

Office for Victims of Crime

VOCA Administrator Regional Meeting | SUMMARY

MEETING DATE	May 22, 2017
MEETING LOCATION	Washington, DC
MEETING CALLED BY	Marilyn Roberts, OVC Acting Director
TYPE OF MEETING	Regional Administrator's Meeting
FACILITATOR	Marti Kovener (OVC TTAC)
PARTICIPANTS	VOCA Administrators: Larry Barker (SC); Eimile Bishop (VT); Joseph Corey (SC); Michelle Crum (FL); Matthew Dale (MT); Daniza Figueroa (DC); Jeanette Gomez (GU); Darrell Hale (DC); Lisa Harrison-Lineback (MO); Lisa Lamphere (NH); Alvin Ricardo Little (NJ); John Mahoney (VA); Gene McCleskey (TX); Valerie McMahon (PA); Daina Moran (TN); Sarah Morrissey (MA); Cletus Nnanabu (WA); Tanya Pitman (NH); Jack Ritchie (VA); Heather Tyler (ME); Shontel Wright (GA).

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, & VIDEOS – MARILYN ROBERTS, OVC ACTING DIRECTOR

- Marilyn welcomed participants attending in person, on the phone, and via teleconference, and thanked the representatives for attending the meeting.
- Marilyn noted that OVC changed the format of the regional meetings during the past two years to focus on certain topics. OVC sends the minutes to all VOCA Administrators. Meeting presentations and meeting minutes are available on the VOCA Administrators website (<https://www.ovc.gov/VOCA-Administrators.html>).
- Attendees introduced themselves.

OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR VICTIM RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Representatives from each organization introduced themselves and provided details on how they are involved in the National Resource Center (NRC) for Victim Research and Evaluation.

- Stan Orchowsky, Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA)
- Susan Howley, National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC)
- Jennifer Yahner, Urban Institute
- Beth Shuman, JRSA

Presentation:

- OVC has funded JRSA, NCVC, and the Urban Institute to create NRC.
- NRC will bridge the gap between victim research and services by serving as a one-stop resource for victim service providers and researchers to increase:

- 1) access to victim research and data; and
- 2) utility of research and data collection to victim services nationwide.
- NRC has four objectives:
 - Promote collection and use of victim data;
 - Increase access to research evidence on victim policies, programs, and practices;
 - Support translation and dissemination of victim research as usable information; and
 - Improve opportunities for researchers and practitioners to work together.
- NRC will issue competitive solicitations to select 8-10 states to partner with Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs).
- These partnerships will expand states' victim-related data analysis, research, and evaluation efforts.
- Each organization will use its expertise:
 - JRSA will focus on obtaining data. JRSA is a liaison between the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and SACs, which are state offices that collect and analyze data on the justice system and serve as clearinghouses for research.
 - NCVC will focus on victim-centered information and best practices for victim services.
 - Urban Institute will focus on synthesis and translation of data.
- NRC will design and create:
 - Series of podcasts, fact sheets, webinars, and infographics that translate research into usable information.
 - On-demand courses on research basics and best practices for victim services.
 - Interactive, one-stop national resource website that has an open-access repository of translated research findings and a subscription-based library of journal articles.
- Long-term goals include assembling a research-to-practice (R2P) network of other resource centers around the country to share strategies for translation and dissemination of information.
 - The network will encourage collaboration between victim researchers and practitioners.
 - Discussion forums, sometimes moderated by NRC staff, will be launched for sharing research and practice ideas.
 - NRC and the network will develop a 'match-making' database of practice-oriented researchers.
 - A victim research-practitioner program will provide a one-year, \$15,000 grant to eight pairs of R2P partners.
- For more details on the presentation, please see the Appendix.

Q: Please explain the relationship of the data from this project and the OVC Performance Measurement Tool (PMT).

A: JRSA understands that OVC, BJA, and OJJDP are working to improve their performance measurement systems. We have heard about the advantages and challenges over the years with those systems. One task of this project is to examine that data to determine what is being reported, what is available, and how to make this data more useful to you.

GROUP DISCUSSION: WORKING WITH THE NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER (NRC)

Participants gathered in small groups for discussion, after which the entire room came back together for a large group discussion.

What sources of information do you currently use?

- Sources participants currently use to obtain information and for research/evaluation include:
 - The National Crime Victimization Survey
 - PMT data
 - Internal agency data for compensation and assistance
 - Health data mined for insights about disabilities, sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse
- Assistance or data needed for conducting a strategic plan or conducting a needs assessment within the past 5 years:
 - VOCA compensation and assistance programs conduct strategic planning differently from nonprofits; VOCA programs conduct strategic planning on a state budget cycle, i.e., what they will do within a fiscal year and how they will fund it.
 - Steve Derene is familiar with many approaches states have used for strategic planning.
 - In some cases, outside sources have determined priorities and funding sources to be used or sought.
- Support for state evaluation projects with SACs:
 - Observations on victim rights
 - Review of domestic violence task force work
 - State evaluation project in VA determined that statutory requirements posed a challenge and developed recommendations for changes. Administrative funds were used for support.
 - A significant initiative supported by the former SC Governor on the Domestic Violence Task Force revealed many ideas relevant for the victim services field.
- What do subgrantees need to know?
 - If they could interpret their own PMT data, they could use it with their funders to provide motivation to them and their peers.
 - Help with how to use their own PMT data. People struggle with entering data into the PMT correctly.
 - Methodology and models and best practices on how to conduct a good outcome evaluation. Plug and play items so that others can use the data.
 - Demographics are useful to understand who are we reaching and who are we missing. There are barriers to collecting the demographic data. Some say confidentiality does not allow them to collect this data.
 - Some subgrantees fear evaluations. When the state goes out to evaluate and encourage subgrantees, how can the state help manage subgrantees' fear that their funding will be taken away through evaluation, particularly if it shows something is lacking?
 - Need a standardized way to obtain information from victims about services.
 - Each grantee may have different needs.
 - Data collection and storage have significant costs.
 - Implementing changes takes 2-3 years.

- Small groups met to discuss how agencies would use research and evaluation findings if they were more easily accessible; possible improvements for programs' understanding, interpretation, consumption, and production of data; and wishes for the National Resource Center. Wishes include:
 - Comparing states to other states of similar size and demographics. It is important to understand how state laws and situations differ. The NRC should not combine data out of context or make vast generalizations without state input.
 - TTAC should examine victim law for state policies, develop state-by-state comparisons, and make the information more user friendly.
 - The ACA can impact compensation. The possibility of adding another compensation category could help understand the trajectory of the cost.
 - Resources from and for prosecutors. Consider all stakeholders: law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and judges. Leverage TTAC resources to identify the right people to engage in the process.
 - Validated needs assessments that can be easily used.

OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR REACHING UNDERSERVED VICTIMS

Presenters: Nancy Smith, Vera Institute of Justice, and Sandra Harrell, Vera Institute of Justice.

- The goal of the National Resource Center for Reaching Underserved Victims (Resource Center) is to transform victim services to effectively identify, reach, and meet the needs of survivors from underserved communities by providing innovative services that are:
 - Culturally and linguistically specific;
 - Trauma-informed; and
 - Accessible, welcoming, and inclusive.
- The Resource Center should bridge silos while meeting the needs of all crime victims.
- The Resource Center will work under three principles:
 - 1. The majority of victims are underserved.
 - 2. Some groups face greater risk of harm than do others.
 - 3. Some communities experience unique barriers and have unique needs.
- A well-known study showed that in 2011, only 9% of victims of violent crimes received services. This figure drops to 4% when the crime is not reported.
 - The Resource Center will help you help subgrantees to improve these statistics and connect victims to services.
 - The Resource Center will help victim services identify, reach, and meet the needs of survivors from underserved communities.
- Rather than reinforcing silos, the Resource Center wants to help you build capacity, provide expertise, and identify and use promising practices.
 - The Resource Center will:
 - Enhance the field's knowledge and capacity base through a national conference, regional trainings, virtual trainings, and video and print-based resources.

- Promote tailored, community-driven solutions through expert consultations and site visits.
- The Resource Center will consist of:
 - Consortium of experts broken into eight working groups that focus on different communities of focus (i.e., underserved populations).
 - Robust steering committee, national advisors, work group members, and technical experts.
- Planning and development:
 - Experts will conduct a listening tour of VOCA agencies, VOCA-funded programs, culturally-specific organizations, and crime victims.
 - Experts will conduct data analysis, map the survivor-services system, and catalogue existing resources to shape the project's direction, focus, and scope.
- Next steps:
 - The Resource Center will develop a preliminary website in the next few months.
- Outreach and collaboration:
 - The Resource Center will develop a project website, ways to request and track training and technical assistance (TTA), and create different ways to provide and receive feedback.
 - To request TTA, email cvs@vera.org, chope@vera.org, or call 212-376-3096.
 - The Resource Center wants to hear from you!
 - Questions can be directed to Nancy at: nsmith@vera.org.
 - Comment: Identifying underserved communities might be easy. Reaching these communities is something else entirely.
 - For more details on the presentation, please see the Appendix.

GROUP DISCUSSION: NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR REACHING UNDERSERVED VICTIMS

Question 1: What are the needs of subrecipients?

- Language access
- Cultural competency
- Legal services
- Ability to meet demands and needs
- Outreach
- Transportation
- Comprehensive list of programs
- Determining who is underserved: there is much states do not know about who is underserved and their needs.

Question 2: In instances where a victim in your state received services and had a good experience with your office, what were the ingredients for success?

- Building bridges with key stakeholders to coalesce around common goals
- Appropriate funding
- Outreach and engagement
- Advocacy
- Coordination between agencies and service providers
- Following up with the victim to check on how things are going
- Honest, upfront communication with victims
- Referring the victim to wraparound services near the victim, which makes it easier for them to obtain help
- Providing victims with a list of contacts for emergency services
- Smooth handoff from one agency to the next so as not to re-traumatize the victim. (Smaller communities may be better at this)
- Using staff that are from the communities to establish trust with the victim

- Participants shared the following list of identified underserved communities in their states:
 - Refugee communities
 - Native Americans
 - Asian Pacific Americans
 - Older adults
 - People with disabilities
 - Human trafficking victims/survivors
 - People with limited-English proficiency
 - Deaf and hard of hearing communities
 - LGBTQ
 - Children
 - Incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals
 - Migrant farm workers

- Strategies participants use to identify underserved communities include:
 - Examining subgrantees' data and feedback
 - Comparing a state's statistics on underserved populations to federal statistics
 - Conducting a formal needs assessment
 - Holding regional meetings to receive public comments
 - Reviewing case studies and applying what fits

Question 3: What do you need to meet the needs of underserved communities?

- Language access and interpretation services and staff cultural competency
- Access to legal services on immigration and outreach to immigrant populations
- Transportation to reach rural areas

- More data in general on underserved communities
- Diversifying a homogenous state agency

Question 4: What is the one thing the NRC can do to help you reach underserved communities?

- Help local service agencies understand how they can partner with other organizations in the community and the state
- Access to a list or database of local programs and coordination from the state on how best to reach them
- Translation services
- Training materials specific to underserved populations
- Data collection, analysis, and evaluation
- List of lessons learned and best practices and tools
- Information for Spanish speaking populations and immigrant communities
- State specific contact list
- Resource library with population specific research and available materials
- Training on how to reach underserved populations, with research-based results
- Webinars and a speaker's bureau on underserved topics, including people from underserved communities who can provide real-life examples and best practices for meeting victim needs
- Protocol or model for evaluation
- LEP applications

NEXT STEPS

National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation:

- An RFP for VOCA Administrators and SACs will be released in the next few months, after which the RFP for the fellowship will be released.
- JRSA will work to build the website and online library. Please submit your ideas so that the NRC can meet your needs.
- Contact information:

Stan Orchowsky – sorchowsky@jrsa.org or Beth Shuman – bshuman@jrsa.org

Susan Howley – showley@ncvc.org

Jennifer Yahner – jyahner@urban.org

National Resource Center for Reaching Underserved Victims:

- Your ideas will be used to provide more victims with more services.
- The Resource Center will identify promising practices and provide them to VOCA Administrators.
- Please provide feedback on how to make the Resource Center useful by sending an email to cvs@vera.org.

CLOSING REMARKS – MARILYN ROBERTS, OVC ACTING DIRECTOR

- Marilyn thanked the attendees for coming and for their participation.

- OVC will arrange for a session at the VOCA conference to enable VOCA Administrators to speak more in depth with tribal representatives.
- OVC looks forward to reviewing your feedback forms.
- Provide suggestions to strengthen both Centers.

Office for Victims of Crime

VOCA Administrator Regional Meeting | SUMMARY

MEETING DATE	May 23, 2017
MEETING LOCATION	Washington, DC
MEETING CALLED BY	Marilyn Roberts, OVC Acting Director
TYPE OF MEETING	Regional Administrator’s Meeting
FACILITATORS	Marti Kovener (OVC TTAC)
TOPIC	VOCA Victim Compensation Guidelines/Proposed Rule
PARTICIPANTS	VOCA Administrators: Eimile Bishop (VT); Grace Beil Call (NY); Michelle Crum (FL); Matthew Dale (MT); Amanda Fasnacht (PA); Jeanette Gomez (GU); Darrell Hale (DC); Lisa Harrison-Lineback (MO); Lisa Lamphere (NH); Alvin Ricardo Little (NJ); John Mahoney (VA); Gene McCleskey (TX); Valerie McMahan (PA); Ann Meola (MA); Cletus Nnanabu (WA); Marc Pelka (NY); Tanya Pitman (NH); Jack Ritchie (VA); Heather Tyler (ME).
ATTENDEES IN PERSON	Tuyet Duong (OVC Language Access Fellow); Kay Floyd (Mass Violence and Terrorism Fellow); Tiffany Graham (OVC Grants Management Specialist); Joel Hall (OVC Program Specialist); Laura Ivkovich (OVC Policy Analyst); Deaneé Johnson (Child Sexual Exploitation Fellow); Kathrina Peterson (Attorney Advisor); Peter Pollard (OVC Services for Male Victims Fellow); Marilyn Roberts (OVC Acting Director); Jalilia Sebbata (OVC Grants Management Specialist); Toni Thomas (OVC Associate Director); Heather Warnken (OVC/BJs Data Dissemination and Translation Fellow); Steve Derene (NAVAA); Diane Alexander (OVC TTAC); Marti Kovener (OVC TTAC); Billie Matelevich-Hoang (OVC TTAC); and Lisa Ewing (OVC Contracted Writer-Editor).

ATTENDEES VIA PHONE Reshunda Boyd (GA); Bethany Case (OVC Program Specialist); DeLano Foster (OVC Lead Victims Justice Program Specialist); Deserea Jackson (OVC Victim Justice Program Specialist); Kareem Izlar-Mathis (OVC Victim Program Specialist); and Brian Sass (OVC Program Specialist).

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, & VIDEOS – MARILYN ROBERTS, OVC ACTING DIRECTOR

- Marilyn welcomed participants attending in person, on the phone, and via teleconference, and thanked the representatives for attending the meeting.
- Marilyn noted that OVC had changed the format of the regional meetings this year to meetings focused on specific topics. OVC sends the minutes to the listserv afterwards. Meeting presentations and meeting minutes are available on the VOCA Administrators website (<https://www.ovc.gov/VOCA-Administrators.html>).
- Marilyn stated that OVC plans to post the VOCA Compensation and Assistance Formula Solicitations this week. OVC also plans to post some discretionary solicitations this week or next.
- Attendees introduced themselves.

SUMMARY ASSESSMENT OF COMPENSATION PROGRAMS

Presenter: Grace Call, Council of State Government's Justice Center

- This OVC-supported assessment is the product of working with four TTAC consultants over four months.
- This assessment is for OVC's internal use only—it will not be released to the public.
- Let OVC know your opinion of making a general summary more widely available.
- Victim compensation programs are located most often within a criminal justice agency or the state attorney general's office.
- Compensation programs rely on many sources of income.
- Since 2010, compensation program payout amounts have decreased by 18%.
 - Medical payouts have decreased by 21% during this time.
 - Mental health payouts have decreased by 22% during this time.
- Crime scene cleanup payout amounts have increased since 2007.
- Payouts for forensic exams have increased steadily since 2007.

Discussion:

- Administrators expressed concern that the summary is too general and does not make necessary distinctions. However, they might be interested in making helpful elements public. In its current state, they believe it should be kept as a nonpublic document.
- Rather than presenting national trends, prepare the information differently. Instead of showing general increases or decreases among states, have a grid to show all states, with embedded links to supporting documentation.
- Such information could help a state program work with its legislature.

- It is helpful to see what others are doing and how each state compares in categories of payouts. This is a great learning tool for new administrators.
- Next steps: there is general interest to make this information public if adjustments are made to the presentation. Adjustments to the presentations should be run by Gene (TX), Jack (VA), and others for input.
- Questions about states' data should be addressed to Grace.

VOCA COMPENSATION GUIDELINES

- Kris Brambila, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, OJP, provided a brief update on the process of updating the VOCA Compensation Guidelines. OVC is currently soliciting feedback on changes for the Guidelines. The process for updating the Guidelines can be lengthy. Marilyn Roberts reiterated that the reason we are holding this meeting is to solicit Administrators' input. Once a draft is developed, OVC will share it with the Administrators for their feedback and input before it is distributed for public comments.
- Participants requested that when the draft Guidelines are issued for comments, that it include a summary of changes, in plain language. OVC indicated that this would take place and that anticipated changes are intended to provide more clarity.
- Anticipated changes include providing better consistency between the Guidelines (which were published in 2001) and the statute, which was revised more recently. While major changes are not anticipated, a restructure to make the Guidelines easier to read and understand is a goal.

GROUP DISCUSSION: VOCA COMPENSATION PROGRAMS

- Decrease in Crime and Impact on Compensation Programs
 - Most states have seen a small increase in compensation applications over the past 5 years (with the exception of PA which was up 10–13%).
 - The mix of crimes is changing. Compensation programs are not seeing as many claims for bar fights and assaults but are seeing an increase in domestic violence and sexual assault claims.
 - TX mentioned that it is seeing a reduction in human trafficking victims. As beds at shelters facilities are increasing, many are also providing mental health treatment, or at least partial mental health and childcare.
- Approaches to Expanding Compensation to Underserved and New Crime Victim Populations
 - Immigrants and undocumented individuals lack services.
 - VA mentioned seeing an increase in funding for transportation services.
 - TX mentioned purchasing cars in rural parts of the state to transport victims to mental health and forensic exams.

GROUP DISCUSSION: VOCA COMPENSATION PROGRAMS

- Unclear whether compensation applications will increase.

- Some services can be covered under either compensation or assistance. Example: temporary housing.
- More victim advocates in the field will result in more compensation applications.
- Program Requirements – states discussed the crimes and expenditures that they are able to cover.
 - Property loss in general is excluded in the current Guidelines. If possible, remove this restriction to allow states to make decisions on property loss reimbursement.
 - Regarding security for family violence, sexual assault, and elder fraud, the Guidelines set limits on door locks, window locks, and all security systems. Remove this limitation to allow states to cover these expenses.
 - The definition of supplantation was discussed. The financial guide provides clarification.
 - On cooperation with and reporting to law enforcement, the Guidelines are general and vague, whereas state laws define reporting requirements. Sometimes the state legislature asks what federal law or the Guidelines say. Consider if the update should include reporting to law enforcement.
 - VOCA Assistance Guidelines say you cannot deny services based on citizenship; however, this is not reflected in Compensation Guidelines. The two Guidelines should be consistent.
- Compensable Expenses
 - States approach this in varying ways based on what they can and cannot cover.
 - For example, property loss is not covered but mental health is covered in assault claims.
 - Transportation in rural areas and coverage for gas: there have been issues with providing victims with gas cards because they should only be used for gas purchases and there is no way to track how they are used. However, in rural areas without access to public transportation, this is a problem without a solution.
 - Statute of limitations: sexual assault victims are not able to access compensation programs after a certain amount of time (varies by state: 18 months or 1 year, for example). However, this does not accommodate (in the example of sexual violence) when a child experiences reoccurring trauma as an adult.
- Forensic Sexual Assault Examination Claims
 - Use of VOCA funds versus state funds: they cannot be used for those aged 11 and under because they need different kits. This is a challenge for hospitals in terms of billing expenses.
 - Prescriptions: best practice to fill within the hospital, not send the survivors with a script (because they may never get it filled or there may be lag time in commuting).
 - Engage with hospital staff.
 - Protect victims who do not ever want to report.
 - Other injuries involve differences in coverage.

- Storage: some kits are stored as evidence. Use bar codes for tracking.

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND VICTIM EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM (ITVERP)

- The ITVERP brochure was distributed to attendees. Marilyn Roberts outlined the threshold amounts of possible reimbursement, eligibility, and other program information. Additional information on ITVERP is available at www.ovc.gov/itverp/index.html. The video is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnjdOMRMxTs&feature=youtu.be>.
- Ideas on how Compensation Programs affect ITVERP: ITVERP takes into account if state compensation was provided. If the state is considering payment, OVC would wait for the state decision, then ITVERP could cover whatever expenses were not covered. Most people will hear about ITVERP from the State Department. States make a decision on eligibility based on ITVERP decisions. States normally cover loss of wages and loss of support. ITVERP covers unusual expenses and pays for expenses (such as property loss) that states cannot pay.
- OVC is considering whether some thresholds should be raised. For example, mental health is only covered for 1 year, up to \$5,000. The maximum total amount of ITVERP compensation one can receive is \$105,000.
- Training and outreach: states should know how to access it. The ITVERP website listed above is a great resource for more information.

NEXT STEPS

- OVC does not know the date that the draft revised Guidelines will be shared. OVC will, however, send a draft to Administrators before it enters the public comment period.
- OVC is here to listen to recommended changes to the Rule. If you have suggestions after this meeting, feel free to send them to us. Let us know your ideas.

APPENDIX

Underserved Victims Resource Center

An Overview and Discussion



The Vera Institute of Justice Center on Victimization & Safety

About Us
Our Mission
Our Work



About Us

We work with others who share our vision to tackle the most pressing injustices of our day - from the causes and consequences of mass incarceration, racial disparities, and the loss of public trust in law enforcement, to the unmet needs of the vulnerable, the marginalized, and those harmed by crime and violence.

Center on Victimization and Safety



- Work to fashion victim services that reach, appeal to, and benefit all victims of crime.
- Focus on groups of people who are at elevated risk of harm but who are underserved.
 - People with disabilities
 - People with limited English proficiency
 - Deaf individuals
 - People who are incarcerated
 - Men of color (Common Justice)

Underserved Victims of Crime Resource Center

Goals
Vehicles for Change
A Consortium of Experts



Goals

To transform victim services to effectively identify, reach, and meet the needs of survivors from underserved communities by providing innovative services that are:

- **culturally and linguistically specific,**
- **trauma-informed, and**
- **accessible, welcoming, and inclusive.**



Underserved Communities

- Children
- Incarcerated/Formerly Incarcerated People
- LGBTQ People
- Men of Color
- Older Adults
- People with Disabilities
- People with LEP
- People from Historically Underserved Communities



Our Approach

- Reflect the intersectionality of community, identity, and experience;
- Promote capacity-building approaches and practices that are cross-cutting;
- Honor the unique needs and strengths of communities and programs;
- Reflect and resonate with survivors from underserved communities; and
- Is manageable, feasible, and sustainable.



Vehicles for Change

Enhance the Field's Knowledge and Capacity Base

- National Conference
- Regional Trainings
- Virtual Trainings
- Video and Print-Based Resources

Promote Tailored, Community-Driven Solutions

- Expert Consultation
- Site Visits
- Mini-Grants to Spur Innovation

Strategic Communications & Engagement

- Communications Campaign
- Outreach Materials
- Website



A Consortium of Experts

- Project Partners/Steering Committee Members
- National Advisory Committee
- A Pool of Experts
 - Subject-matter
 - Technical

More than 45 Collaborators

A Consortium of Experts





Steering Committee Partners

- Casa de Esperanza, National Latin@ Network
- Common Justice
- FORGE
- National Center for Victims of Crime
- National Child Advocacy Center
- National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life
- Women of Color Network



National Advisors & Work Group Members

- Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims
- Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
- Area Agency on Aging
- BiNet USA
- Center for Urban Families
- Cross-Cultural Communications
- Futures Without Violence
- International Association of Forensic Nurses
- Just Detention International
- JustLeadership USA
- King County Prosecutor's Office
- Lifespan
- Los Angeles LGBT Center
- Mending the Sacred Hoop
- National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators
- National Association of Crime Victims Compensation Administrators
- National Center for Lesbian Rights
- National Children's Advocacy Center
- National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women
- National Crime Victim Law Institute
- National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project
- National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

National Advisors & Work Group Members



- National Sexual Violence Resource Center
- National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects
- National Human Trafficking Resource Center
- Red Wind Consulting, Inc.
- Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence
- Safe, Stop Abuse for Everyone
- Sensibilities Prevention Services
- The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability
- The Center for Independent Living Options
- The Consultation Center, Inc.
- The Disability and Abuse Project
- UJIMA
- Weill-Cornell Medical College
- Crime Victims



Technical Experts

- Assessment and Evaluation
- Coordination
- Interpreters
- Strategic Communications
- Videographers
- Writers, Editors, and Graphic Designers



Planning and Development

Listening Tour

- VOCA Administrators, VOCA-Funded Programs, Culturally-Specific Organizations, and Crime Victims
- In-Person Sessions, Interviews, and a Survey

Data Analysis

- Academic literature
- VOCA needs assessments
- Other data

Survivor-Services-System Mapping

Cataloguing Existing Resources



Planning & Development

- Outreach and engagement
- Collaboration and coordination
- Infrastructure development
 - A project website
 - Mechanisms for requesting training and technical assistance
 - Training and technical assistance tracking system
 - Impact measurement approach and system
 - On-going feedback loops



Timeline

An Invitation to Dialogue

Large Group Discussion



Discussion Questions

- What approaches are you using to determine who is underserved?
- Who are underserved in your state/territory?
- What progress has been made toward reaching those underserved victims?
- What challenges remain?



Discussion Questions

- What type of assistance can we provide administrators?
- What type of assistance can we provide subgrantees?
- What type of assistance has been most effective at supporting and advancing the work of subgrantees?



Our Doors Are Open!

To request training and technical assistance,
contact us:

cvs@vera.org

(212) 376-3096

National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation



Agenda

- 8:35am Introductions
- 8:45am Overview of NRC
- 9:30am Questions
- 9:45am **BREAK**
- 10am Group Discussion
- 11:30am Wrap-up
- 11:45am **LUNCH**

INTRODUCTIONS

JRSA, NCVIC, and Urban

National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation



THE NATIONAL
CENTER FOR
**Victims
of Crime**



**Stan
Orchowsky**
Dir. of Research

**Beth
Shuman**
Project Mgr.

**Susan
Howley**
*Public Policy
Director*

**Jennifer
Yahner**
*Sr. Research
Associate*

vision 
Transforming Victim Services



Introductions: JRSA



**Stan
Orchowsky**

Dir. of Research

**Beth
Shuman**

Project Mgr.

- National non-profit created in 1974
- Mission: To improve administration of criminal and juvenile justice through objective data analysis and dissemination of research that informs policy and practice
- Includes researchers, evaluators and data analysts



Introductions: JRSA (cont.)



**Stan
Orchowsky**

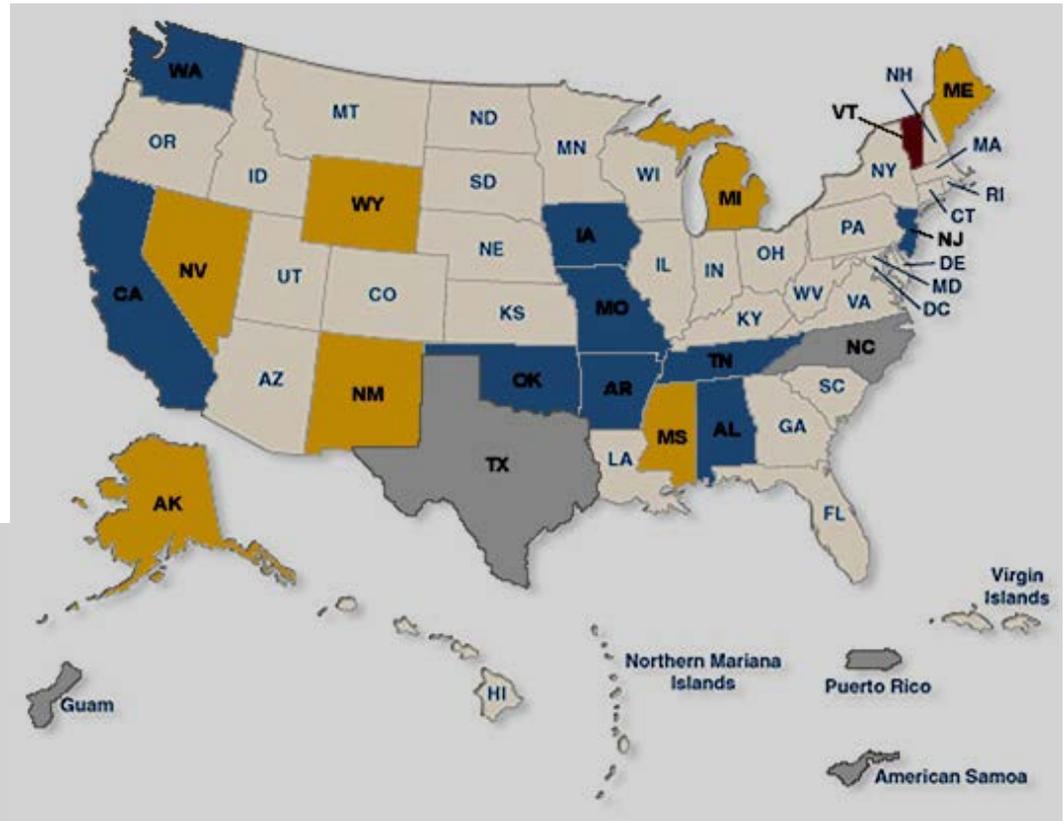
Dir. of Research

**Beth
Shuman**

Project Mgr.

- Liaison between Bureau of Justice Statistics and state **Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs)**
- SACs are state offices that:
 - *Collect and analyze statistical data on the justice system*
 - *Conduct research and program evaluations*
 - *Serve as clearinghouses for research*

Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs)





Introductions: NCVC

THE NATIONAL
CENTER FOR
**Victims
of Crime**

**Susan
Howley**

*Public Policy
Director*

- Founded in 1985
- Advocates for stronger rights, protections, and services for crime victims
- Provides education, training, and evaluation to victim service providers and criminal justice professionals



Introductions: NCVVC (cont.)

THE NATIONAL
CENTER FOR
**Victims
of Crime**

**Susan
Howley**

*Public Policy
Director*

- NCVRW Resource Guide
- VictimConnect
- SVAA Resource Center
- Tribal Victim Service Resource Mapping Tool
- National Training Institute (annual, Portland OR)
- Stalking Resource Center
- National Census of Victim Service Providers (with Rand and NORC)
- Law Enforcement and Victim Comp (with IACP)



Introductions: Urban Institute



**Jennifer
Yahner**

*Sr. Research
Associate*

- Non-profit created in 1968
- Believes in the power of research to improve lives and strengthen communities
- Includes 10 policy centers



Introductions: Urban (cont.)



**Jennifer
Yahner**

*Sr. Research
Associate*

- Urban's **Justice Policy Center** has over 55 researchers and analysts
 - *Engages with practitioners and policymakers at the city, state, and federal levels*
 - *Informs decision-making to improve safety and well-being of vulnerable individuals, including crime victims*

OVERVIEW

National Resource Centers are a Vision 21 Initiative

Vision 21 Initiative



- **How can we transform victim services in the 21st century?**
- Gathering of victim service providers, advocates, policymakers and professionals
- Identified four major issue areas

Vision 21 Initiative



1

Conduct continuous rather than episodic strategic planning.

2

Support research on victims and victimization.

3

Ensure statutory, policy, and programmatic flexibility to address enduring and emerging crime victim issues.

4

Build and institutionalize capacity.



2 Support Research

- **How can we bridge the gap between victim research and services?**
- OVC funded the *Bridging the Gap* project
- NCVIC, Urban, and JRSA worked together





2 Support Research (cont.)

Bridging the Gap Recommendations

1. Expand victimization knowledge (data)
 - *How many crime victims are in my state?*
2. Identify evidence-based practices
 - *How should my state serve crime victims?*
3. Disseminate useable victim research
 - *Which services are most helpful to victims?*
4. Promote research-and-practice collaboration
 - *How can research be useful to me/providers?*



2 Support Research (cont.)

- **How can we enact these recommendations to improve victim services?**
- OVC funded the **National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation**
- JRSA, NCVIC, and Urban working together again

National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation



NRC Vision

A community of victim service providers and researchers who routinely **collaborate** to improve practice through effective use of research and data.





NRC Mission

To serve as a **one-stop resource** for victim service providers and researchers to **connect and share knowledge** to increase
(1) access to victim research and data and
(2) the utility of research and data collection to crime victim services nationwide.

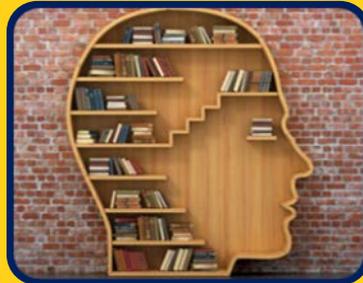


NRC Objectives



1

Promote the collection and use of victim data.



2

Increase access to research evidence on victim policies, programs, and practices.



3

Support the translation and dissemination of victim research as useable info.



4

Improve opportunities for researchers and practitioners to work together.



NRC Objective 1 Activities



1
Promote the collection and use of victim data.

- Partner VOCA administrators with Statistical Analysis Centers
 - *Select 8-10 states to work with*
- Expand states' victim-related data analysis, research and evaluation efforts
- Provide other information to improve victim service planning and implementation

NRC Objective 1 Activities (cont.)

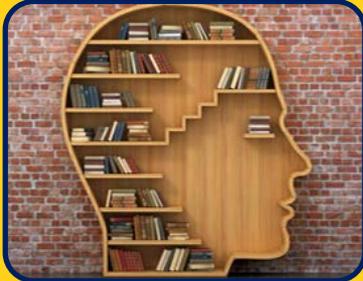


1
Promote the collection and use of victim data.

- Within and across states, identify ways to:
 - *Better use federal and state victimization data*
 - *Better use performance measurement data collected at the local, state and federal levels*
 - *Coordinate data collection and dissemination efforts among local, state and federal agencies*



NRC Objective 2 Activities

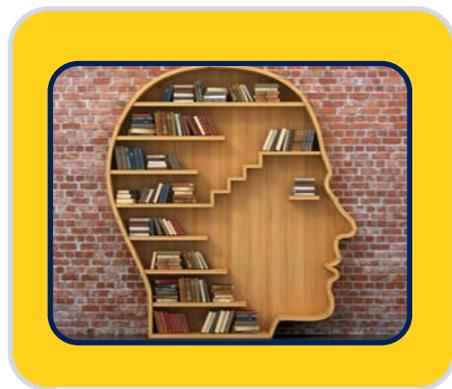


2

Increase access to research evidence on victim policies, programs, and practices.

- Series of podcasts, fact sheets, webinars, infographics
 - *Translating research into useable info*
- On-demand courses on research basics and best practices in victim services
- Discussion forums for sharing research and practice ideas

NRC Objective 2 Activities (cont.)



2

Increase access to research evidence on victim policies, programs, and practices.

- Create interactive, one-stop national resource website
 - *Open-access repository of translated research findings*
 - *Subscription-based library of journal articles*

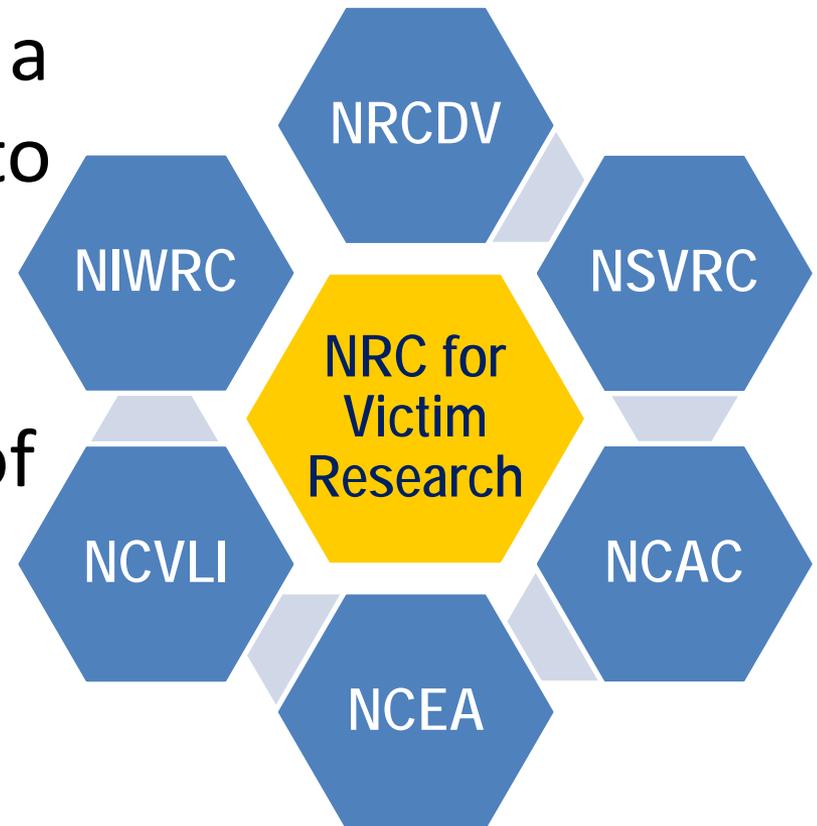


NRC Objective 3 Activities

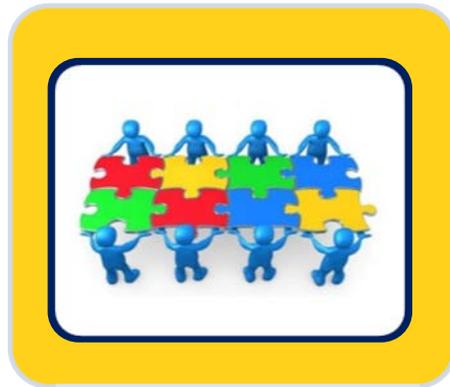


3
Support the translation and dissemination of victim research as useable info.

- Assemble a research-to-practice (R2P) network of existing resource centers



NRC Objective 3 Activities (cont.)



3

Support the translation and dissemination of victim research as useable info.

- Coordinate R2P evaluators to share strategies for translation and dissemination
- Clarify national research agenda
- Translate research for resource center website content



NRC Objective 4 Activities



4

Improve opportunities for researchers and practitioners to work together.

- Encourage collaboration between victim researchers and practitioners
 - *Establish state-level working groups*
 - *Facilitate local collaborations*
- Promote R2P discussion forums for sharing research and practice ideas

NRC Objective 4 Activities (cont.)



4

Improve opportunities for researchers and practitioners to work together.

- Develop a “match-making” database of practice-oriented researchers
- Launch a victim researcher-practitioner fellowship program
 - *One-year, \$15K to 8 pairs of R2P partners*
 - *Collaboration on R2P project, cross-learning, participate in 2-day workshop*

National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation

QUESTIONS?

National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation

GROUP DISCUSSION



NRC Group Discussion (cont.)



1. From what sources do you obtain information and how do you use research/evaluation findings?
 - a. Was there any assistance or data you used (or could have used) in conducting a strategic plan within the past 5 years?



NRC Group Discussion (cont.)



B

**Support
for
Research**

2. Does your agency support research/evaluation projects at the state or local levels?
 - a. Are you familiar with your SAC location and colleagues?
 - b. Are you aware of researcher-practitioner partnerships in your state?



NRC Group Discussion (cont.)



B

**Support
for
Research**

3. Are some groups of sub-grantees more likely to use data or engage in evaluation?
- Community- vs. system-based?
 - Programs serving particular victim populations?
 - Large vs. small?



NRC Group Discussion (cont.)



4. If research/evaluation findings were more easily accessible to you, would you use them and if so, how?
5. What would help programs you fund improve their understanding, consumption and/or production of data?

NRC Group Discussion (cont.)



C

Research
Wishes

5. What are **two wishes** you have for a National Resource Center like this?

National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation

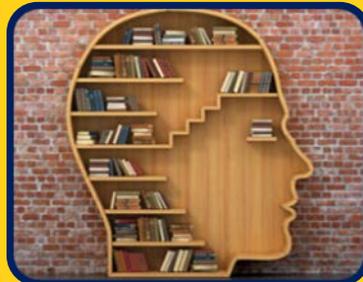
WRAP-UP

National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation



1

Promote the collection and use of victim data.



2

Increase access to research evidence on victim policies, programs, and practices.



3

Support the translation and dissemination of victim research as useable info.



4

Improve opportunities for researchers and practitioners to work together.

National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation



Stan Orchowsky
sorchowsky@jrса.org
(202) 842-9330

Beth Shuman, Project Manager
bshuman@jrса.org
(202) 503-3524



Susan Howley
showley@ncvc.org
(202) 467-8722



Jennifer Yahner
jyahner@urban.org
(202) 261-5996