



CONNECTIONS

Colorado Department of Public Safety
Division of Criminal Justice

Reflecting On The Past, Looking Towards The Future

By Nancy Feldman

The year ended as it began with exciting changes in the *Office for Victims Programs (OVP)*. We have two new people in the VOCA program as of mid-October. Debbie Kasyon and Louise Esquibel are job-sharing the Program Specialist position. We are very excited to have Debbie back at DCJ. Many of you know Debbie from her many years as the Victim Compensation Administrator at the *Office for Victims Programs*. Louise comes to OVP from the Office for Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management Program at DCJ. Both Debbie and Louise bring their experience, organizational skills, and desire to assist programs serving Colorado crime victims to OVP. Meghan Saleebey joined our team as the Victim Rights Act Specialist in November. Meghan most recently worked in the Victim/Witness Program at the District Attorney's Office in Boulder. She has extensive experience in working with victims of crime and in the development of public policy. With Meghan's background in social work and as a current University of Denver law school student, she has already made an impact on the Victim Rights Act compliance process.

There have been many accomplishments in 2004. The Standards for the Administration of Victim Compensation and Local Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) Programs went

through the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) process and went into effect on August 30, 2004. Local programs had until January 1, 2005 to obtain compliance with the new Standards. Technical Assistance Notebooks were developed by Rebecca Oakes and Tony Tilger to assist with the implementation process. Additionally, the VAWA application process for 2005 was completed and the awards are being finalized as this newsletter goes to print. The State VALE application process for July 1, 2005–June 30, 2006 was also completed and continues to provide funds to agencies that provide statewide victim services.

As of 2005, we are putting all grant awards on our web page rather than in our newsletter. Please check our website regularly at <http://dcj.state.co.us/ovp/>. Our goal is to keep the web-page up to date so that anyone who visits our site receives recent and relevant information.

We have had a very busy year in the Victim Rights Act arena. This year we have found that more and more people are contacting us through our web page. As a result, we find that we are working with many victims who are in need of information and referrals. During 2004, we worked with over 180 victims on victim rights issues. This is almost a 10% increase over the previous year.

During the upcoming year we will continue to bring you the *Connections*

Newsletter. However, we will be publishing the newsletter twice a year rather than quarterly. We are looking forward to 2005 and the new opportunities that it brings. Happy New Year!

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Colorado
Office for
Victims
Programs



Governor Appoints Four New Members To The Victims' Compensation And Assistance Coordinating Committee

By Rob Gallup

On October 29, 2004, Governor Owens appointed four new members to the 18-member Victims' Compensation and Assistance Coordinating Committee, the Board responsible for VOCA Victim Assistance grant recommendations, Local VALE and Compensation Standards, and Victim Rights Act complaints.

The new Coordinating Committee members are: Amanda Terrell-Orr from the 4th Judicial District, appointed as a representative of a local VALE Board; Scott Courtney from the 8th Judicial District, appointed as a representative of a judicial district; Jo Anne O'Fallon from the 21st Judicial District, appointed as a

representative of a statewide victims assistance organization; and Rita Crumpton from the 21st Judicial District, appointed as a representative of a local Victim Compensation Board.

Amanda Terrell-Orr is the Grant Coordinator at the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. She has been a member of the VALE Board since February 2003. Amanda has been a victim advocate and an active volunteer in her community.

Scott Courtney has been the Judicial District Administrator for the 8th Judicial District since 1989. He is a member of the Larimer County Criminal Justice Board.

JoAnne O'Fallon is the Executive Director of the Western Slope Children's Center in Grand Junction. She is the current secretary of the Colorado Children's Alliance and the Chair of the Sexual Assault Advisory Council.

Rita Crumpton is the District Manager for the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District and is the current chair of the Victim Compensation Board in the 21st Judicial District (Grand Junction). She is also a volunteer victim advocate for the Mesa County Sheriff's Department and is on the board of Hilltop Resources.

We appreciate their willingness to provide their time and expertise!

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

April 10-16, 2005 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. It was 25 years ago that President Ronald W. Reagan declared the first National Crime Victims' Rights Week in 1981. For more information and a resource guide, please visit the Office for Victims of Crime website: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/>.



Office For Victims Programs Welcomes New VOCA Program Specialists

In October, Debbie Kasyon re-joined the Office for Victims Programs (OVP). Debbie is job-sharing the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Program Specialist position with Louise Esquibel. Debbie worked previously with OVP as the Victim Compensation Coordinator from 1997-2002. Her most recent position was with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Debbie enjoys working part-time so she can balance her work and family schedules!

Louise Esquibel joined the Office for Victims Programs after working for the Office of Domestic Violence & Sex Offender Management (DVSOM) at the Division of Criminal Justice, as the Adult Standards Coordinator for the Sex Offender Management Board. She was with DVSOM for six years. Louise has a master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado at Denver. We are excited to have Debbie and Louise join our team!

Office For Victims Programs Staff Member Spotlight: Victim Rights Act Specialist, Meghan Saleebey

In November, Meghan Saleebey joined the Office for Victims Programs (OVP) as the Victim Rights Act Specialist. Meghan comes to the Division of Criminal Justice from the Boulder District Attorney's Office, where she was the Deputy Director of the County Court Victim/Witness Program. Meghan has worked in domestic violence and mental health settings, has managed the Kansas Children's Service League statewide child welfare advocacy program and has assisted in the development of affordable housing for Thistle Community Housing in Boulder.

Meghan has a Masters in Social Work with a concentration in mental health and is currently an evening student at the DU Sturm College of Law. Meghan enjoys reading as many novels as she possibly can, watching episodes of Law and Order and Forensic Files, hiking and snowshoeing and trying to stay connected with her family and friends.



Left to right: Louise Esquibel, Debbie Kasyon, and Meghan Saleebey.

Believe, Talk, Act Sexual Assault Awareness Month Is April 2005

Save the Date! The Sexual Assault Awareness Month Rally is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2005 at 12 noon on the west steps of the Colorado State Capitol. For further information please contact the Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA) at (303) 861-7033 or e-mail: Info@ccasa.org.

VOCA Grants Awarded

The Victims' Compensation and Assistance Coordinating Committee has recommended funding of 135 agencies through the Victims of Crime Act formula grant program (VOCA). The awards were approved by the Governor and begin on January 1, 2005 and end on December 31, 2005. The grant awards can be viewed on the OVP website at <http://dcj.state.co.us/ovp/voca.htm>.

The next announcement for VOCA funds will occur in late February with applications due in April for projects beginning in January 2006. For more information on VOCA grants, please visit the OVP website at <http://dcj.state.co.us/ovp/ovp.htm> or call Rob Gallup (303) 239-4529, Louise Esquibel (303) 239-4402, or Debbie Kasyon (303) 239-4440.

State VALE Board Schedule For 2006-07 Grant Awards

The State VALE Board recently completed its funding process for the July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006 grant cycle. The Board recommended funding for nine grants. These recommendations were approved by the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety. A list of approved grants can be found on the Office for Victims Programs website at <http://dcj.state.co.us/ovp/vale.htm>.

Due to the legislative process, the State VALE Board must make its funding recommendations six months in advance of the actual grant period. Therefore, the schedule for the 2006-07 grant cycle has already been established. It is as follows:

June 10, 2005—State VALE Business and Planning Meeting

July 1, 2005—Announcement of Availability of Funds will be mailed

July 5, 2005—State VALE applications will be mailed to current grantees

August 19, 2005—State VALE Applications due

October 17, 2005—Oral Presentations by invitation of the Board

October 18, 2005—Preliminary Recommendations made by State VALE Board

November 21, 2005—Board will review any requests for reconsideration of denial

December 2, 2005—List of Recommendations to the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice and the Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety

(continued on next page)

Stump the Grant Geek...

Dear Grant Geek,

I've been the project director of a non-profit victim services agency in Diablo, Colorado for just over a year. Right after I was hired, I had to get agency signatures on SOGAs for our new grant. Well, the whole thing turned into a big mess. I didn't have time to deal with the SOGA documents when they first arrived, so I was running around trying to get signatures 2 days before the SOGAs were due back at DCJ. My board chair had left town for a scuba diving trip in Ecuador, so I got the vice-chair to sign as the Authorized Official instead. I didn't have time to figure out what the heck an "attestor" is, so I got the mayor to sign because after all he is the mayor so I figured that's got to be good enough.

That stickler for detail at DCJ, Ms. Minutiae P. Nitpicker, sent the SOGAs back to me and told me I needed to have the proper individuals sign or DCJ couldn't process our grant and we couldn't draw our grant funds. What a pain! What's the big deal about who signs these things? It's not like they're legal documents or anything, is it?

Signed,
Disgruntled in Diablo

Dear Disgruntled,

I'm sure glad you wrote in to ask about this! I bet you're not the only one who's had this problem. I think some information will help you avoid this frustration in the future.

Statements of Grant Award, or "SOGAs" are, in fact, legal contracts between your agency and the State of Colorado that allow your agency to receive state or federal grant funds in exchange for completing approved activities. DCJ is responsible for assuring that the State of Colorado that the state contracting requirements have been met for each contract or "SOGA". The Colorado Attorney General's Office oversees the standards and requirements for DCJ's contract documents. Only certain individuals at your agency have legal authority to sign the SOGAs. DCJ has to make sure that your agency has the proper people sign, or the contract can't be executed and funds can't be released to your agency—not because DCJ doesn't want to give you the money, but because they can't legally do it without a properly executed contract.

Your agency's Authorized Official has to sign your SOGAs. The Authorized Official is the person who has legal authority to enter into contracts on behalf of your agency. For non-profits, that's usually the Chair or President of the Board of Directors.

Board bylaws should contain language that confers this contract-signing authority to the Chair.

The state requires an "Attestor" to sign the SOGAs as well. The attestor is an individual who is in a position to "attest" or affirm that the person signing the SOGA as the Authorized Official is the individual who has the authority to enter into contracts. For non-profit agencies, the Attestor should be the board Secretary. You're probably asking yourself, "Why couldn't the Vice-chair or Treasurer or a Notary Public sign as Attestor?" Here's the short answer—Because for non-profit agencies, the Attorney General's Office and DCJ recognize the board Secretary as the proper Attestor. If non-profits have their elected board Secretary sign as Attestor, they most likely won't have a problem. If non-profits have someone else sign as Attestor, they almost definitely will have a problem. Simple enough, huh?

In closing, here are three tips that are guaranteed to make the SOGA-signing process easier and less stressful:

Tip #1—Process your SOGA documents as soon as you receive them. You know that saying, "If something can go wrong, it will?" Give yourself plenty of time to head off problems by processing your SOGAs right away. Review the documents, make the required corrections and modifications, and line up the proper individuals who need to sign in plenty of time so that you avoid last minute oversights, mistakes, and frantic driving around. Remember, changes or modifications that are initiated by you need to be approved by DCJ before the SOGA can be processed, so contact your grant program administrator prior to making any changes that haven't been requested by DCJ in the SOGA documents.

Tip #2—Carefully read and follow the instructions. Believe it or not, DCJ staff spends a lot of time preparing instructions to help you through this process without problems. Every SOGA packet will contain detailed instructions on how to complete the necessary corrections and modifications, where to initial if needed, who needs to sign (and where), deadlines, and what to do with the documents when completed.

Tip #3—Call the grant program administrator if you don't understand something or if you encounter a problem. Remember, there's a clock running on the SOGA-signing process. If DCJ can't get your SOGA fully executed by the grant start-date due to problems on your end, then we both have a problem! So call the grant program administrator at DCJ if you need help. There are very few problems that can't be solved quickly as long as you contact the grant program administrator while there's still plenty of time before your signed SOGAs are due back to DCJ.

Happy SOGA-signing!
The Grant Geek

Call the grant program administrator if you don't understand something or if you encounter a problem. Frequently asked questions will be considered and featured in the "Stump the Grant Geek" column.



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 29, 2004

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ADVOCATES GEAR UP FOR SECOND ANNUAL NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

National Center Applauds Michigan's Resolution for Stalking Awareness Month, Introduces "Silver Ribbon" Stalking Awareness Pin

Washington, DC -- January is National Stalking Awareness Month, and victim advocates across the country plan to use this month as an opportunity to educate the public about the pervasive crime that affects nearly 1.4 million Americans a year.

Stalking is a serious and potentially deadly crime. One in 12 women and one in 45 men are stalked each year. Seventy-six percent of women killed by intimate partners were stalked prior to the murder. Over the past 15 years, every state and the District of Columbia has passed legislation that criminalizes stalking. Last week, Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm proclaimed January 2005 Stalking Awareness Month in the state. Michigan is among the first states in the nation to observe Stalking Awareness Month.

"Stalking Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for our citizens to learn more about stalking," said Granholm in the Michigan Resolution. "It also provides a chance to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who are providing advocacy efforts, services and assistance to stalking victims."

"We applaud Michigan for taking this important step to help stalking victims," said Mary Lou Leary, executive director of the National Center for Victims of Crime. "Stalking is often invisible to everyone except the intended victim. Governor Granholm's action declaring January 'Stalking Awareness Month' will bring public attention to the severity of this crime."

Stalking Awareness Month was motivated by the story of Peggy Klinke, a stalking victim who was murdered by an ex-boyfriend after repeatedly seeking law enforcement intervention. Last January, the National Center for Victims of Crime observed the first-ever National Stalking Awareness Month by distributing posters, fact sheets, brochures for victims, sample resolutions, and op-eds to organizations that help stalking victims across the country. In addition, many special partners joined the campaign to bring attention to stalking, including governor's offices, attorneys general, and domestic violence and stalking organizations.

This year, the National Center for Victims of Crime is distributing the "silver ribbon" stalking awareness pin. Many of the National Center's members and colleagues will again recognize National Stalking Awareness Month through a range of activities and events. For more information, visit www.ncvc.org.

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The National Center for Victims of Crime is the nation's leading resource and advocacy organization dedicated to helping crime victims rebuild their lives. The National Center's Stalking Resource Center works to raise national awareness of stalking and to encourage the development and implementation of multidisciplinary responses to stalking in local communities across the country.

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JANUARY 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
National Stalking Awareness Month						1 VOCA Assistance Recontracted Grants Start Dates
2	3	4	5	6	7 VAWA Review of Requests for Reconsideration & Final Recommendations Meeting (Lakewood)	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (State Offices Closed)</i>	18	19	20	21 VRA Subcommittee Meeting	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1st Qtr. VC Report Due; 2nd Qtr. State VALE Report Due; 3rd Qtr. VAWA/SAPF Reports Due; 4th Qtr. VOCA Report Due				

FEBRUARY 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 FY2004 VAWA Award Letters Mailed	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Local VALE Report Forms Due; VRA Subcommittee Meeting	19
20	21 <i>Presidents' Day (State Offices Closed)</i>	22	23	24	25 VOCA Announcement of Funding Availability	26
27	28					

MARCH 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 VOCA Training Projects	2	3	4 State VALE Revised Goals & Objectives Due	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Metro VC Coordinator's Meeting	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 VRA Subcommittee Meeting; Pueblo VC Coordinator's Meeting	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sexual Assault Awareness Month					1 VAWA FY2004 Grant Award Begins; Montrose VC Coordinator's Meeting	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 VOCA Training & Grant Applications are Both Due (3 p.m. Deadline)	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
← NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK (10th-16th) →						
17	18	19	20	21	22 VRA Subcommittee Meeting	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1st Qtr. VOCA Reports Due; 2nd Qtr. VC Reports Due; 3rd Qtr. State VALE Reports Due; 4th Qtr. VAWA Reports Due →						

MAY 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 State VALE SOGA's Mailed Out	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 VRA Subcommittee Meeting	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 <i>Memorial Day (State Offices Closed)</i>	31				

JUNE 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 State VALE Business & Planning Meeting	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 VRA Subcommittee Meeting	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 State Fiscal Year End—Cash Requests Due for All Subgrants		

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