



# THE BEACON

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

FALL 2013

## MESSAGE FROM AUDREY CRESS DIRECTOR OF VICTIM SERVICES

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After four months as Director of Victim Services for the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), I had the opportunity to be involved in the Office of Victim Services (OVS) activities as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). In over a decade of working in domestic violence prevention and intervention, this October was the first time in which I was not employed within a community-based domestic violence program during DVAM. I worried that I would feel disconnected from those roots, which couldn't have been more false. The OVS staff worked diligently to create awareness opportunities and provide resources and information to others within KDOC. I had many opportunities throughout October to reflect on – and be impressed by – KDOC's commitment to victims of domestic violence and efforts to end violence in our communities.

DVAM was just the most recent large-scale opportunity for me to see how OVS and

KDOC respond to victims of any type of crime, not just domestic violence. I have been thoroughly impressed with the compassion and commitment of staff within OVS and KDOC. I am full of gratitude to be serving in this position, alongside amazing women and men who are committed to victim safety and honoring victims' voices in this system.

As encouraging as things have been so far, I know we can always do better and I will strive to continue to grow and improve in our response to victims of crime. I look forward to serving in this new capacity and, as I continue to settle into this role, I am open to feedback from anyone about how we can better serve our clients, communities, and partners. Please do not hesitate to email me anytime at [Audrey.cress@doc.ks.gov](mailto:Audrey.cress@doc.ks.gov).

### 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.

*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 two Annual Remembrance Receptions:*

*Friday, December 6th, 2013 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm*

*Dugan-Gorges Conference Center, Newman University, 3100 W. McCormick Street, Wichita*

*Monday, December 9th, 2013 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

*Memorial Hall Auditorium, 120 SW 10th Street, 2nd Floor, Topeka*

*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 Joan Proctor at 785-368-6505.*

## CHAMPION OF JUSTICE AND VICTIMS VOICE AWARDEES

Each year, the Office of Victim Services (OVS), names quarterly recipients for two awards. The Champion of Justice Award is given to a Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) employee who works diligently for the safety of crime victims and/or public safety in general while supporting offender success. The Victim's Voice Award goes to an advocate of victims outside of the KDOC system. This award is to someone in law enforcement, county office, or victim advocacy programs who goes above and beyond to make sure that our victim's safety is considered. From those quarterly recipients, an annual awardee is named in the spring.

The 2012-2013  
Champion of Justice is

**Ashley Maxwell.**

Ashley is a Corrections Counselor at Lansing Correctional Facility. She has actively supported OVS by assisting with and facilitating Victim Impact Classes and a Victim/Offender Dialogue Facilitator Training Day. Her work allows OVS to improve their abilities to provide Restorative Justice Programming to inmates



at LCF. Both of these programs impact the facility, the inmates, and victims by creating more awareness about crime victims, the rights of victims, and the impact crime has on victims. Ashley's work ultimately assists OVS in meeting the needs of more victims.

The 2012-2013  
Victim's Voice Awardee is

**Michelle Barnes.**

Michelle is a 911 Dispatcher for Shawnee County. After the death of two Topeka Police Officers in the line of duty, Michelle started a fundraiser to benefit the families of fallen officers. The memorial t-shirt program allowed people in the community to participate and contribute to something meaningful and give back to the officers who work for the safety of our community. Her efforts made a difference in the lives of the surviving family members financially and emotionally as they continue to see the support from the community.



OVS congratulates both Ashley and Michelle – we appreciate the work they have done on behalf of victims.

### CHAMPION OF JUSTICE FALL QUARTER 2013



**Brett Peterson** handles many different roles at LCF as a Policy Compliance Manager, Public Information Officer, and Executive Officer to the Warden as well as coordinating the Safe Harbor Prison Dog Program. Whether he takes a call from an offender's family member concerned about that offender or from a victim wanting to understand the KDOC process and policies, all are treated with the same care, compassion, and respect. Brett is always quick to consult with the Office of Victim Services to make sure that victim's needs and questions are addressed as promptly as possible. At times, Brett has had to respond to phone calls regarding offender injuries and even death. His collaboration with Victim Services when, at times, the offender's immediate family members have also been the offender's victims has certainly made what could have been extremely stressful situations much easier for staff and the victims both.

Thank you, Brett!

### THE VICTIM'S VOICE FALL QUARTER 2013



**JOE ATHERTON** is a retired KDOC parole officer and, as a volunteer in several of our programs, he is an important part of the Office of Victim Services and what we do. Every month Joe commits to advocating for victims at the Wichita Public Comments sessions. He also assists with the Victim/Offender Dialogue program as a facilitator and with the Victim Impact Class program as a classroom facilitator.

Joe has had a lot of impact on the victims that are served through these programs. If we did not have the volunteers like him who are dedicated to this work, those programs would have trouble existing. Joe listens, and hears the struggles the victim/survivors are having at PCS where he assists them by referring them to OVS for additional services, getting victim's questions answered through VOD, or helping inmates realize the impact of their crimes on victims/survivors.

Thank you, Joe!

## VICTIM SERVICES LIAISONS SERVE VICTIMS OF POST RELEASE OR PAROLE OFFENDERS

BY OVS LIAISONS LAURA FARMER, CAMIE BORSDORF, AND ABBIE VEACH

The majority of offenders release from a KDOC facility with a period of post-release or parole supervision. This community supervision time is structured to provide guidance and case management for the offenders as they reintegrate into society. The period of post release supervision under determinate sentencing is decided by the courts upon sentencing, and can range from 12 to 36 months for most offenders. Offenders who were sentenced prior to July 1, 1993, or have committed an off-grid offense, such as First Degree Murder, have their parole determined by the Prisoner Review Board.

There are four Victim Services Liaisons who work in parole offices across the state to assist crime victims while the offenders are being supervised in the community. Parole Liaisons are available to assist victims who may have questions about this transition. Services provided by Liaisons include questions regarding conditions of release and post release, who the supervising parole officer is for the offender, as well as safety planning discussions. Services provided by OVS staff are victim initiated, confidential, and are specific to the needs of each victim.

Key legislation, including the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) and the Kansas Crime Victims Bill of Rights dictate what information, regarding an offender's status in the community as well as decisions regarding an offender's supervision, can be made public. While some information can be found on the KASPER website <http://www.dc.state.ks.us/kasper>, other details can be obtained by contacting parole liaisons.

There are 12 standard conditions of supervision for offenders who are on post release or parole. Conditions are directives that offenders shall abide by for the duration of supervision. The standard conditions address a wide range of expectations including, but not limited to, the frequency of reporting to parole, pay-

ment of restitution owed, finding employment, and expectations of behavior. There is also a standard condition that directs the offender to have no contact with the victim of the crime of conviction.

For victims who have safety concerns upon an offender's release, Liaisons are available to discuss the concerns and offer suggestions and recommendations to address personal safety needs. Safety planning can be for an individual or family and often incorporates local community service agencies that are available to collaborate to create a plan of action for the victim. Liaisons can work with the parole officers to obtain information, advocate for the needs of victims, and engage the parole officer, who supervises the offender with appropriate case management, to address specific safety concerns.

When contact is wanted by a victim of an offender who is supervised by parole, Liaisons will work with parole officers to address those requests on a case by case basis. This victim initiated process, called family reintegration, occurs when victims are family members with an offender and reintegration into the home is sought. Liaisons represent victims with that interest to parole staff and other community partners who may be working with that offender.

If an offender violates the conditions of supervision, parole staff investigates the details of the violation. The liaison contacts any victim who has been affected by the violation and provides ongoing information including parole decisions regarding violations, continuation of supervision in the community and revocation of supervision that returns an offender to a KDOC facility.

All Victim Services Liaison services are confidential, voluntary and victim initiated. For more information about these services, call the OVS toll-free number, 866-404-6732.

## 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) 879-6692

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

## ADVOCACY FOR VICTIMS

BY DENISE HAUGEN AND LISA HECHT

In Kansas there are many different types of advocacy for victims. Some programs are community-based while others are affiliated with criminal justice agencies such as the prosecuting attorney's office, law enforcement agencies, the court, probation or the prison system. Each of these is designed to allow a victim to feel there are avenues available to them for serving any (and all) of the unique needs they may have to best allow them to return his or her life to some degree of normalcy.

Immediately following the commission of a crime, the victim may be traumatized and afraid. A community based victim's advocate may work with the responding law enforcement agency to:

- See that the victim receives emergency medical treatment as necessary.
- Acquire food, shelter, clothing or other necessities the victim may immediately need.
- At the victim's request, contact family members to inform them of the situation.
- At the victim's request, contact employers if the victim will be unable to go to work.
- Help the victim report the crime to the proper authorities and complete any required paperwork.
- Help the victim file a restraining order (often in the case of domestic abuse or stalking).
- At the victim's request, contact creditors to arrange for delayed payments, suspension of late fees, or aid in filing Crime Victim's Compensation to cover expenses due to the crime committed.
- Answer questions the victim may have in regards to court appearances.

- Help the victim recover property used as evidence following a trial.

Many county/district attorney offices employ Victim/Witness Coordinators. These professionals help ensure that victims and witnesses are kept informed of the status of their cases and are treated in accordance with the laws of the State of Kansas. They are responsible for contacting all victims and witnesses prior to their court dates, ensuring that victims receive official notification regarding all court proceedings, and also routinely meet with victims of crime. They assist with preparation of Victim Impact Statements, provide court orientation and information on the Kansas Bill of Rights for Crime Victims. They offer courtroom tours to help familiarize victims and witnesses with the room in which they will later testify and can assist families in seeking counseling as well as financial assistance for costs related to their victimization. The Victim/Witness Coordinator should be a key communicator between the prosecutor and the victim, expressing the victim's needs and feelings in regards to testifying, plea bargains, expectations for sentences, and requests that restitution court ordered.

Within the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), the Office of Victim Services (OVS) provides a network of services that are victim and safety focused. OVS began with the basic service of victim notification and has since expanded to provide a network of services that attempt to lessen the impact on crime victims as much as possible. OVS begins working with victims after an offender has been committed to the KDOC. They can

provide notice of an offender's current status (incarcerated, paroled, absconded, etc.) and help them navigate the KASPER website, which allows community members, including victims, to see the offender's release date, where the offender is housed, and any disciplinary issues the offender has had while incarcerated. The KDOC Office of Victim Services staff's key role is providing the victim both an advocate and a voice while the offender is in the prison system and on parole. Notifications are sent in regards to some of the changes in the offenders' status such as work release program or community work, clemency applications, media appearances, offender's release date, parole revocation, arrests for new crimes, and more. Other services offered by OVS include stopping unwanted contact by offenders whether by letter or phone calls, requesting special conditions of parole as a part of safety planning for the victim, assisting with visitation for those who still want to visit the offender but may have safety concerns, conducting tours of a prison, and maintaining an apology letter repository for offenders that write apology letters to be held until the victim requests to view it.

As advocates for victims and for the success of offenders, OVS supports the risk-reduction focused system that the Department of Corrections has embraced. Victim safety is a central and primary factor to the work of reducing offender's high risk behaviors while still providing victim's input and concerns in the process are imperative. OVS strives to bring balance to the system.

## THE HUTCHINSON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, A VALUABLE MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY WORKING TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM

### SAM CLINE, WARDEN/DOUG MOSS, PIO

The Hutchinson Correctional Facility (HCF) has been a part of the Hutchinson community for 128 years. During this time there have been many changes at the facility and within the Kansas Department of Corrections. Not only is HCF a member of the community, it has become a local and a regional employer. There are 509 full-time state and 116 contract employees. HCF also has a strong volunteer group that comprises more than 300 individuals from the surrounding community. The budget for the facility has also had a residual effect for the community across a broad spectrum. For this fiscal year, HCF's budget was over \$31,000,000.

HCF is comprised of three units with a total inmate population of approximately 1,800. The number of inmates fluctuates depending on the total inmate population for the state. The units house inmates that have different custody levels. An inmate's custody level determines the amount of security or risk containment that is needed to safely maintain the population. There are several categories that are used to determine an inmate's custody. Some of these are his current offense(s), criminal history, how long he will be incarcerated and his age. Another determinate to an inmate's custody will be his behavior while he is incarcerated. If he violates institutional rules he can receive a disciplinary report. The severity of the behavior will determine how adversely his custody will be affected.

Inmates will also undergo a Level Of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) survey when they are first incarcerated in the Department of Corrections. This instrument is used to help determine what areas of risk

the inmates rate the highest in, i.e. education, family or employment to name just a few. The inmates can work on these areas by participating in programs that will help reduce those risk factors while they are incarcerated and after release. In Kansas, we have seen a need to find different avenues to reduce our prison population. At HCF it costs \$65.74 a day to house an inmate or \$23,996 a year. Several programs have been implemented by the Department of Corrections to address the need of reducing the recidivism or return rate of offenders to the state system. Some of these programs are Mentoring for Success (M4S), Offender Workplace Development (OWDS) and Cognitive Skills development such as Thinking for a Change (T4C); all of which are offered at HCF.

HCF currently provides inmates the opportunity to participate in work release and private industry jobs. Inmates are able to learn valuable job skills that will help them upon their release and contribute towards reducing the recidivism rate in Kansas. At the same time inmates are required to pay for their expenses while they are incarcerated. These costs include room and board, transportation, child support, fines and victim restitution. During FY2013, system wide, work release and private industry inmates paid back \$6.6 million to the state and communities with nearly \$800,000 of that going to restitution and crime victims.

Over the years, HCF has become known both regionally and nationally for several programs that aid the inmate in his development. These programs are the Wild Horse and Burro program, recycling, the

Canine Assistance Rehabilitation Education Service (CARES) dogs and the Lucky Dog program. Inmates are able to give back to the community by their involvement in these programs and experience less behavioral problems during their incarceration. When they are released, the inmates appear to be more successful on supervision.

While incarcerated, inmates are encouraged to maintain contact with their families. By doing so, inmates are more apt to have a support base when they are released. This support base has been found to help the inmates be more successful while on supervision. They can maintain these relationships through several different avenues at HCF. Inmates have access to telephones for which they or their family members can purchase time. They can also email their family members as well as have visits. HCF has the capability to monitor inmate communications and does so when issues arise relating to the safety and security of the facility and the community.

In the last 128 years, HCF has continually evolved to meet the ever changing demands of the criminal justice system in Kansas. It has provided a service to the community and to Kansas by maintaining not only necessary containment of the inmates, but a means for them to safely re-enter our communities as a contributing member.



**POWER OF THE PERSONAL STORY**

BY HOLLY CHAVEZ, VICTIM/OFFENDER PROGRAMS SPECIALIST

There are no victims who deserve to be harmed or hurt. *Victim Impact: Listen and Learn* curriculum from the Office for Victims of Crime, is a program that provides offenders with the opportunity to change their thinking and their behavior. The curriculum incorporates offender accountability and victims' personal stories to show the vast impact of crime. In 2011, the Kansas Department of Corrections, Office of Victim Services began training staff and volunteers to facilitate classes in the facilities. Currently, there are seven trained KDOC staff and four trained volunteers who are facilitators in this program.

This 13 week course helps offenders define who their victims are and the impact of ten different crimes and work to comprehend the effects of those crimes on different victims. The crimes discussed during the course include:

- Property Crime
- Assault
- Hate/Bias
- Drunk and Impaired Driving
- Gang crime
- Sexual Assault
- Child Abuse/Neglect
- Domestic Violence
- Homicide
- Robbery

The course teaches about areas of impact for victims. Those four impact areas are physical, emotional, spiritual and financial. During each

class, the offenders listen to a victim's experience and then discuss how the victim is impacted in these four areas of their life. Offender accountability happens as offenders are asked to examine how their actions and behaviors have impacted others.

The initial course, held in the Hutchinson Correctional Facility, had seven offenders who successfully completed the class. Since then, the program has continued at Hutchinson Correctional Facility and expanded to the Lansing Correctional Facility. Since the initial course, there have been a total of 22 graduates in three sessions. We are continuing to expand our program by looking at integrating more activities for the offenders as well as some additional victim components. Once those changes are complete, we will be expanding to include female offenders and taking the course to Topeka Correctional Facility.

The curriculum includes a component for victims and survivors to come into the classes and tell their story, relaying the impact that crime had on them, their families and their communities, directly to the offenders. Since the classes began in 2011, there have been 10 speakers share their experiences in the facilities. We are always looking for more victim/survivors interested in speaking. If you are interested in speaking, please email Holly Chavez at [hollyc@doc.ks.gov](mailto:hollyc@doc.ks.gov) or call at 785-817-2594.

**Doing the Work—Kari Johnson**

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. This edition, we highlight



**PC II -**

**Kari Johnson.**

Kari Johnson has worked for the Department of Corrections for six years. She is an Offender Workforce Development Specialist, OWDS, program consultant.

Kari provides these services to offenders at the Emporia, Lansing, Lawrence, Ottawa and Topeka parole offices. Kari assists parolees with finding employment by offering weekly job club meetings during which offenders explore employment related skills development and job leads in the community. She will also help with offenders resumes or job applications, and other cognitive program to help secure and maintain employment. Kari provides referral to local community resources to help offenders become successful and increase public safety.

Kari's unique role can bridge the gap between offenders ready for the workforce and companies with positions to fill. Through these services, offenders are given the tools and guidance to obtain employment, which helps reduce recidivism, and provides offenders the ability to pay restitution, as well as other financial obligations as they reintegrate into the community.

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

**Email your suggestions— [victimwitness@doc.ks.gov](mailto:victimwitness@doc.ks.gov)**

We are on the Web!

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

## OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

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**“ 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 ”**

## 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

## 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](http://www.doc.ks.gov/victim-services/personalized-offender-information)

## 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