

# OUTREACH AND ADVOCATE EXCHANGE

## SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE South Carolina Crime Victim Services Division



**First Quarter  
July - September 2021**

### The Path Forward

By Former Director Burke Fitzpatrick

Since the formation of the Crime Victim Services Division in July 2017, the same leadership has been in place – a director and four deputy directors. All that is changing.

As you read this, I will have retired and a new director will have taken the helm. Compensation Deputy Director Scott Beard has also left the agency so he can move his family to Charleston (lucky man!). The Deputy Director for victim advocate certification and training, Kim Hamm, has departed to accept an executive position with the National Children's Alliance based in Washington DC. And, the Deputy Director position for the Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants is now open.

I hope this doesn't sound alarming because all of this is good news. First, Attorney General Alan Wilson has named BJ Nelson as the next director of the division! BJ has devoted her entire career in service to victims of crime and the provider community. Since her start in the Office of the Governor,

through decades with the Department of Public Safety, and now as the (former) Deputy Director of Crime Victim Assistance Grants, she is well-prepared to lead the division. Having worked with BJ for 35 years, I can tell you that she has a servant's heart, filled with grace and compassion for victims of crime. She also shares my view that the Crime Victim Services Division exists to serve the victim provider community, not the other way around. The division is in good hands.

Working with the remaining deputy director, Ombudsman Veronica Kunz, BJ will be putting together a new team and she has the unqualified backing of Attorney General Wilson. All core functions will continue through this transition. Not all change is good, but this transition will be great!

I would like to close by thanking everyone in the division and the victim provider community for the privilege of working with you. I started with the State of South Carolina in

1980 working for the Division of Court Administration in the Supreme Court. I then went on to serve in the Governor's Office when I oversaw (no surprise here) criminal justice grants including the VOCA and VAWA programs. In 1993 we were transferred to the new Department of Public Safety and in 2016 I retired, only to be called back to DPS eight months later. Then on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 I started my last and best job, Director of the new Crime Victim Services Division in the Office of the Attorney General. Now it's time to retire and goof off.

Always remember that you are in a noble profession that alleviates the suffering of those who have been victims of crime. It has been an honor to serve with you. Godspeed.

Burke O. Fitzpatrick



### DID YOU KNOW?

#### October:

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month

#### November:

Diabetes Awareness Month

#### December:

National Drunk & Drugged Driving Month

Universal Human Rights

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Domestic Violence  
Awareness Month!

[https://  
www.daysoftheyear.com/  
days/domestic-violence-  
awareness-month/](https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/domestic-violence-awareness-month/)

### Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is designed to unify women and men all across the world who have been victims of domestic violence. It is important to recognize that domestic violence impacts millions of people, and it's not only women who are victims; many men suffer domestic violence as well.

It is a problem across every status, culture, religion, and race. There are many different forms of domestic violence as well, which is why raising awareness is so critical.

If you think that someone you know is being abused, it is important to speak up. A lot of people worry that it is none of their business, yet you could save a person's life by speaking up. It's better to speak up, even if you're wrong, rather than saying nothing at all.

Simply talk to the person in private and let them know that you are concerned. Mention the signs and why it has worried you. Tell them that you will honor their privacy if they open up to you, and tell them that you can help them in any way possible. Often, people in domestic relationships need someone to help them out of the situation, and so one conversation can make all of the difference.

## VOCA, VAWA and SVAP Grants Awarded

by Program Coordinator Joe Corey

### Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants (DCVAG)

On August 27, the Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants (DCVAG) mailed out award letters to 96 different victim service agencies, which collectively will administer 140 projects throughout the coming year. These awards are the result of a months-long review process by DCVAG staff culminating with a meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council, which met and approved the awards on August 9th.

Currently, staff is focused on organizing and conducting a series of press conferences throughout the state. These press conferences are a great way to publicize the work that subrecipient agencies do throughout the year as well as to highlight the story of individual survivors. The first press conference of the year will be held on September 21 in Spartanburg and future press conferences are planned for West Columbia, North Charleston, and Florence.

Within the agency, Deputy Director BJ Nelson has been promoted to Director of the Crime Victims Services Division taking over for Burke Fitzpatrick, who retired at the end of August. BJ had been the Deputy Director of DCVAG since its inception in July of 2017 and has worked with victims grants for over 30 years. She will continue to work managing the day to day operations of DCVAG until a replacement can be named.



## Comings and Goings

by Program Coordinator Joe Corey

### Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification, and Statistical Analysis (CVST)

This quarter, the Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification, and Statistical Analysis (CVST) welcomes Zach Glendening as our new Statistician. Zach grew up in southern Ohio and began working with the Attorney General's Office in July 2021. He is finishing his doctorate in Community Psychology at Vanderbilt University, where he studies poverty, homelessness, and disability issues. Zach's general work includes conducting background research, collecting and analyzing data, and presenting findings to the Department.

Currently, he is assisting the Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants with its Violence Against Women Act Implementation Plan.

Elsewhere within the Department, Deputy Director Kim Hamm has left the agency to take a job with the National Children's Alliance. Kim had been with the Department since its creation in 2017 and has worked in victims services throughout the state for many years.

Notably, before joining newly created Crime Victim Services Division, Kim served as the Director of the South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers. Interviews are currently being conducted with applicants and the division hopes to have a new Deputy Director hired within the coming weeks. The Division welcomes Zach and gives our best wishes to Kim as she takes the next step in her career!





<https://www.stompoutbullying.org/national-bullying-prevention-awareness-month>

### National Bullying Awareness Month

Every October, schools and organizations across the country join STOMP Out Bullying™ in observing National Bullying Prevention Month. The goal: encourage schools, communities and organizations to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying and put an end to hatred and racism by increasing awareness of the prevalence and impact of all forms of bullying on all children of all ages.

#### Bullying Can Be:

**Direct:** such as hitting,, teasing or threatening.

**Indirect:** such as excluding, spreading rumors, internet harassment or manipulation.

#### Services DCVC

##### May Consider:

**Counseling:** Therapist must be a licensed therapist.

**Medical Bills:** If the victim acquired medical expenses due to the victimization, then medical bills may be considered if directly related to victimization.

Call DCVC: 803.734.1900

## Victims' Rights Emergency Room: The Crime Victim Ombudsman

by Deputy Director Veronica Swain Kunz

### Crime Victim Ombudsman

Everyone working in our field – Crime Victim Services – understands the kinds of days we have had lately here at the Ombudsman's office. Days when people have urgent needs that simply can't wait.

We have had days where we ...

...called EMS to help save a caller's life;

...coordinated the capture of a stalker/arsonist with a victim, city and county law enforcement offices and the local Probation Agent because the offender avoided arrest by crossing jurisdictional boundaries;

...called family members to find support for people with psychological difficulties;

...reported suicidal threats to first responders;

...spoken to a responding police officer who was in the middle of arresting a victim with whom we had been closely working;

...reported numerous threats by callers who told us they were going to kill the police;

...told a mental health counselor that her long-term client was forging numerous police reports and court Orders when, in actuality, *no incidents had ever been reported.*

Of course, these are all tough calls to make but they are common-sense approaches to emergencies. Even more difficult are cases where we have to "think outside of the box" to help victims when errors are made, resources can't be found, or when criminal justice professionals are unaware of the legal rights of crime victims.

In this article, we will provide a few factual scenarios pulled directly from our files. Read each one and think about what you would do to solve each problem. We will provide our responses at the bottom of this article. Maybe you have a situation that appears to be hopeless that the Ombudsman could help!

**Caller 1:** An offender was ordered to pay restitution within 90 days of his release from jail, but the judge neglected to check the correct box on the Sentencing Sheet to allow Probation, Parole and Pardon (PPP) to collect the money for the victim. Instead, the Solicitor told the offender to pay the victim directly, and gave him victim's address. The victim was horrified and afraid of the offender. PPP's hands were tied – they could not collect the money even though the offender wanted to give it to them! *What would you do?*

**Caller 2:** An Advocate called and was upset because a Judge did not give bond restrictions on DV1st offender who attacked his wife with gun/axe in front of toddlers. *Is this legal?*

**Caller 3:** A police officer was seriously injured while on duty when he was hit by a drunk driver. One of the driver's passengers was killed and another was severely injured. After a four year wait, in 2018, the offender was sentenced to 15 years. However, within 6 months, the victims were notified to attend a parole hearing! The victims knew this was incorrect but they could not find out what the prob-

lem was or how to fix it. By the time they found the Ombudsman, they had attended three parole hearings and now, the driver was up for release. *What went wrong?*

**Caller 4:** An Advocate called on behalf of a survivor of DV. "Someone" had scratched insults and profanities in the paint of the victim's car. The survivor had a number of school age children and was understandably embarrassed and upset. The Advocate was seeking any sort of program that could help this victim. *Who could help this survivor?*

To all you Advocates reading this article, please remember that we are here to help you think through issues and solve problems. We love what we do, and we love to support what you do! Take care of yourself and remember: it takes the gifts and talents many people, from different agencies, to fully support survivors on their path toward healing. Reach out! Collaborate! Give us a call at 803-734-0357, or email [CVO@scag.gov](mailto:CVO@scag.gov).

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<https://crestline.com/c/7-national-diabetes-awareness-month-ideas>

### National Diabetes Awareness Month

Diabetes Awareness Month, along with World Diabetes Day, are large-scale events designed to bring awareness to the important issue of diabetes. According to the American Diabetes Association (ADA), 30.3 million Americans (or 9.4 percent of the population) had Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes in 2015. It's estimated that 1.25 million Americans currently have Type 1 diabetes.

Given the seriousness of diabetes and its growing prevalence, it's easy to see why National Diabetes Awareness Month and World Diabetes Day are vital for raising awareness.

In America, Diabetes Awareness Month dates all the way back to the early 1980s when it was designated by President Ronald Reagan for the first time. Both National Diabetes Awareness Month and World Diabetes Day are represented by a number of colors and symbols. The official symbol of World Diabetes Day is a blue circle, as designed by the International Diabetes Federation.

## End of Fiscal Year 20-21 Agency Stats

By Assistant Deputy Director Ethel Douglas Ford

### Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)

During FY20-21, DCVC paid out over **\$4.6** million in claims.

Please see listed below the end of the year DCVC statistical data:

#### DCVC Claims Received:

Crime Victim Compensation Claims Received: **2,608**

Adult Sexual Assault Claims Received: **937**

Anonymous Sexual Assault Claims Received: **78**

Child Sexual Assault Claims Received **1,868**

Child Physical Assault Claims Received **390**

Total Claims Received: **5,881**

#### Total Number of Payments:

The total number of payments made on DVC claims were **4,595**

#### Victim Support and Advocacy - Intake Service:

Total Incoming Calls: **3,040**

Status Calls: **2,117**

Referrals: **356**

General Info: **462**

Application Requests: **31**

Other/Misc. Calls: **30**

Total Walk-in Crime Victims Assisted: **7**

Total Incoming Mail: **4,194**

Total Outgoing Mail: **7,064**

Total Mail: **11,258**

#### Eligibility Services:

The staff in this section processed **2,127** DCVC crime victim compensation claims.

#### Restitution and Subrogation:

Restitution Collected:

**\$61,351.49**

Subrogation Collected:

**\$77,893.77**

Unclaimed Restitution Collected: **\$242,057.05**

Total Collected: **\$381,302.31**

As a result of tracking cases and working with attorneys, solicitor's offices and advocates across the state, the agency was able to **prohibit payment** on various claims in which reimbursement was provided to victims by other means. As a result, we were able to **not pay** on a number of claims; thereby, saving the agency **\$410,549.58**

#### HIV/nPEP Prophylaxis (Non-Occupational Post-Exposure Prophylaxis - nPEP):

• Adult population total number of claims received: **24**

• Adult population total amount paid: **\$20,119.64**

• Adolescent/Pediatric total number of claims received: **9**

• Adolescent/Pediatric population total amount paid: **\$55,807.17**

**Total number of Adult and Adolescent/Pediatric of claims received: 33**

**Total amount paid on Adult and Adolescent/Pediatric claims: \$75,926.81**

#### Claim Negotiation:

Claim negotiation is not guaranteed and is based on a case by case basis. All claim negotiations were suspended.

#### DCVC Training and Publication Items Distributed:

- Training Events Conducted: **23**
- Participants Trained: **859**
- Total publication Items Distributed: **476**
- Displays: **1**

#### DCVC Auditing Section:

##### **Victim Assistance Fines, Fees and Assessment Fund:**

- Total Audits Conducted: **9**
- Total Audit Complaints: **0**
- Total Audit Inquiries: **34**
- Total Budgets Monitored/Desk Audits Performed: **330**

**Total Audit Funds Recoupment: \$88,580.47**

**Total Budget Funds Recoupment: \$0**

**Total Audit and Budget Recoupment Amount: \$88,580.47**

##### Eleven Year Cumulative Auditing Stats FY10-21

- Total Audits Conducted: **104**
- Total Audit Complaints: **10**
- Total Audit Inquiries: **915**
- Total Budgets Monitored/Desk Audits Performed: **3,785**

**Total Audit Funds Recoupment: \$1,243,620.50**

**Total Budget Funds Recoupment: \$841,549.03**

**Total Audit and Budget Funds Recoupment Amount: \$2,085,169.53**



<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-drunk-drugged-driving-prevention-month-december/>

### National Drunk and Drugged Driving Month

National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month, or National 3D Prevention Month in December serves as a reminder to never drive impaired. If you're home or traveling during the holidays, you may be planning to go to a few parties, get-togethers, or even just to have a few drinks with the family. If you have been drinking or are under the influence of drugs, do not operate a vehicle. Remember, you are committing the crime of impaired driving whenever your ability to operate a vehicle is impaired by the effects of illegal drugs, prescription medication, over-the-counter medication, or a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.08 grams per deciliter or higher. If you are taking part in activities like this month, or EVER, do not make the mistake of getting behind the wheel. It could cost you or someone else their life.

## Victims' Rights Emergency Room: The Crime Victim Ombudsman

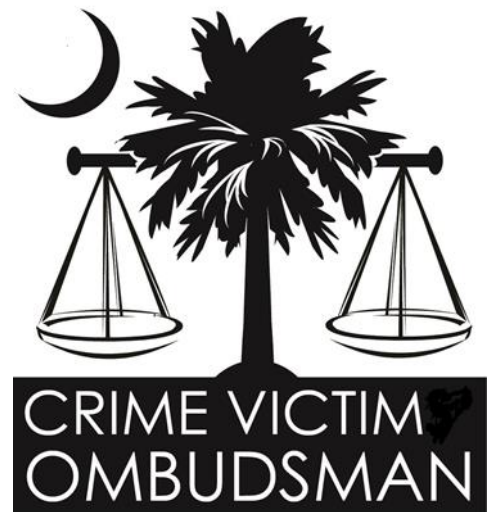
Deputy Director Veronica Swain Kunz

Crime Victim Ombudsman

(continued from page 3)

### Responses:

1. CVO called the judge, explained the situation, and the judge immediately amended the Sentencing Sheet to allow PPP to collect the restitution.
2. CVO obtained a transcript of the hearing and confirmed that the Judge did not comply with a portion of law that states "... the Court MUST [emphasis added] impose bond conditions which are sufficient to protect a victim from harassment or intimidation by the defendant ..." CVO contacted the Chief Judge and requested a meeting with both judges.
3. The three days the offender had actually served in jail before being transferred to a hospital. CVO contacted the detention center. Within a few days, they corrected the error and forwarded the corrected paperwork to the Department of Corrections, and alerted the relieved victims.
4. CVO called a few auto body shops, explained the situation to the owners and found a company willing to repaint her car for free.



December



Universal  
Human  
Rights  
Month

<https://nationaltoday.com/universal-human-rights-month/>

### Universal Human Rights Awareness Month

We have seen our share of cruelty and hate. We can do better. That's why the world is observing Universal Human Rights Month during December. This month is a reminder that the United Nations General Assembly codified the basic human rights of every person. It's also a time to reflect on the way we treat others, and to do what we can in the fight for equality.

### WHY UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH IS IMPORTANT

#### 1. It allows us to reflect

Human Rights Month is a powerful holiday, as it allows us to look back on the ways we've treated our fellow human beings.

#### 2. It reminds us of our ideals

These include individual freedoms which we must fight to protect.

#### 3. It empowers us

The principles in the Declaration of Independence are still relevant today. This fact should empower each of us to stand up for ourselves, our own rights, and for the rights of others.

## Upcoming DCVC Training and New DCVC Website

By Assistant Deputy Director Ethel Douglas Ford

Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)

DCVC Statewide Auditing Training Victim Assistance Fines, Fees and Assessment Fund - virtual  
September 16, 2021  
For additional information call, 803-734-1900

SC Network of Children's Advocacy Center  
October 20, 2021

Julie Valentine Center  
November 3, 2021

DCVC Basic Core Training for SCCADVASA  
November 16, 2021  
For additional information, call 803-256-2900 or visit <http://www.sccadvasa.org>

SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination  
December 2, 2021  
For additional information, call 803-343-0765

If you are interested in coordinating a DCVC Training for your agency, please contact the DCVC Outreach Coordinator, April Staten at [astaten@scag.gov](mailto:astaten@scag.gov)



## DCVC New Website



The South Carolina Attorney General's Office has launched a new website! The new website is vibrant, informational and easy to navigate! This email is to inform you of the new look and the newly implemented changes that have encompassed the rebranding, creating a unified visual appearance for the AG's Office.

As many of you may know, [www.sova.sc.gov](http://www.sova.sc.gov) has previously been utilized to access DCVC's website. As a result of new changes within the South Carolina Attorney General's Office, all departments and divisions within the AG's office will now be listed on the same website. Therefore, [www.sova.sc.gov](http://www.sova.sc.gov) has been discontinued. However, should you click on the old website, it will direct you to the newly created DCVC web page on the AG's website. You may also go directly to the AG's new website at <https://www.scag.gov>. Once on this site, please visit DCVC's new home by selecting "Crime Victim Services" at the top of the page and then scroll down and click on "Department of Crime Victim Compensation". This will provide access to DCVC's application, documents, forms, and helpful Crime Victim Service information for South Carolina victims, their families, providers and advocates. You will also find a tab for the Victim Assistance Fines, Fees and Assessment Fund and DCVC Auditing Team. You may choose to use the DCVC new short cut domain that will take you directly to the DCVC web page by going to <http://dcvc.scag.gov> (replacement for the old website ([www.sova.sc.gov](http://www.sova.sc.gov))).

We do apologize for any inconvenience as we transition to and familiarize ourselves with this new web address. Please take some time to walk through the DCVC page on the new website and acquaint yourself with the new set up.



# *Fall Is In The Air!*

*Welcome Fall Friends!*



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