



THE BEACON

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

WINTER 2010/2011

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MESSAGE FROM JENNIE MARSH DIRECTOR OF VICTIM SERVICES

Recently the KDOC Office of Victim Services Advisory Council came together to discuss the vision and direction of the Office of Victim Services (OVS). The Advisory Council is made up of crime victims, victim advocates, and criminal justice professionals from around the state of Kansas with this purpose:

“The Advisory Council provides support, exper-

tise, and influence to the development and sustainability of programs and best practices of the DOC ensuring that victim’s needs and rights are central to the corrections field.”

The Council has guided the OVS over the years in the development of services and policies, and continues to provide leadership in this area. Most recently, when discussing the vision of

OVS for the next few years, many ideas and approaches were explored, but one simple concept was heard repeatedly- remaining victim-focused. In the next issue, we will provide more information about the planning that came out of that meeting, but in the meantime, please know that our focus will continue to stay on the needs of crime victims and survivors.

HELPFUL TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

Nat'l. Children's Alliance
(800) 239-9950

Nat'l. Sexual Violence Resource Center
(877) 739-3895

Nat'l. Center for Victims of Crime
(800) 394-2255

Nat'l. Organization for Victim Assistance
(800) TRY-NOVA

Nat'l. Domestic Violence Hotline
(800) 799-7233

Office of Crime Victims Advocacy
(800) 822-1067

Nat'l. Mothers Against Drunk Driving
(800) 438-6233

Rape, Abuse, and Incest Nat'l. Network (RAINN)
(800) 656-4673

DUI Victim Center of Kansas
(800) 873-6957

Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse
(800) 638-8736

Nat'l. Council on Aging
(800) 424-9046

Nat'l. Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information
(800) 729-6686

Nat'l. Center for Missing & Exploited Children
(800) 843-5678

Stalking Resource Center
(800) 394-2255

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 FOR WINTER 2010/11 QUARTER**BY MICHAEL LAMB AND KIMBERLY MAROTTA**

The Winter 2010/11 Champion of Justice Award goes to . . .

Dana Eckert

Hutchinson Correctional Facility
Institutional Parole Officer (IPO)

As an IPO for HCF, Dana Eckert works with unit counselors on re-entry planning for offenders. She is recognized as a stellar candidate for this award because of her attention to crime victim safety when doing release plans. Dana is relied on for her expertise and judgment in the area of victim safety awareness in making decisions about residence plans for offenders.

In his nomination of Dana, Michael Lamb, CCI, had this to say, "She is indispensable in the role of providing useful feedback in this area and I can confidently say that many of

my most successful re-entry efforts have included her feedback in the area of victim safety. In one case in particular, she helped identify a faith-based re-entry program in Wichita for a child sex offender as an alternative to returning to his family in the same city where his victim still resided. This offender released two years ago and is still being successfully supervised in the Sedgwick County area with no violations. Due largely to Dana's diligence in identifying this appropriate alternative support, this offender is being successful in the community and is living in a different part of the state than his victim, sparing the victim the stress of having to live in the same community as him."

Dana Eckert is clearly a Champion of Justice for both the rights of victims and the risk reduction needs of offenders. Congratulations, Dana! The OVS Staff truly appreciate all your hard work and dedication.

RECOGNITION/AWARENESS CALENDAR**January**

Crime Stoppers Month
800-850-7574
www.c-s-i.org

National Mentoring Month
703-224-2200
www.mentoring.org

Women's Self
Empowerment Week
January 3-7, 2011

National Stalking
Awareness Month
202-467-8700

www.ncvc.org/src
www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org

February

National Teen Dating
Violence Awareness &
Prevention Month
512-225-9579
www.texasadvocacyproject.org

March

National Youth Violence
Prevention Week
March 21-25, 2011
800-999-6884 ext. 3037
www.nyvpw.org

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S.

BY KURSTEN PHELPS, KCSDV

When we think of slavery, we often think of it as a tragedy of history, something that was stopped long ago. However, nearly two centuries after slavery was legally abolished in the United States, slavery continues around the world. Human trafficking, modern-day slavery, persists across the globe and at home in Kansas.

Human trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining, by any means, any person for labor or services involving forced labor, slavery or servitude in any industry. Trafficked persons work in a variety of industries, ranging from the illicit sex trade to agriculture, restaurants, manufacturing and domestic work.

The U.S. State Department estimates that worldwide between 600,000 and 800,000 victims are trafficked across international borders each year, with about 80 percent being female victims. The U.S. government also estimates that human trafficking generates \$32 billion in profits annually worldwide. Trafficking also can take place across state lines and involve U.S. citizens, particularly minors, runaways, or young adults who are trafficked into the sex trade in another state or community.

It is easy to think that human trafficking isn't a problem for us to worry about and that it doesn't happen here. However, human trafficking affects individuals throughout the world, including in Kansas. For example:

- A restaurant owner in Topeka was convicted in 2009 for harboring undocumented workers, whom he required to work long

hours six days a week and live in a cramped apartment. The owner withheld the workers' identification documents and wages. One trafficked worker died because he was denied access to health care.

- Three owners of massage parlors in Johnson County were convicted of human trafficking in 2008, having recruited Chinese women to the U.S. and then coercing them into prostitution.
- In 2006, federal prosecutors charged five people with human trafficking after authorities uncovered a labor trafficking ring that lured students from Russia and then forced them to work as ice cream vendors in the Kansas City area.
- In October, the Uzbekistan-born owner of Giant Labor, a Kansas City labor-leasing company, pled guilty to four charges of racketeering conspiracy, fraud in foreign labor contracting, identity theft and tax evasion. The man, Abrorkhodja Askarkhodjaev, faced more than 100 counts related to a 14-state trafficking ring that lured foreign workers to Kansas City with promises of good jobs, but turned them into slave workers who faced threats of retaliation if they did not work.

It can be difficult to identify trafficking victims, but there are warning signs that advocates and community members can look for in suspected trafficking situations, including individuals who live and work in the same place, seem to lack freedom of movement or seem to be restricted from normal activities like socializing, contacting family, or

attending school or religious services. Other possible warning signs include a person who knows very little about where she lives or works, lacks concrete short-term or long-term plans, shows signs of physical abuse, or seems fearful in the presence of others.

Trafficking victims in our communities might be hesitant to report their perpetrators to law enforcement for valid safety concerns. Legal remedies do exist, however, for victims. Congress created two remedies, the T visa and the U visa, both of which may be beneficial to foreign trafficking victims, allowing them to remain in the United States and obtain employment.

The T visa is a remedy for some trafficking victims who assist in the prosecution of traffickers. This visa is particularly beneficial because it may entitle the victim to qualify for certain public benefits, such as housing, food stamps and health care. Trafficking victims also may qualify for a U visa, which is a visa for victims of certain types of crimes. A U visa is a temporary, four-year visa that allows a person to work legally in the United States. A U visa holder would not, however, be eligible for public benefits like a T visa holder could receive.

For more information on human trafficking, legal remedies for sexual assault and domestic violence victims, and advocacy tools, contact Kursten Phelps, immigration and outreach project attorney at KCSDV, at kphelps@kcsdv.org or 785-232-9784. Domestic and sexual violence victims in Kansas can also call the Kansas Crisis Hotline at 1-888-363-2287 to get connected with a crisis program in their area.

VISITATION AND EXCHANGE CENTERS

BY KIMBERLY MAROTTA

FACT: It is estimated nationally that millions of children each year witness violence and become subject to the varied short-and-long term effects. In order to protect children and prevent violence, it is essential that communities provide services to break the cycle of abuse and support the connection between healthy parents and healthy kids.

FACT: National statistics reveal that 70% of children are abused in homes where violence is also used against the caretaker. In addition, statistics indicate that children from violent homes are at a higher risk for becoming adult victims or adult offenders. Society must pay attention to the traumatic effects that domestic violence has on children.

FACT: While the Visitation Center or Exchange Center model has been historically used by child welfare officials as a critical tool in working toward family reunification, critical examination of the model is necessary if it is to work safely for families experiencing domestic violence. Goals between the two services differ as do parental characteristics, judicial involvement, the provision of supplementary services and security needs of participants. In dependency cases, the goal of supervised visitation is to support the reunification of the child with the child's parent. In domestic violence cases, there is no goal of reunifying the family. In fact, if child welfare officials are also involved in the case, the victim may face failure to protect charges upon returning to the abusive partner.

Kansas has statutes regarding the certification of supervised visitation providers as of 1996, when legislation was passed to support and fund these centers. The first visitation/exchange center in Kansas was Safe Visit which was opened by the Topeka YMCA in January 1997. Currently, there are 12 visitation/exchange centers in Kansas. In 2006, the Legislature added a percentage of district court

docket fees to provide funding for the operation of centers..

Kansas received a \$399,189 grant in 2007 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women to support efforts to develop and enhance services for supervised visitation and safe exchange of children in situations involving domestic violence, dating violence, child abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. Continued grant funding has allowed the Governor's Office to partner with the Kansas Network of Visitation Providers, the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, the Kansas Office of Judicial Administration and the Kansas Attorney General's Office to form a committee establishing guidelines and enhance two existing centers using the Safe Havens model.

Supervised visits provide a safe and neutral environment in which families and children can visit and sustain relationships under supervision that establishes a safe, supportive environment for protection of the child. Monitored exchanges facilitate the transfer of the child between family members for unsupervised off-site visitation while providing a safe, neutral environment and avoiding any confrontation that could be harmful to the children.

Individuals can be referred by the court, attorneys, DV advocates, case managers, law enforcement, mediators, community agencies or self-referrals. Families may be in need of visitation and exchange services due to mental illness, domestic violence, child abuse, substance use, threat of abduction, criminal activity, or parent-child acquaintance. The intent of services is to help foster positive parent child relationships.

Visitation/exchange centers are a community service designed to prevent violence and protect children from being victims of/ or witness to domestic violence, criminal behavior, or chemical dependency. Services are available to nurture people of all

faiths, races, abilities, ages, and incomes to build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities. Clientele who utilize these types of facilities do so because parties are unable to follow general rules of families, society, and the court. Program structure encourages parents to develop co-parenting skills, understand the benefits of nonviolent discipline, and identify healthy patterns of parent/child contact.

Benefits of safe visitation/exchange centers include:

- Increased levels of positive co-parenting while decreasing child misbehaviors.
- Security guards are in place to ensure the safety of parents and children participating in services.
- A neutral, child friendly atmosphere that promotes positive, consistent contact.
- A community benefit from the decrease of public exchanges, such as those at the police station or fast food restaurants .

Supervised visitation helps reduce the anxiety of children who are afraid that they will be hurt or threatened during parental visits. It also helps to reduce the risk that children will be physically abused or abducted during visitation and substantially reduces the risk of emotional abuse. Services are available that can reduce the potential for public disputes as well as the need for local law enforcement to intervene in domestic conflicts due to child custody issues or Protection from Abuse violations.

Supervised Visitation Networks and Exchange Centers promote opportunities for children to have safe, conflict-free access to both parents.

This information comes from resources provided at these internet sites:

www.governor.ks.gov
www.svnetwork.net
www.projectappleseed.org
www.mincava.umn.edu

OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES – HIGHLIGHT ON FACILITY LIAISONS

BY LINDA HASKINS, AMY KIRK, AND DENISE HAUGEN

KDOC Office of Victim Services (OVS) has three staff members that work inside the eight KDOC prison facilities. They are ready to listen to the victims concerns, provide information, and offer services, support, and safety planning while the offender is incarcerated. All services provided are victim initiated, voluntary, and confidential.

Facility Victim Service Liaisons answer questions for victims. The most commonly asked questions are:

- where the offender is housed
- what the facility looks like
- what custody level is the offender
- has the offender been written up for not following rules while incarcerated
- what type of programs can the offender take
- can a visit happen
- will the offender have a job while incarcerated
- when will the offender get released

Facility Liaisons also assist with the following:

Cease Correspondence issuing an order to stop unwanted contact from a KDOC inmate.

Public Comment Sessions are held once a month in the state's largest cities and give people an opportunity to voice their opinions – whether for or against an inmate being paroled. An OVS staff member attends each Kansas Parole Board Public Comment Session to assist victims and answer questions they have after speaking to the KPB.

Visiting Applications are screened by Victim Services when the applicant is a victim of a crime committed by the inmate he/she wants to visit. Facility Liaisons spend time talking with victims who want to visit the inmate. Based upon victim safety and security of the facility, Victim Services provides Deputy Wardens with information and recommendations regarding visiting.

Facility Tours are scheduled two times each year to enable crime victims to see a portion of what the inside of the

prison looks like without coming in contact with their offender. The tours are conducted by the Warden or their designee. Facility Liaisons prepare victims for what to expect before the tour, answer questions during the tour, and follow up after the tour.

Community Referrals are made to victims in need of local community-based advocacy groups and agencies depending upon the location of the victim.

Special Conditions of Parole involve requests designed to keep crime victims safe at the time the inmate is released and while he/she is on parole. Some of the special conditions that can be requested are having no contact with a specific individual, no return to a specific county, and GPS tracking for the offender as well as requests for special program participation. The requests are made to the Kansas Parole Board and if granted, become a part of the inmate's release plan.

Safety Planning with crime victims helps ensure that victims know how to reach the offender's parole officer and/or Parole Victim Services Liaisons should they need to ask more questions or report any violations. Safety planning involves strategies, procedures, etc., to minimize risk once the inmate is released on parole. It's an important part of what all Victim Services staff does, no matter the title or position.

Denise Haugen is the facility liaison that assists victims of offenders housed at Lansing Correctional Facility and Topeka Correctional Facility. Denise started working in this position in August 2010 after working six years as a victim/witness coordinator for a county attorney's office, working with victims in the courtroom up to the conviction. It has been very exciting for her to join the team at OVS and discover how much more assistance is needed and provided to victims even after the offender has been sentenced to time in prison. In the courtroom, Denise had seen the relief on victims faces when a sentencing was pronounced, but had no idea of

the new concerns that incarceration raised later. Denise is very pleased to see the "other side of the fence" and still advocate for victims to have a voice and be heard while the offender is incarcerated in a KDOC facility.

Amy Kirk is the facility liaison who assists victims of offenders housed at Hutchison Correctional Facility, Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility, and Ellsworth Correctional Facility. Amy joined the team in September 2010. She was previously a Master Sergeant at HCF and is currently working towards her bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Ft. Hays State University. Amy is grateful for the opportunity to assist those in need and to help alleviate some stress for victims during very challenging situations.

Linda Haskins is the facility liaison that assists victims of offenders housed at El Dorado Correctional Facility, Norton Correctional Facility, Winfield Correctional Facility, and the Wichita Work Release Facility. Linda began her corrections career at the Norton Correctional Facility 20 years ago and worked in the Juvenile Justice Authority system before coming to KDOC Victim Services. Linda faces unique Victim Services issues because she handles victim concerns for the Reception and Diagnostic Unit. KDOC staff face many "unknowns" when a new inmate enters RDU and she assists RDU staff as well as victims who need information and reassurance that the inmate is finally in prison!

To reach a facility victim service liaison and the offender is housed at:

- El Dorado, Norton, Winfield, or Wichita Work Release Facility, you may call Linda at 316-321-7284 ext. 22494.
- Hutchison, Larned, or Ellsworth Correctional Facility, you may call Amy at 620-728-3486.
- Lansing or Topeka Correctional Facility, you may call Denise at 913-727-3235 ext. 57954.

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

NORTON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

JAY SHELTON—WARDEN

Norton Correctional Facility (NCF) is a multi-unit correctional facility. The Central Unit (CU) at Norton sits on the grounds of the former Norton State Hospital which closed in 1988. The East Unit in Stockton occupies what was a farm implement dealership. NCF's operational capacity is 707 at the CU in Norton, and 128 at the EU in Stockton for a total operating capacity of 835.

Minimum-custody inmates from both units go into communities to work. Last fiscal year, NCF inmates performed 61,473 hours of work which, when using the federal minimum wage as a multiplier, results in a \$442,013 benefit to area communities. Since 1994, NCF inmates have performed more than 1.5 million hours (or \$7.6 million worth) of labor in western Kansas communities that otherwise might not have been done.

NCF's overall budget for FY2011 is \$15.8 million, with about \$13.5 million of that being salary and wages. NCF employs 268 state employees; 235 at Norton and 33 at Stockton. There are also approximately 40 additional employees working at the two units for companies contracted to provide services to KDOC [examples are: medical/mental health services, vocational/academic education, cabin building & food service].

Programs

Some of the programs for offenders include: The vocational cabin building program began at NCF in November 2007. The program, which employs two instructors, has 12 inmate program slots. Inmate students build cabins that are placed at various state lakes and parks through a partnership with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. To date, four cabins have been constructed and transported to area parks/lakes (2 were placed at Scott Lake and 2 at Prairie Dog State Park just west of Norton). The program will expand to accommodate five separate cabins at any given time in various stages of the construction

In 2004, NCF started the "Wheels for the World Program" (WFTW) through partnership with the Joni and Friends Ministries, a non-profit organization in Agoura Hills, Calif. Up to 25 inmates are employed refurbishing

wheelchairs which are shipped for distribution to one of 54 developing countries where these resources are limited due to cost or simply are not available. Since inception, over 6,500 wheelchairs have been refurbished and 4,200 shipped from the NCF shop.

Also in 2004, NCF established the "Bicycles for Youngsters" program. Bicycles and parts are obtained from private donations, law enforcement agencies, and civic organizations. Up to eight inmates repair bicycles that are then distributed to less fortunate children through non-profit organizations. Since inception, more than 3,000 bicycles have been repaired or refurbished and 2,550 bicycles have been distributed throughout Kansas and Nebraska.

Kansas Specialty Dog Services (KSDS) partners with NCF in the raising and training of guide and service dogs for persons with disabilities throughout the United States. Inmates provide puppy socialization and intermediate training. The dogs reside at NCF for up to 16 months, during which the dog lives with an assigned inmate trainer and is supported by a secondary trainer. Since 1994, the program has graduated more than 100 dogs to persons with disabilities.

Re-entry/Release Planning

Re-entry Specialists coordinate classes for inmates which are offered in an effort to prepare offenders for release and give them the basic skills needed to succeed within the community. These classes include:

Thinking for a Change - This 22-lesson cognitive behavior change program includes cognitive restructuring, social skills development and development of problem solving skills. This class helps participants recognize the risk in their thinking and gives them the tools to find new thinking to help with future situations.

Getting Motivated to Change - This 4-session class focuses on a target behavior that each participant would like to work on changing. This class also discusses motivation to help the participant work on his target behavior.

Work and Life Skills Class - Two instructors from Colby Community College's Adult Education Department teach an eight-session class that helps participants improve their work skills, financial skills and life skills. The work skills portion explores career options, finding a job, filling out job applications, creating a personal resume, preparing a cover letter, participating in a mock interview and reviewing techniques for job retention and advancement. The financial skills portion works with budgeting, balancing a checkbook, credit and loans, credit cards and savings. The life skills portions works with math (fractions, decimals, percentages, algebra, geometry), writing (essays, resumes, business letters), work place essentials, money management and other needs as determined by the class and/or individual.

Enhancements

As part of a system-wide bond initiative, significant investment (in the form of physical plant improvements and security enhancements) was made at NCF Central Unit during FY 2009/2010. [Total cost: \$5,103,314]

- The medium-security perimeter fencing was upgraded with addition of two strands of razor wire and an expanded walkway for security staff.
- Work was done to improve heat delivery systems and improve boiler efficiency to impact future utility costs.
- Significant water treatment and delivery system improvements were made, including a new water treatment plant and water tower.
- A new medium dining facility complete with enhanced video surveillance capabilities was added inside the fence to improve security and bring dining, food preparation, serving line and kitchen together on one floor.
- Metal roofs, new phone system, and various security upgrades.



Central Unit at Norton



East Unit at Stockton

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



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-services/personalized-offender-information

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

**“ 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

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