Community Corrections.

- ◆ Bobbie Alley and Camie Borsdorf jointly cover the Southern Parole Region of the state. This includes the parole offices in Pittsburg, Emporia, Independence, Wichita, Hutchinson, Dodge City and Garden City

The PVSLs are available to assist with issues surrounding questions about safety planning, parole supervision, restitution, special condition requests, family reintegration and offender reentry. PVSLs also collaborate with different local community resources in order to best assist the crime victims we serve.

To contact our Parole Victim Service Liaisons, call:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Therese Schroer | 785-296-8518 |
| Laura Farmer | 785-296-1185 |
| Bobbie Alley | 316-613-7248 |
| Camie Borsdorf | 316-613-7263 |

You may also reach any of our PVSLs through our toll free number at 1-866-404-6732.

MENTAL HEALTH NOTIFICATION

BY CARLA WOZNIAK, OVS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

The right to be notified of events and proceedings throughout the criminal justice process is vital to all crime victims. Notification keeps victims informed about what is happening in their case and provides information that allows them to participate in the criminal justice system. Several states around the country have enacted laws that require notification to victims of individuals with mental illness. Prior to the 2010 Kansas Legislative Session, the Office of Victim Services (OVS) worked with Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), a group of victim advocates and mental

health consumer representatives to craft a bill to address the need for consistent notification to victims of individuals with mental illness. House Bill 2440 was passed into law during the legislative session without objection. HB 2440 requires the courts and/or SRS to notify the Office of Victim Services (OVS) of certain offender status changes when the defendant is found incompetent to stand trial and/or found not guilty by reason of lack of mental state. Effective July 1, 2010, notification to persons harmed by defendants committed to the custody of the Secretary of SRS will be

the task of the OVS. Victims will be notified of competency proceedings, review hearings, changes in the offender's status, offender transfers to mental health facilities during the course of confinement, release, and if the offender escapes from custody. Advance notification of an offender's release from a mental health treatment facility benefits victims in a number of ways. Prior warning provides the victim with the opportunity to prepare and safety plan if necessary. The OVS is pleased to incorporate this critical notification into our established practices.

ELLSWORTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

JOHNNIE GODDARD, WARDEN

The Ellsworth Correctional Facility (ECF) was appropriated by the 1986 Legislature to be a 96 bed minimum custody work facility designed for first time youth offenders convicted of non-violent crimes. The facility has since expanded to 832 beds and accommodates adult male inmates of all custodies and crimes. At present, we have 18 inmates that are Special Management (Segregation), two Maximum Custody, 415 High Medium, 321 Low Medium, 62 Minimum, and two Unclassified. Inmates housed at ECF range in age from 17 to 70. It should be noted that none of the inmates' living units are air conditioned.

ECF currently employs approximately 220 employees and 43 contract staff, many of which live in Ellsworth and surrounding communities such as Holyrood, Claflin, Geneseo, Ellinwood, Lorraine, Dorance, Wilson, Lindsborg, Great Bend, Hays, and Salina. The Ellsworth Correctional Facility has a \$12 million budget - \$10 million of this is for salaries. The majority of our staff, 167, are Uniformed Officers that supervise and monitor the inmates. The remaining \$2 million pays for utilities and miscellaneous expenses.

The Ellsworth Correctional Facility is a self contained city. All basic needs for the inmates are provided on site, including medical, mental health, food, recreation, housing, work, and programs. Normally, inmates leave the facility only when it is medically required or if mandated by the courts.

Statistics reflect that 98% of all offenders will be released at some

time. A number of different programs are provided to afford inmates the opportunity to better prepare themselves for their release back to society. The Education Department offers inmates the prospect of obtaining their GED. Vocational Education programs are offered that provide inmates with marketable job skills as well. These programs include Home Building and Welding. ECF has partnered with Barton Community College (BCC) to make available Manufacturing Skills Certification, Welding, and Heating/Air Conditioning/Ventilation and Plumbing trades. BCC also offers to inmates an Associate Degree in Business.

The ECF Re-Entry Program is designed to directly help prepare inmates for release by dealing with life skill issues. The inmates are instructed in how to properly fill out a job application, write a resume, balance a check book, and budget their money. They are assisted in preparing to obtain a valid driver's license, resolving detainees, registering for disability benefits, and contacting medical/mental health care.

If medically able, inmates at ECF are required to work; refusal will result in loss of privileges. These inmates usually earn only \$.60 a day in compensation so they can buy hygiene items and other staples. Some of the job opportunities include: laundry, food service, facility maintenance, custodial, lawn, and garden. Through Wheels for the World, a non-profit organization, inmates repair wheel chairs that are then shipped to third world countries. Donated bicycles are rebuilt and distributed to less fortunate individuals through non-profit organizations. Both the wheel chair and bicycle programs are sustained through donations and no tax dollars are spent to fund these endeavors. The facility garden, tended by an inmate work detail, provides fresh vegetables in season to supplement the inmates' meals at no cost to taxpayers. Minimum custody inmates work off-site at the local lakes, pick up trash along county highways and mow city parks. These inmates defer expenses to state and local governments.



We are on the Web!

www.dc.state.ks.us/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.dc.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