Law Enforcement-Based Victim Specialist Program

Key Considerations
Housekeeping

Orange Arrow:
• This will minimize and maximize your control panel

Audio:
• Choose “Computer Audio” to use your computer’s speakers for sound.
• Choose “Phone Call” to use your telephone for sound, then dial in using the information provided.
• Click “Sound Check” if you have any issues.
Housekeeping

Poll Questions:
• Select your answer(s) on screen

Raise Hand:
• Raise virtual hand if you have a comment or when asked by facilitators

Questions:
• Submit questions and comments via the questions panel.
Presenters

Chief Fred Fletcher (Retired)

Emily Burton-Blank
Project Manager (IACP)

Ariel Ervin
Project Manager (IACP)

Amy Durall
Project Manager (IACP)
Objectives

• Demonstrate knowledge regarding foundational elements of law enforcement-based victim services.

• Prepare for continued integration of victim services within law enforcement agency.
Law Enforcement-Based Victim Specialist Program (LEV)
LEV Overview

“Assist state, tribal and local law enforcement agencies to develop or enhance a victim specialist program that connects survivors and families to coordinated and trauma-informed services”
Project Partners

Unified Solutions Tribal Community Development Group

National Crime Victim Law Institute

Justice Research & Statistics Association
LEV Overview

• Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) initiative

• Training & Technical Assistance provided by IACP
  • Webinars
  • Regional Meeting
  • Publications

• 3-year grant (Oct 2019 – Sept 2022)
All LEV Sites

FY 2018 LEV Sites (16 total)

FY 2019 LEV Sites (36 total)

FY 2020 LEV Sites (25 total)
Advocacy Parameters
What does “advocacy parameters” mean?
Advocacy Models

Community-Based Advocacy
Victim advocates who work for a private, autonomous, often non-profit agency within the community

System-Based Advocacy
Victim advocates employed by a public agency such as law enforcement, prosecutor’s office, or some other entity within the city, county, state, or federal government
Reporting Structure

• Why is your agency providing victim services?

• Where will victim services personnel be placed within organization?

Agency Org Chart
Unit Structure & Supervision

- Who will supervise victim services personnel?
- How will supervision of victim services personnel be structured?
- What duties are expected of victim services personnel?
- What plans are in place for support and growth?
Span of Responsibility

Agency & Crime Type
- Agencies and Jurisdictions
- All crime types? Which ones?

Service Delivery
- Mode of contact
- Time frames

Role Clarification
- Internal staff
- External agencies
Discussion

- Were there difficulties in utilizing professional staff to supervise victim services unit?
- How did you prepare unit and agency for victim services program growth?
Documentation Practices
Documentation Basics

Location

- RMS System
- Separate System
- Paper files? Electronic? Cloud-based?

Access

- Advise victims of accessibility (public, prosecutor, perpetrator)
- How is victim’s safety protected

Content

- VS documentation = services provided and actions taken between the advocate and victim
POLL
Complex Documentation

• Are processes for reporting concerns or grievances established and communicated to victims (bulletin boards, website, etc.)?

• Documentation should include a summary of the victim’s expressed experiences, using the victim’s words as much as possible. For example, “The victim reported…”
Subpoena Concerns & Other Legal Intersections

• Obligations and parameters for testimony determined by whether advocate is system- or community-based and established protocol.

• Fact vs. expert witness
Discussion

What legal concerns did you have before and after implementing victim services into your agency?

What are the benefits for victim services personnel to document within the police reporting system?
Partnerships & Collaboration
Partners

Internal (within LE)
- PIO
- Dispatch
- Victim Services
- Investigation
- Property Room
- Crime Scene
- Records Division

External (outside LE)
- Non-Profit Org
- Criminal Justice Agencies
- Victim Services
- Health Care
- For Profit Services
- Gov’t
- Schools

Non-Profit Org

Gov’t

For Profit Services

Crime Scene

Criminal Justice Agencies

Health Care

Victim Services

Schools

GOVT

For Profit Services

For Profit Services

Non-Profit Org

Non-Profit Org

Criminal Justice Agencies

Criminal Justice Agencies

Victim Services

Victim Services

Gov’t

Gov’t

Schools

Schools

Health Care

Health Care

Victim Services

Victim Services

Criminal Justice Agencies

Criminal Justice Agencies

Non-Profit Org

Non-Profit Org

Gov’t

Gov’t
Formal Agreements

Informal to Formal

Shared Language

Training

Consistency

Clearly Defined Roles & Responsibilities
Crisis Response Plans

- Activation of Victim Services Personnel
- Large-scale Events
- Preparedness and Cross-training
What inter-agency changes did you see after incorporating victim services?

How were barriers overcome to better integrate victim services within your agency?
Agency Incorporation of Victim Services
Budget Process

- Salary and Benefits
- Workspace and Equipment
- Supplies and Uniforms
- Professional Development
- Sustainability Planning
Culture Change

- Persistence
- Listening
- Consistent messaging
- Partnership
- Recognize Challenges
Discussion

What was the most difficult part of incorporating victim services into your law enforcement agency?

How did incorporating victim services change the way you made law enforcement decisions? How did this shift change you as a leader?
Training & Technical Assistance

**Regional Training**
- All LEV Sites attend within first two years
- Participants: (1) advocate, (1) supervisor, (1) leadership
- Stipends for partial travel costs

**Sustainability & Networking Meeting**
- All LEV sites attend during final year
- Participants: (1) advocate, (1) supervisor, (1) leadership
- Stipends for partial travel costs

**Lead Facilitator**
- First point of contact for TA requests
- Monthly calls / office hours
Reminders

Sworn Personnel Virtual Training
Victims’ Rights (NCVLI)
September 2020

LEV Website
Questions