Law Enforcement-Based Victim Specialist Program

Key Considerations
Housekeeping

Law Enforcement-Based Victim Services Program (LEV)
Housekeeping

Audio:
• Click the audio icon and then choose “Select Speaker” to use your computer’s speakers for sound.

Raise Hand:
• Raise virtual hand if you have a comment or when asked by facilitators. Select the dropdown for other options.
Housekeeping

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

Chat Box
• Visible to attendees and hosts/presenters
• Use to chat to whole audience and to respond to presenter questions

Handouts:
• Handouts can be downloaded via the Files box.

Closed Captioning
• Click the “CC” icon at the top of your screen to enable captions
Presenters

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Project Manager
IACP

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Project Manager
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Project Manager
IACP

Kim Messina
Lead Facilitator
IACP

Rachel Lane
Unified Solutions

Chris Harper
Unified Solutions
Objectives

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

2. Prepare for continued integration of victim services within law enforcement agency.

This presentation was developed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) under 2020-V3-GX-K001, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this presentation are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Department of Justice.
Law Enforcement-Based Victim Specialist Program (LEV)
“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 Development Group
National Crime Victim Law Institute
Justice Research and Statistics Association
National Network to End Domestic Violence
Unified Solutions Tribal Community Development Group
LEV Overview

• Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) initiative

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

• 3-year grant (Oct 2020 – Sept 2023)
FY 2020 LEV Sites

- Oakland PD (CA)
- St Petersburg PD (FL)
- Hillsborough County SO (FL)
- Palm Beach County SO (FL)
- Mason City PD (IA)
- Elgin PD (IL)
- St Joseph County PD (IN)
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (KS)
- Stearns County SO (MN)
- Salisbury PD (NC)
- North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigations (ND)
- Paterson PD (NJ)
- Washoe County SO (NV)
- Cayuga County SO (NY)
- Rockland County DA's Office (NY)
- Central Bucks Regional PD (PA)
- Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TN)
- Houston PD (TX)
- Utah State University (UT)
- Vermont State Police (VT)
- Seattle PD (WA)
- Logan County Commission (WV)
FY 2018 LEV Sites (16 total)
FY 2019 LEV Sites (35 total)
FY 2020 LEV Sites (22 total)
Advocacy Parameters
Victims’ Rights

• Responsibility of ALL criminal justice professionals

• Consider:
  • State constitutional amendment and provision
  • State statutory rights
  • Agency policy on dissemination and implementation

• NCVLI – Victims’ Rights Jurisdiction Profiles
POLL
What do we mean by “Advocacy Parameters”? 
POLL
Advocacy Models

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

Community-Based Advocacy

Victim advocates employed by a private, autonomous, often nonprofit organization within the community
Personnel Hiring & Selection

• Position Descriptions

• Applications and Interview

• Background and Training

• Processes for Interns and Volunteers
Reporting Structure & Supervision

• Why is your agency providing victim services?

• Where will victim services personnel be placed in the organizational chart?
Reporting 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?
POLL
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

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Documentation Practices
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Law Enforcement-Based Victim Services</th>
<th>Hybrid Community-Based Victim Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where is VS documentation stored?</td>
<td>RMS or separate but accessible system (e.g., VS Tracking)</td>
<td>Separate documentation system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does VS have access to RMS?</td>
<td>Yes (full or read-only and after completing required training and background clearance)</td>
<td>No or limited (may require training and background clearance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who else has access to VS documentation internally at the LE agency?</td>
<td>Other agency-based victim services personnel, sworn personnel, supervisors</td>
<td>No one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who else has (or potentially could have) access to VS documentation externally?</td>
<td>Prosecutors, defense attorneys, public (FOIA), etc.</td>
<td>Only accessible externally under rare circumstances (e.g., court order)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Legal Intersections
Partnerships & Collaboration
POLL
Internal Partners

• Cross-training
  • Mutual awareness of roles
  • Policy development

• Across ranks and disciplines
External Partners

- Collaboration & cross-training
- Across levels of staffing
Formal Agreements

- Informal to Formal
- Shared Language
- Training
- Consistency
- Clearly Defined Roles & Responsibilities
Agency Incorporation of Victim Services
POLL
Workplace Culture Change

- Persistence
- Listening
- Consistent messaging
- Partnership
- Recognize Challenges
LEV Network

• Online community for all (FY18, FY19, FY20) LEV sites
Lead Facilitators

Unified Solutions
TA Track 1

Deb Reed
TA Track 2

Samantha Montemayor
TA Track 3

Dolores Poeppel
TA Track 4

Kim Messina
TA Track 5

Barbara Lamanna
TA Track 6
Reminders

**Quarterly Meeting**
Topic: *Key Consideration* Application
Week of May 17th – 21st
TA Track 1: Date/time TBD
TA Track 2: Monday, May 17th at 1pm EST
TA Track 3: Friday, May 21st at 1pm EST
TA Track 4: Thursday, May 20th at 1pm EST
TA Track 5: Wednesday, May 19th at 1pm EST
TA Track 6: Tuesday, May 18th at 1pm EST

**Supplemental Virtual Training**
Topic: T & U Visas
Week of June 14th

**LEV Virtual Training**
Topic: Victims’ Rights
Tuesday, July 8th at 1pm EST
QUESTIONS?