The
VICTIM'S INFORMER
TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE MARCH/APRIL 2016 VOL. 21, NO. 1

SPREAD THE WORD

Angie McCown, Director
TDCJ Victim Services Division

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) was first proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1981. The time-honored tradition of NCVRW seeks to educate people in America about the rights and needs of crime victims and survivors, and promote their rights and the services available to assist them.

Each year the Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime selects a theme for NCVRW and this year's theme is "Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope." This theme highlights the importance of early intervention and victim services in establishing trust with victims, which in turn begins to restore their hope for healing and recovery. In the spirit of this theme, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division (VSD) is asking each of you to help us to be able to serve more victims by spreading the word.

Angie McCown

One of the rights that crime victims have in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 56 is:

continued on following page

Page 1 Message from the Director
Page 3 Spotlight: Texas Association Against Sexual Assault
Page 5 Sexual Assault Awareness Month
Page 6 Victim Offender Mediation Dialouge (VOMD)
Page 8 Regional Victim Services Coordinators (RVSCs)
Page 9 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW)
Page 10 Training Opportunities
Page 11 Board of Pardons and Paroles
Page 12 Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse Welcomes New Supervisor

The
VICTIM'S INFORMER
TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE

SPREAD THE WORD

continued from previous page

(7) the right to be informed, upon request, of parole procedures, to participate in the parole process, to be notified, if requested, of the parole proceedings concerning a defendant in the victims' case, to provide to the Board of Pardons and Paroles for inclusion in the defendant's file information to be considered by the board prior to the parole of any defendant convicted of any crime subject to this subchapter, and to be notified, if requested, of the defendant's release.

We all need to inform victims that once an offender is sentenced to incarceration, and has been transferred from the county jail to the TDCJ, their completed Victim Impact Statement (VIS) must be included in the court documents placed in the offender's penitentiary packet that is sent to the TDCJ. If it is included, and if the victim selected to receive notifications on the VIS, then the victim will automatically be registered with the TDCJ VSD to receive notifications so that they may exercise the above stated right.

The truth is very few VISs are forwarded to the TDCJ by the local jurisdictions, and those victims may not receive the notifications to be able to protest parole or prepare a safety plan for an offender's release. We also need to explain to victims that if they are registered with Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE) while the offender is incarcerated in county jail, that the registration does not transfer to the TDCJ. Therefore victims must register with the TDCJ VSD Victim Notification System (VNS) if the offender is sentenced to incarceration and is transferred from the county jail to a TDCJ facility.

Once registered on the VNS, crime victims can elect to:

- receive notifications regarding the status of the offender while incarcerated in the TDCJ Correctional Institutions Division and on parole supervision;
- register to speak with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles during the parole review process; and
- register to receive an automated telephone call when the offender is being processed for release.

We are asking each of you to "spread the word" so we can "serve victims, build trust, and restore hope." Please tell victims who want to exercise their notifications rights to contact us by telephone at 800-848-4284 or by email at victim.svc@tdcj.texas.gov to confirm that we have them registered in our database and if so, that we have updated contact information for them.

The criminal justice system is complicated, sometimes even to those of us who work in the system, therefore imagine how complicated and confusing it must seem to crime victims and survivors.

"Spread the word" and help victims navigate the criminal justice system so that they may exercise their rights if they choose to.

The
VICTIM'S INFORMER

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division is proud to provide you with an email notification service. Email notifications may be retrieved directly from your computer, mobile device, or wherever internet access is available. Email notifications are time sensitive and notify you of changes in an offender's status. Being a current Victim Notification System registrant will not automatically register you for this email service.

To register, contact the Victim Services Division at 800-848-4284 or visit our website at www.tdcj.texas.gov and complete the victim email notification form. You continue to have the option to receive notifications by letter, email, or both. We would like to encourage all victim service providers who utilize the Victim Notification System to elect to receive email notifications only whenever possible.

SPOTLIGHT ON

By Ted Rutherford, Communications Program Director at the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault

This quarter the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse spotlights The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA). The TAASA is the statewide organization committed to ending sexual violence in Texas through education, prevention, and advocacy. The TAASA is a non-profit educational and advocacy organization based in Austin comprised of member agencies that form a statewide network of more than 80 crisis centers that serve rural as well as metropolitan areas.

Founded in 1982, the agency has a strong record of success in community education, legal services, youth outreach, law enforcement training, legislative advocacy, and curricula and materials development. Over the last 34 years, the TAASA has served as the voice of the sexual assault movement in Texas. The TAASA is a unifying force bringing together parties involved in and affected by sexual assault as a catalyst for change.

While not a rape crisis center or direct services provider, the TAASA supports survivors on their paths to hope, healing, and justice.

Education

The TAASA staff train on a wide variety of sexual assault issues and related topics that apply to advocates, counselors, criminal justice professionals, and the general public. In addition, workshops and technical assistance are available for the primary prevention of sexual violence, board development, strategic planning, capacity building, sexual assault advocate training certification, volunteer program management, general marketing, and communication.

The TAASA also offers eLearning that expands training options for advocates and law enforcement. Available courses can be taken at any time and at a location that is convenient for participants.

continued on following page

continued from previous page

Training is available throughout Texas for little to no cost.

Primary Prevention

The TAASA's prevention team is dedicated to providing support for agencies and individuals working to end sexual violence in Texas and guidance regarding state level sexual violence primary prevention efforts.

TAASA accomplishes this by:

- providing training and support to professionals and agencies;
- engaging in prevention efforts;
- continually researching current trends for effetive prevention programming;
- developing prevention-focused resources;
- leading and providing the space for conversations that advance prevention practice; and
- supporting the work of the Primary Prevention Planning Committee - a statewide committee of community partners, state agencies, and local rape crisis center representatives.

The Primary Prevention Planning Committee members are dedicated to changing the conditions in Texas communities to make sexual violence less likely to happen and to shifting social norms that support healthy and thriving individuals and communities. A wonderful example of this is their social media initiative called Break the Box.

Break the Box is a media-based public awareness initiative aimed at ending sexual violence through education and action against gender inequality. The initiative consists of a short video, video discussion and activity guide, and posters that support the messaging in the video. In addition, Break the Box has a social media component through where participants can view the video, take a pledge, share their stories, and get additional information about the prevalence of sexual violence in Texas.

Advocacy

Much of the TAASA's advocacy consists of public policy work. Public policy is a critical part of comprehensive and effective victim advocacy.
Through public policy efforts, sexual assault laws and policies can be changed to expand sexual assault victim rights, enhance survivor services, promote prevention initiatives, and hold sex offenders accountable.

The Texas Legislature meets January through May, in odd numbered years. Between sessions, the TAASA, through its public policy committee, selects legislative priorities on which to focus advocacy efforts. During the legislative session, the TAASA maintains a full-time presence at the state Capitol. Our work, while at the state Capitol, consists of testifying at public hearings, providing information to legislators about how new law might affect sexual assault survivors, and providing updates on the TAASA's state legislative priorities.

Year round, the TAASA fosters relationships with state leaders and Texas' congressional delegation and monitors the development and implementation of state and federal laws that affect victims of sexual violence and sexual assault programs.

For more information about training and assistance, media/communication, and social marketing strategies in a variety of topics related to sexual violence please contact Ted Rutherford, Communications Program Director at 512-474-7190 ext.34 or email trutherford@taasa.org or by visiting TAASA's website at http://www.taasa.org/.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By Ted Rutherford, Communications Program Director at the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault and Christina Alcorn, Administrative Assistant at the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center's *Info & Stats For Journalists: Statistics about Sexual Violence* publication, "One in five women and one in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives" and "one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18 years old"[2].

In the United States, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Sexual violence is a major public health, human rights, and social justice issue. The goal of the Sexual Assault Awareness campaign is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities on how to prevent sexual violence.

There are 6.3 million Texans who have experienced some form of sexual assault and two in five women in Texas having been sexually assaulted in their lifetime[3]. This April, the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA), during Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM), is organizing several initiatives and asking Texans to use social media to #TurnTexasTeal.

In addition to participating in the national campaign, the TAASA asks that rape crisis centers, colleges and universities, schools, faith-based communities, and engaged Texans join in the TAASA's 2016 SAAPM initiative designed to raise awareness and promote prevention-based actions across Texas.

The #TurnTexasTeal initiative will use social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Twibbon, Vine[4], and Instagram to flood social media with everything from survivor stories from survivors themselves to calls to action. The best part about #TurnTexasTeal is that the content will largely be generated and shared by people like you!

For more information about SAAPM events contact Ted Rutherford, TAASA Communications Program Director at 512-474-7190 ext.34 or email trutherford@taasa.org or visit the National Sexual Violence Resource Center at http://www.nsvrc.org/. You may also visit TAASA's website at http://www.taasa.org/.

#TurnTexasTeal Highlights

- Twibbon social media campaign
- Sexual Violence in Texas prevalence graphics
- Suggested social media posts
- Prevention graphics
- "Why I #TurnTexasTeal…" video dedications
- And much more

"During National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, we rededicate ourselves to breaking the cycle of violence that threatens lives, erodes communities, and weakens our country. As we reflect on the progress we have made and the distance we have yet to go, let us recommit to empowering survivors and fighting for a safer future for every American."
- President Barack Obama[1]

1. White house website: Presidential Proclamation -- National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, 2012. https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/04/02/presidential-proclamation-national-sexual-assault-awareness-and-preventi
2. National Sexual Violence Resource Center website: http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications_nsvrc_factsheet_media-packet_statistics-about-sexual-violence_0.pdf
3 Texas Association Against Sexual Assault website: http://taasa.org/resources-2/understanding-sexual-assault/
4 Vine, in this instance, refers to the social media network, not the Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) system.

WHAT IS VICTIM OFFENDER MEDIATION DIALOGUE?

By Lauren Douglas Bledsoe, TDCJ VOMD Program Supervisor

There is a growing interest in Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue (VOMD) from victims, their family members, and the victim services community. Accordingly, VOMD programs across the United States are growing quickly. However, to many the process is still unfamiliar.

The VOMD programs are also referred to as victim-offender conferencing, victim-offender reconciliation, or restorative justice dialogue. The VOMD programs stem from the restorative justice movement, which focuses on addressing both a victim's emotional needs, and an offender's ability to be accountable and assist with those needs outside of traditional criminal justice punishment.

The VOMD is a victim-initiated and victim-centered program that allows a victim/survivor to request to meet in person with the offender who is responsible for their victimization.

History

In Texas, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) VOMD program was formed within the Victim Services Division (VSD) in 1993 after a crime victim requested this service. In 2001, the 77th Texas Legislature passed legislation providing victims of violent crime the right to request victim-offender mediation.

Many victims that request VOMD feel that it is an important part of their healing process that allows them to regain some of the control over their victimization.

The TDCJ VSD VOMD provides this service on cases where an offender has been convicted of a felony, and is either serving his/her sentence in prison or is on parole supervision. The TDCJ VSD does not provide VOMD services pre-adjudication or on the misdemeanor level.

It is not uncommon for states to have victim offender dialogue programs for nonviolent offenses.

The uniqueness of the TDCJ VSD program is that it has been developed for victims of violent crime.

Purpose

Victims or surviving family members may consider this service for a multitude of reasons. Victims may also request to conduct a "creative alternative" mediation, which usually consists of a mediator reading a letter to the offender on behalf of the victim.

Some victims want to ask the offender about details of the crime that only the offender can provide. Some wish to explain to the offender the full impact of their victimization, and others wish to forgive the offender in person.

Many victims that request VOMD feel that it is an important part of their healing process that allows them to regain some of the control over their victimization.

For offenders, participating in a VOMD provides an opportunity to take responsibility for their actions and to be accountable for the pain and suffering those actions have caused.

The Process

The VOMD process can only be initiated at the request of the victim. Victim and offender participation is voluntary. Either party may withdraw from the VOMD process at any time. Mediators work with both the

continued on following page

What is Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue?

continued from previous page

victim and the offender in order to assess the victim's goals and fully prepare the victim and offender for the meeting.

The preparation process takes approximately six months, depending on the individual needs of the case. Throughout the process, the assigned mediator prioritizes the victim's needs and safety. Part of the mediator's role is to assess the offender's appropriateness for mediation. If an offender chooses to participate, he/she must take responsibility for the offense.

An offender's participation is not intended to affect the offender's prison, parole, or appeal status. The VOMD process is confidential and offenders are notified that their participation will not be documented for or reported to the parole board in any official capacity.

Victims who may be interested in VOMD might make statements about wondering if the offender is remorseful, wanting the offender to know the full impact of their victimization, or having attempted to contact the offender in the past.

Referring Victims to VOMD

The VOMD can be very powerful for victims of violent crime. While awareness of VOMD is increasing, it remains one of the lesser known services available to victims of crime.

Victims who may be interested in VOMD may express wanting to know if the offender is remorseful, may want the offender to know the full impact of their victimization, or may have attempted to contact the offender in the past.

If you are working with a victim who may benefit from the VOMD, please refer them to the TDCJ Victim Services Division (VSD) for more information. Once a victim contacts our office, we will address their questions, conduct an intake of their request, and assess the case for assignment.

Statistics

In fiscal year 2015:

- 106 VOMD cases were initiated
- 109 VOMD cases were assigned
- 54 VOMD mediations were conducted, including 31 person-to-person mediations and 23 creative alternative mediations.

For more information regarding the VOMD, you may request a brochure by contacting our office or at https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs/victim_clearinghouse_order_form.html.

The TDCJ VSD VOMD Program can be reached at 512-406-5929 or through the Victim Services Division hotline at 800-484-4284. We can also be reached via email at vsd.vomd@tdcj.texas.gov.

For more information regarding the VOMD program, you may view a previously recorded webinar titled Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue Program by clicking on the following link:
https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs/victim_webinars.html

REGIONAL VICTIM SERVICES COORDINATORS

By Julie Jesperson and Christina Alcorn, Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division (VSD) Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC) staff includes Regional Victim Service Coordinators (RVSCs) located strategically throughout Texas, in Dallas, Abilene, and Corpus Christi.

The RSVCs provide direct services to crime victims and training to criminal justice and victim services professionals within their respective region. Training topics include the Victim Impact Statement, services offered by the TDCJ VSD, and post-conviction crime victims' rights.

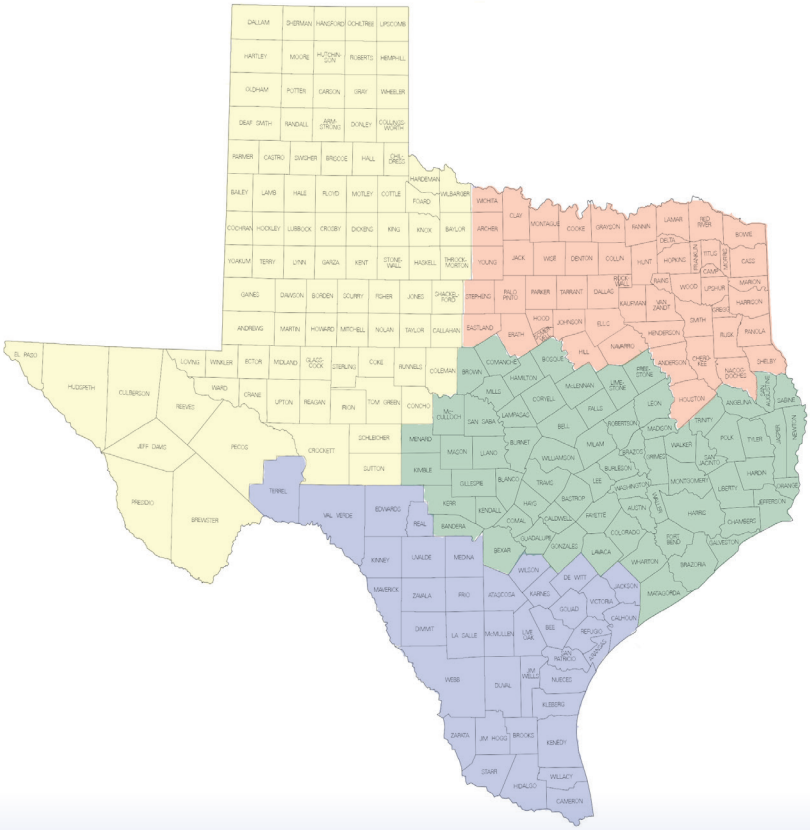
The RVSCs also provide information, assistance and direct services to crime victims to include support and accompaniment to meetings with the Board of Pardons and Paroles, to parole revocation hearings, to victim impact panels, and during the execution process.

The TxCVC staff is proud to welcome our new RSVC for the Dallas Region, Chris Jenkins. Prior to her new position as a RSVC, Chris worked for the Dallas County District Attorney's Office for 17 years as a Victim Assistance Coordinator (VAC) and worked four years as the VAC for the Collin County District Attorney's Office.

Chris was also able to work closely with many of the original victims on the DNA exoneration cases while working as the Dallas County VAC and has presented on this topic at several conferences. Chris stated that she is victim focused and that working with the TDCJ VSD is a natural progression for her to continue her work with victims, post-conviction.

TDCJ VSD Headquarters
tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov
800-848-4284

Huntsville Satellite Office
Janice Sager
janice.sager@tdcj.texas.gov
936-437-4842



Regional Victim Services Coordinators' Areas

Abilene-based RVSC	Corpus Christi-based RVSC	Dallas-based RVSC
Shane Siebrandt	Rose Trevino	Chris Jenkins
shane.siebrandt@tdcj.texas.gov	*rose.trevino@tdcj.texas.gov*	*chris.jenkins@tdcj.texas.gov*
325-672-1495 #228	361-878-3538	214-565-2617

National Crime Victims' Rights Week • April 10–16, 2016

Serving Victims

Building Trust Restoring Hope

By Julie Jesperson and Christina Alcorn, Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse

In 1981, President Ronald Regan proclaimed an official National Crime Victims' Rights Week in April intended to bring communities together through various events focused on recognizing victims and survivors.

In 1984, the passage of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) established a crime victims' fund which is administered by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). This fund receives monies from federal criminal fines, penalties, and bond forfeitures. The funds are used to support victim services and state compensation funds.

Today, OVC continues to help lead communities throughout the country in their annual observances of National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Each year the National Crime Victims' Rights Week celebrates past successes, highlights national community and victims service organizations, promotes victims' rights while honoring victims of crime. This week long recognition helps tell the story of a community's capacity to help victims rebuild their lives, and the organizations that help them do so.

The 2016 National Crime Victims' Rights week will be observed April 10 – 16, 2016. This year's theme underscores the importance of early intervention and victim services in establishing trust with victims, which in turn begins to restore their hope for healing and recovery.

2014 Bexar County Color Guard during the Victim Tribute ceremony.

Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse employee, Julie Jesperson at a 2014 NCVRW event.

For more information regarding NCVRW and to view 2016 events, please visit the OVC website by clicking on the following link: http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw/

As a reminder, the Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Calendar is available to users to submit, search and view victim-related events. The TVAT Calendar can be accessed at: www.tdcj.texas.gov/php/vscalendar/

TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

TVAT Online:
Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online is a statewide online victim assistance training focused on victim-centered service delivery and professional development that enables new advocates to acquire baseline professional skills and competence. To register or obtain more information, visit: https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/php/tvatonline/

Live Trainings:
The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division (VSD) Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC) staff provides training on a variety of topics, which can be tailored to the needs of the requestor. If you would like to host a training in your community, contact the TxCVC at tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov or 512-406-5931.

Texas Victim Assistance Training Online

T★V★A★T

CALENDAR

The Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse wishes to remind our readers that a calendar feature has been added for the Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online.

Criminal justice and victim services professionals can view, search, and submit victim-related trainings and events on the TVAT Calendar webpage.
www.tdcj.texas.gov/php/vscalendar/

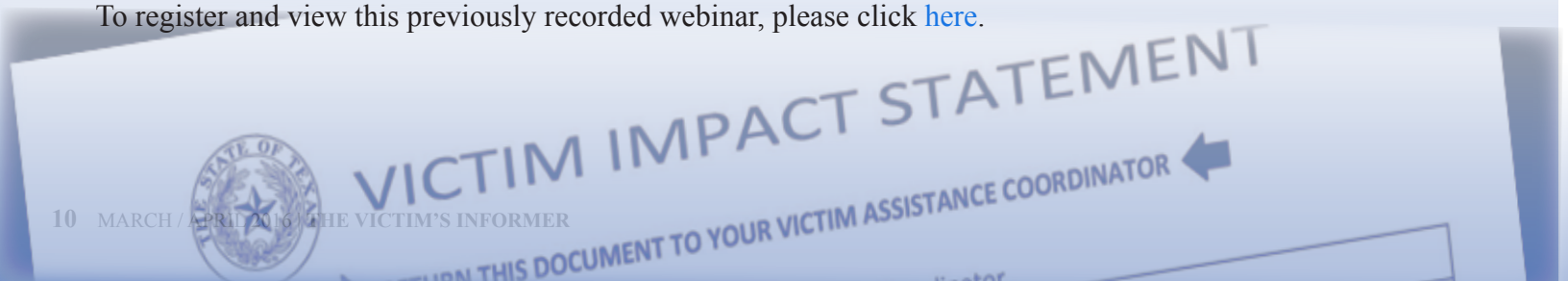
Webinars:
The TDCJ VSD TxCVC hosts a webinar series. Recent webinars provided information on Victim Services from a Victim's Perspective, Victim Services in Non-Profit Organizations, Protective Orders, and Post-Conviction Safety Planning. Webinar descriptions and registration information, as well as recordings and related documents for past webinars may be accessed on the TDCJ VSD website: http://tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs/victim_webinars.html

Webinar Highlights:
Victim Impact Statement Quarterly Reporting
The TDCJ VSD TxCVC is required to collect Victim Impact Statement (VIS) data from district and county attorneys' offices regarding the number of VISs distributed to victims, the number of completed VISs returned by victims and the offense categories of the VISs that were sent out to victims. This webinar will discuss revisions to the quarterly report, reporting deadlines, and the necessity of reporting VIS information.

To register and view this previously recorded webinar, please click here.

The Victim Impact Statement: The Victims' Voice in the Criminal Justice System
The Victim Impact Statement is key to ensuring victims are afforded their rights in the criminal justice system. This training discusses recent revisions to the Victim Impact Statement and offers valuable information for individuals working with crime victims and those handling Victim Impact Statements, including judges, prosecutors, victim assistance coordinators, district clerks, court coordinators, probation officers and law enforcement personnel who assist victims or assemble pen packets.

To register and view this previously recorded webinar, please click here.



THE TEXAS BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF ED ROBERTSON AS LIAISON TO VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

By David Gutierrez, Board Chair
Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles

Recently appointed to the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles (BPP) by Governor Greg Abbott, Ed Robertson was named as the newest Board Member, with a term set to expire February 1, 2021. Robertson is a 22-year veteran of public service; in his most recent position, he served as an advisor in the governor's planning and policy office. Previously, he was a budget and performance analyst for the Legislative Budget Board and prior, a budget analyst for the City of Austin.

As the BPP Liaison, Robertson will ensure both departments are working hand in hand to meet the needs of victims as they relate to scheduling interviews, submission of protest letters, Board communications and introducing and implementing new processes and procedures developed by the Victim Services Division.

Under Government Code Section 508.153, voting members are required to speak with a victim as defined in Section 508.117, if the offender is currently serving time for the offense committed against that victim. Voting members also have the discretion to contact individuals that do not meet the required criteria and may attempt to contact those individuals by telephone before a final decision is made regarding the offender's possible release.

The Liaison and the TDCJ Victim Services Division will be able to share various information about an offender which can assist victim(s) with their inquiries and interviews, this may include but not be limited to:

- Offender name, TDCJ-CID or SID number;
- Parole status;
- Birth date, race, gender;
- Unit of assignment;
- Offense information (sentence length, county of offense); Release information (release date, county of release);
- Conditions imposed with the exception of drug related or substance abuse information or other information which is not considered confidential by law; and
- Parole review status (approval/denial information).

Robertson volunteers as an assistant coach for the Pflugerville Little League and as a parent volunteer at Hendrickson High School. Robertson received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Science from Trinity University.

The BPP, established by the Texas Constitution, decides which eligible offenders to release on parole, the conditions for parole and whether to revoke parole if conditions are not met, as well as recommendation of resolution of clemency matters to the Governor. For more information, please visit: http://www.tdcj.texas.gov/bpp/index.htm.

This article is provided by the Board of Pardons and Paroles; Board Chair David Gutierrez. Additional information about factors the Board considers, decision reasons and other topics is available on the Board of Pardons and Parole website: www.tdcj.texas.gov/bpp/.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU !

OUR GOAL IS TO PRINT NEWS OF INTEREST FOR VICTIMS AND VICTIM ADVOCATES

The Victim's Informer newsletter is published quarterly. Articles, meeting notices, and other submissions should be sent to the TDCJ Victim Services Division, Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse, 8712 Shoal Creek Blvd, Suite 265, Austin, Texas 78757-6899; faxed to 512-452-0825; or e-mailed to tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov. If you would like to submit materials, the deadline dates for articles, meeting notices, and other submissions are identified in the box on this page. For questions or comments, please call us at 800-848-4284 or 512-406-5931.

Please Note:
You may access the publication at the TDCJ VSD Internet website. If you wish, we will notify you via e-mail each time The Victim's Informer becomes available on the TDCJ VSD Internet website and provide an electronic link to The Victim's Informer. Send your e-mail address to: tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov

Angie McCown, Director
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Victim Services Division
victim.svc@tdcj.texas.gov
8712 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 265
Austin, Texas 78757

Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse Welcomes New Supervisor Michelle Navarro

By Christina Alcorn, Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division (VSD) Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC) is proud to welcome our new Program Supervisor, Michelle Navarro.

The TDCJ VSD TxCVC serves as a central source of information for crime victims, criminal justice professionals and victim service professionals.

The TxCVC is mandaded to revise the Victim Impact Statement (VIS) after every legislative session, collect VIS statistics from each district and county attorney's office, develop VIS recommended processing procedures, and develop crime victim assistance standards. In addition, the TxCVC provides training for criminal justice and victim service professionals as well as direct services to crime victims, including execution accompaniment.

Michelle has a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management and Marketing and began her career with the TDCJ VSD in July of 2012 as an Administrative Assistant in the Notification section. She was promoted to a supervisor within the same section in April of 2013.

Prior to her new position in the TDCJ VSD TxCVC section, Michelle assisted crime victims and coordinated the collaboration between the TDCJ and the vendor used for providing notifications to registrants.

Michelle is excited to continue her work with the TDCJ and looks forward to bringing the skills and knowledge she learned from the Notification section to the TxCVC. Michelle is eager about her new role because she will continue working with crime victims while learning more about the TDCJ's programs.

The Victim's Informer newsletter is published quarterly. If you would like to submit materials, the deadline dates for articles, meeting notices, and other submissions are:

March 29, 2016
Vol. 21, no. 2 (June/July)

July 05, 2016
Vol. 21, no. 3 (Sept./Oct.)

September 30, 2016
Vol. 21, no. 4 (Dec. 2016/Jan. 2017)