

# OUTREACH AND ADVOCATE EXCHANGE

## SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

### South Carolina Crime Victim Services Division

### Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)

[www.sova.sc.gov](http://www.sova.sc.gov)



Second Quarter  
October-December 2017

## The Department of Crime Victim Compensation

### Article by Scott Beard

### Deputy Director of Department of Crime Victim Compensation

After more than 30 years of advocating for crime victims in a variety of agencies in South Carolina and beyond, I recently had the honor of accepting the position of Deputy Director for the South Carolina Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC). Advocating for crime victims is my lifelong passion and in my role with DCVC, I have laid out three guiding principles for the agency and staff as follows: (1) Customer service – we are entrusted with serving over 8,000 crime victims in South Carolina each year. Customer service for DCVC means treating victims with dignity and respect and ensuring they receive the rights they are afforded by law; (2) Accountability – we are accountable first and foremost to the victim/claimants who suffer as a result of criminal victimization in our state. But we are also accountable to state law, the Attorney General and the people of South Carolina. We take accountability seriously! (3) Financial Management – DCVC is entrusted with fines and assessments on convicted criminals as well as a number of other funding sources. It is our duty to responsibly manage these resources for current and future victim/claimants. We commit to wisely managing the resources entrusted to us.

I also want to brag a little bit about our agency and our state's victim services. I have spent many years working at the national level and in national forums advocating for crime victims. It is clear that South Carolina is at the forefront in many areas of victim services. Within DCVC, the mental health reimbursement and outreach programs are considered some of the best in the nation. I give special recognition to Ethel Ford and Dr. Larry Barker for the development of those programs. Also, as a state, (in my unscientific opinion) we have more victim advocates per capita than any other state due to the landmark Act 141 that accompanied our Crime Victim Constitutional Amendment. This landmark legislation was a team effort, but would not have happened without the leadership of Laura Hudson. Of course Laura has been a leader in efforts to improve rights and services for South Carolina victims for many years.

Now we are part of the new Victim Services Division in the Attorney General's Office. This is an idea whose time has truly come! Special thanks to Attorney General Alan Wilson for his leadership to make this initiative a reality. Our team includes Burke Fitzpatrick as

the Director of the Crime Victim Services Division, Barbara Jean Nelson Deputy Director over Grants, Veronica Kunz, Deputy Director over the Ombudsmen's Office, and newly appointed Deputy Director over Training and Statistical Analysis, Kim Hamm. Of course each of them bring along a committed staff to help carry out each Department's mission. I can tell you from the inside that the benefits are already paying off as we collaborate and work together to meet the needs of crime victims in our state.

Finally, I would just like to say how grateful I am to have been entrusted with this important opportunity to serve, and I look forward to working with a great staff at DCVC as well as advocates, law enforcement personnel and allied professionals across the state.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

##### January is:

Human Trafficking Awareness month

Stalking Awareness month

##### February is:

Teen Dating Violence Awareness month

Gang Prevention Awareness month

##### March is:

National Disabilities month

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness month

#### Anonymous Quote:

**One thing you can't recycle is wasted time.**

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## 2017 South Carolina Victim Assistance

### Advanced Academy-Greenville, South Carolina

#### SURVIVOR

According to Wiktionary

One who **survives**; one who **endures through disaster or hardship**

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The Department of Crime Victim Compensation collaborated with the Greenville Police Department to host the 2017 South Carolina Victim Assistance Advanced Academy. The academy was held on October 25-26, 2017 in Greenville at the Greenville Police Department Range and was a big success.

Participants were provided two full days of training and received 10 VSP certification hours. The presenters on the first day were Ms. Beth Jacobs and Mr. Rafael Bautista. Ms. Jacobs and Mr. Bautista were expert consultants of the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC). During their presentation, participants heard

from a victim's perspective detailed accounts of how they survived sex and labor trafficking and worked diligently to rebuild their lives.

Crime victim services for human trafficking victims may vary from those of other victims. Therefore, participants were able to learn specific needs related to human trafficking victims and as advocates how they can better coordinate services to ensure that victims' needs are met.

The second day Ms. Susan Ingles, Senior Staff Attorney and Consumer Law Unit Head with South Carolina Legal Services presented on "Financial Empowerment."

Also, Captain Stacey Owens provided participants with the history

of the Greenville Police Department's Range while providing a tour of the facility. In addition, Captain Owens provided scenarios involving participants on active shooter situations and simulations.

Another highlight for many academy participants was the opportunity to network and participate in roundtable discussions. During the discussions, participants collaborated on difficult compensation claims and best practices when providing victim services.

Additionally, participants expressed their appreciation to core faculty and thanked them for a successful 2017 South Carolina Victim Assistance Advanced Academy.

### Community Outreach and DCVC Training

The Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC) continues to be active in the community.

The Outreach Coordinator participated with Springdale Police Department during "National Night Out" by setting up a display table, answering questions regarding compensation and provided information on the program, services and benefits.

Other displays during the quarter were at a local church, technical college and local food banks in an effort to reach as many communities as possible, thereby ensuring crime victim

compensation information is distributed.

During the quarter, the Coordinator continued community networking within the Columbia area and met with 25 businesses to discuss services and benefits provided for victims of violent crimes through the program. Also, the Coordinator answered questions related to the types of crimes the program may consider for assistance.

During the outreach community networking, information was provided to administrative staff regarding coordinating possible training for office personnel. Follow up to discuss possible train-

ing dates will be conducted in 2018.

DCVC ended the quarter with a total of 18 trainings and field visits and trained over 260 participants from across the state.

Various trainings conducted statewide by DCVC outlined specific detail to include, but not limited to; agency updates, compensation, mental health counseling, sexual assault and restitution recovery.

As always, please continue to follow DCVC's Outreach and Advocate Exchange Newsletter for any future agency updates.

