



**Our most heartfelt condolences go out to the victims, families, first responders, and all who were impacted by the shooting in Virginia Beach on May 31, 2019.**

*loveforvb.com #LoveForVB #VBStrong*

## MANAGER'S MESSAGE

*Kristina Vadas, Victims Services Manager*

In this Manager's Message, I'd like to provide additional information about the Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP). As many of you know, the Criminal Justice Services Board voted on VSGP grant awards on May 9, 2019, and soon after, a list of awards was posted on our website. The VSGP award amounts vary greatly, and unfortunately, some organizations did not receive an award.

This grant application process was very competitive, with DCJS receiving many more applications than there are available funds. We received applications from 118 organizations, requesting over \$54 million. In total, 85 organizations are receiving VSGP awards. The total amounts awarded are comprised of \$35.75 million in federal VOCA and state funds and \$5.85 million in matching funds, totaling \$41.59 million awarded.

While Virginia's federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) award is significant, VOCA also supports several other grant programs in addition to VSGP:

- Child Treatment and Services Grants
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Grants
- Grants to support Child Advocacy Centers (CACs)
- Grants to support school-based services for youth victims of crime
- Grant to the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association Foundation to support Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs (HVIPs) in seven Virginia hospitals
- Victim/Witness Program Grants

VSGP grant applications were scored by teams consisting of both external/non-DCJS reviewers and DCJS staff reviewers.

All reviewers were instructed to focus on adherence to the grant guidelines and federal regulations when reviewing and scoring applications, with a goal of impartially evaluating the quality of each application. A budgetary review of each application was also conducted by DCJS Victims Services staff to ensure that all costs were allowable and appropriately justified. VSGP Category 1 and Category 2 requests were closely scrutinized, and requests directly tied to enhancing victim safety and supporting direct services were prioritized.

Review of the applications generated an overall score, and grant awards were recommended in order of the score until the available funds were depleted. Unfortunately, this meant that the reviewers could not recommend more awards, even though there were more worthy applicants.

Overall, the applications we received proposed a vast scope of important and much-needed services for victims. The application reviewers had to make extremely difficult decisions, knowing that many of these services would not be able to be funded. Clearly, the need still exceeds the funding that was available.

I know the application guidelines and requirements demanded a lot of work. I know that countless hours were spent writing, budgeting, and compiling these applications. To all who applied, I thank you for the time and effort you gave in developing your applications. And more importantly, I am grateful for the services and support you provide to victims of crime. Thank you for the work that you do.

If you have any questions about the VSGP, please contact me at [kristina.vadas@dcjs.virginia.gov](mailto:kristina.vadas@dcjs.virginia.gov) or Anya Shaffer, DCJS VOCA Administrator, at [anya.shaffer@dcjs.virginia.gov](mailto:anya.shaffer@dcjs.virginia.gov).

*Kristina*

## VOCA New Initiatives Agency Spotlight: Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society, Inc.

*Seeking Justice for All Virginians Since 1972  
Marion, Virginia*

By Tierra Smith, *Victims Services Program Specialist*

Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society, Inc. (SVLAS) of Marion, Virginia has been providing free civil legal assistance to low-income families in Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Tazewell, Wise, Washington, Smyth, Grayson, Carroll, Wythe, Bland, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski counties, and the cities of Norton, Bristol, Galax, and Radford for more than 40 years. In its efforts to promote equal justice for all, SVLAS strives to, "... provide high-quality, courteous, and effective legal services to low-income families and individuals facing serious threats to their personal, economic, or family stability; and to work with others to identify and respond to problems faced by those in the low-income community within our region." The organization collaborates with a host of local agencies to provide comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as coordinates annual events for various professionals.

Since 1972, SVLAS has operated as a private, non-profit law firm, providing services to individuals and families who face serious legal concerns. The attorneys and paralegals on staff have provided assistance through telephonic support; landlord, creditor, agency worker, or employer negotiations; and court representation. The firm's staff holds extensive knowledge in various areas of practice to include consumer/debt collection, custody and child support, domestic violence, divorce, public benefits, and employment amongst other areas of consideration. Each year around 6,000 applications are submitted for services. In 2018, the staff closed 3,178 cases. In addition to direct work, SVLAS provides macro-level training and learning opportunities in collaboration with other organizations to promote best practices among allied professionals. These include the "Elder Abuse Conference: The Crime of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Training" (August 2018) and the "Domestic Violence Conference—Breaking the Cycle: The Trauma-Informed Responses to Domestic & Sexual Violence" (October 2018).

As a VOCA New Initiative Grantee and recipient of other DCJS funds, SVLAS has been able to provide a multitude of legal services to individuals and families that have been impacted by sexual assault and domestic violence. To date, DCJS funding has allowed services to be provided in 8,700 cases of domestic violence and sexual assault. During the upcoming year, SVLAS has a plan to continue to provide "... free high-quality legal services to thousands of low-income citizens each year ... in a caring, courteous, and professional manner," by cultivating new community partnerships, identifying new funding sources, recruiting private attorneys to provide *pro bono* services, and expanding their services to veterans. These plans for the future are designed to improve their clients' outcomes within the justice system.

## INTERSECTIONS OF VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the third annual Intersections of Violence Conference, to be held July 15-18, 2019 in Hampton, Virginia. This multi-



disciplinary conference is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, in partnership with the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council, the Virginia Victims Fund, and the Virginia Victim Assistance Network. The main three-day conference, held July 15–17, 2019, brings together law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates, child advocates, and other allied professionals to highlight promising practices and emerging issues to effectively respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse in our communities. Speakers include international, national, and local experts. Topics to be covered include: Recantation in Child Abuse Cases, Stalking and Counter-Stalking, A Multi-disciplinary Response to Domestic Violence, Prosecution of Elder Abuse, Vicarious Trauma, Female Genital Mutilation in the United States, Opioid Abuse and Trauma, Elder Abuse Multi-disciplinary Teams, and Trauma-Bonding, Learned Helplessness, and Victimization.

This year, the conference will feature an optional one-day post-conference on July 18, 2019. The post-conference will be focused on the intersections of trauma, substance abuse, and mental health. This full-day workshop will feature Dr. Louise Stanger, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, faculty member of San Diego State University's School of Social Work, Director of Alcohol and Other Drug Services at University of San Diego, and author of books including *The Definitive Guide to Addiction Interventions: A Collective Strategy, Learn to Thrive, and Falling Up*.

To make this training as accessible as possible, DCJS will be covering the registration fees for this conference. To learn more about hotel arrangements, scholarship opportunities, or to register for this conference, please visit:

[www.dcs.virginia.gov/content/3rd-annual-intersections-violence-domestic-violence-sexual-assault-and-child-abuse](http://www.dcs.virginia.gov/content/3rd-annual-intersections-violence-domestic-violence-sexual-assault-and-child-abuse)

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month



DCJS staff gather on the Capitol steps to honor Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in April, 2019, DCJS planned several activities. As teal is the ribbon color designated to represent SAAM, on April 18, 2019, DCJS coordinated "Teal Thursday." DCJS asked other state agencies and victim services organizations statewide to wear teal in honor of SAAM. Across the Commonwealth, agencies showed support for those whose lives have been impacted by sexual violence by wearing teal. A slide show of *Teal Thursday* photos is available on the DCJS Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/vadcjs/videos/1430112713798334/](http://www.facebook.com/vadcjs/videos/1430112713798334/)

In addition to *Teal Thursday*, DCJS distributed flyers with facts and statistics regarding sexual assault that included a QR code that linked to the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Resources page on the DCJS website. The flyers were hung in public areas throughout

the region, including across Virginia Union University. Individuals may find more information and resources regarding sexual assault at this resource page: [www.dcls.virginia.gov/victims-services/programs/sexual-assault-awareness-month-resources](http://www.dcls.virginia.gov/victims-services/programs/sexual-assault-awareness-month-resources)

## Victim Assistance Funding Opportunities

By **Andi Martin**, *Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Program Coordinator*

The following grant opportunities are currently available from the United States Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). For more information about these grant opportunities, please access the OVC website at <https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/Solicitation.aspx>

- FY 2019 Vicarious Trauma Response Initiative: National Scope Training and Technical Assistance**  
*Application Deadline: 06/04/2019*  
 Many first responders and victim service providers are affected by vicarious trauma, defined as the exposure to the traumatic experiences of other people, because of their repeated exposure to crime victimization. The purpose of this solicitation is to build upon existing evidence-based resources and expertise (at the national, regional, tribal, state, and local levels), weave these resources together with in-depth and tailored technical assistance, based on the unique needs and resources in a particular community, and provide free and accessible support and technical assistance that results in a robust established and sustained response to vicarious trauma.
- FY 2019 Advancing the Use of Technology to Assist Victims of Crime**  
*Application Deadline: 06/25/2019*  
 Through this program, OVC will support national-scope initiatives and regional initiatives (that can be replicated nationally) to maximize the use of technology to improve and increase access to crime victim services. Projects could include, but are not limited to: (1) Development of

new national app(s) or creation of another technology platform designed to serve victims of crime. (2) Development of regionally focused app(s) or creation of another technology platform designed to serve victims of crime. (3) Expansion or enhancement of existing services and/or hotlines on digital, online, or text platforms or an app that uses technology to provide services, referrals, tools, and information to victims of crime.

- FY 2019 Enhancing Language and Other Access to Services Programs**  
*Application Deadline: 06/26/2019*  
 This program seeks to enhance language access services for crime victims to break down barriers that prevent many individuals from reporting crimes and accessing the services they need after crime victimization. Funding will support the provision of direct services, the development of language access plans, and will expand the capacity of community-based organizations within linguistically specific communities to address the needs of victims of all types of crime.

At the time of publication of this newsletter, there were no victim assistance grant opportunities available through the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) or DCJS. Please access the OVW, OVC, and DCJS websites periodically, as grant solicitations may open. We anticipate the DCJS Calendar Year 2020 SASP grant solicitation will open in early Fall 2019. All current SASP subgrantees will be notified when this solicitation opens.

# CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

On April 9, 2019, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, in partnership with the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, the Virginia Victim Assistance Network, and the Virginia Victims Fund, hosted an event in honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Featured presenters included Governor Ralph S. Northam, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian J. Moran, and keynote presenter, ME Hart, survivor, former Legal Advisor to the Director of the Office of Human Rights in Washington, D.C., and CEO and Founder of Hart Learning Group, LLC.



Brian Moran, Cristi Lawton, Cassandra Bullock, ME Hart, and Shannon Dion look on as Governor Northam signs the Crime Victims' Rights Week proclamation.

During the event, Governor Northam signed the Crime Victims' Rights Week proclamation. In keeping with the national theme of "Honoring the Past. Creating Hope for the Future," both new and experienced victim advocates were honored and presented with sunflowers. The sunflowers symbolized loyalty, faithfulness, and resiliency.



Keynote presenter ME Hart, survivor, former Legal Advisor to the Director of the Office of Human Rights in Washington, D.C., and CEO and Founder of Hart Learning Group, LLC.



Front row: Tierra Smith, Dione Bassett, Shannon Dion, Nicky Zamostny, and Andi Martin  
 Back row: Megan Peterson, Tom Fitzpatrick, Tricia Everetts, Andrew Kinch, ME Hart, Kristina Vadas, Michelle Miles, Amia Barrows, Patricia Foster, and Julia Fuller-Wilson

DCJS Victims Services staff not shown: Tyler Hinton, Jennifer Kline, Courtney Meyer, Candace Miles, and Anya Shaffer

## Program Spotlight

### Safe Harbor: Working to Save, Transform, and Rebuild Lives

Amia N. Barrows, Victims Services Program Specialist

Safe Harbor provides intensive restoration services for women, men, and children who have survived domestic and sexual violence as well as human trafficking. Based in Henrico, Virginia, Safe Harbor offers a wide range of programs focused on bringing an evidenced-based perspective by validating the survivors experience and offering quality, effective services to support healing. Services include trauma-informed therapy and crisis counseling in English and Spanish; trauma-focused therapy for children and teens who have been exposed to domestic or sexual violence involving a parent or guardian and/or who are the victim of sexual assault or dating violence; court advocacy services within the Henrico County General District Court and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court to provide support, information, resources, and direct assistance to victims seeking protective orders; emergency shelter and transitional housing services to victims to develop long-term strategies to end human trafficking; hospital accompaniment and much more.

Through the support of the DCJS Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Grant Program (VOCA-funded program) Safe Harbor has been able to expand their capacity and have seen substantial growth in requests for counseling services, services for victims of human trafficking, and services for

male survivors. Their goal is to work closely with victims to help them find refuge while facilitating healing and a transition to independence. In addition to comprehensive services, Safe Harbor provides a safe environment to help bring healing to the complex hurts of those physically, emotionally, and sexually abused and exploited. They also empower the community to put their compassion into action by utilizing a coordinated response model to help grow the movement against violence while providing effective, thoughtful solutions through education and outreach programs.

Safe Harbor's purpose is to alleviate, as much as possible, the trauma of domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking for survivors and their families. As one victim stated: "I learned that I am as strong as I think I am, and that I am definitely a survivor." - T, domestic violence survivor.

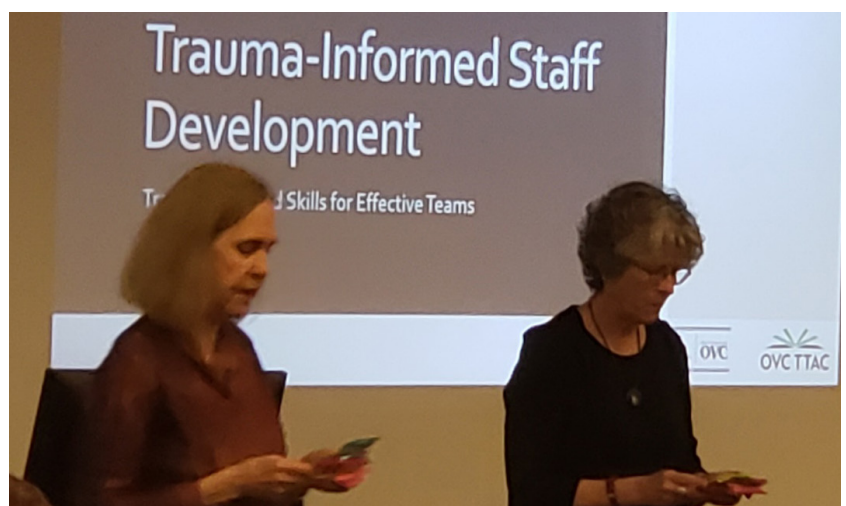
They continue to strive to ensure that all survivors receive the treatment they need and advocacy they deserve.

To learn more about Safe Harbor, please visit: <https://safeharborshelter.com/>.



## Trauma-Informed Leadership Training for Victim-Serving Organizations

The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, in partnership with the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC), offered three, one-day trainings on Trauma-Informed Leadership in Roanoke, Richmond, and Hampton during the week of May 6, 2019. This training offered executive directors, managers, and other leaders from victim-serving agencies the opportunity to learn about the principles and practices of trauma-informed leadership. Participants were also taught how to apply these principles to decrease staff burnout and turnover, increase staff and organizational resiliency, and better build capacity to provide trauma-informed services to the community.



Judith Walton and Mary Jo Harwood, instructors for the Richmond session, lead the participants in an activity.

## COORDINATOR'S CORNER

### Building a Resilient Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

Jennifer Kline, Grant Program Coordinator

Before joining DCJS, I coordinated multidisciplinary teams for almost 12 years. Bringing people together from contrasting professional cultures and with varying goals and limitations, to work together effectively, made me want to pull my hair out at times. Nevertheless, when it worked, it really worked, and I saw firsthand how collaboration not only strengthened investigations, but also improved victims' experiences.

# SART

Sexual Assault Response Teams

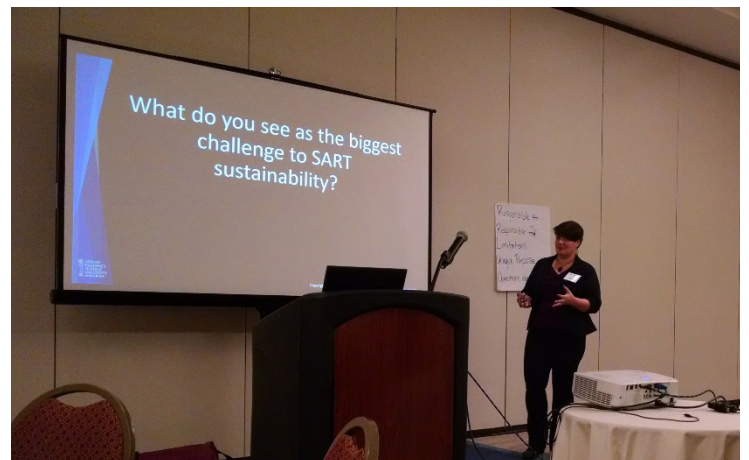
Over time, I realized that the functionality of the multidisciplinary teams that I coordinated was constantly changing. Just when I thought the team was stable and working well together, something would change, throwing the team off balance. One factor (turnover, low meeting attendance, new organizational leadership) could impact team functioning. One study found that 14% of Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) disbanded.<sup>1</sup>



What are some foundational strategies that SART Coordinators can undertake to build resilience in order to get teams over bumps in the road?

- Make sure all of your team members have a basic level of knowledge about sexual violence and commitment to team principles, for example, what it means to be "victim-centered" and "trauma-informed." Make sure that team members not only know their own organization's policies and practices, but also understand the work of other team members. Include a "New Laws" section on your SART meeting agenda.
- Define your purpose by having your team create a mission and vision statement. Who are you? What do you do? Who benefits? Having a clear mission and vision statement will help to avoid confusion about the team's purpose, which will help keep the team on track.
- Have your team develop a written protocol, signed by agency leaders, detailing each agency's role in the response to sexual assault victims. A great way to start is by taking your team through a community mapping exercise that visually shows your community's response to sexual violence. Review the protocol and update it annually.
- Ask your team to establish ground rules for meetings. Whenever teams are tasked with collaborating on a project, it is important to establish ground rules. Some examples of ground rules are: stay respectful, everyone has an equal voice, put cell phones on vibrate, if you can't attend a meeting let the coordinator know who your replacement will be, and come prepared.
- Have orientations for new SART members. Turnover is a constant on SARTs, so it is important for each new team member to get consistent information. I found that having a short orientation for new members reduced member confusion about their responsibilities and the team's purpose. Create a packet with information such as member contact information, mission and vision statements, current projects and historic timelines, Memorandums of Understanding or signed protocols, information about when and where meetings are held, and ground rules for meetings.

For more ideas about how to make your SART more resilient, contact Jennifer Kline at [jennifer.kline@dcjs.virginia.gov](mailto:jennifer.kline@dcjs.virginia.gov) or (804) 225-3456.



Presenter, Johnanna Ganz, at the SART Summit in Staunton, November 2018

<sup>1</sup> Campbell & Greeson. 2015 Coordinated Community Efforts to Respond to Sexual Assault: A National Study of Sexual Assault Response Team Implementation. Vol 30 (14).

## Family Justice Centers

Julia Fuller-Wilson, VAWA Administrator

Imagine that you are a victim of domestic violence. Imagine how much fear you feel leaving an abusive relationship. Imagine how confused you are about what to do and where you can go. Imagine not having the resources or knowledge about where to start. Imagine not having the transportation to get to the many places that you need to go to stay safe. Victim advocates know this struggle well. Every day, victim advocates help traumatized people navigate a confusing network of resources that differs by community. Now, imagine that these community resources worked together to increase safety and avoid gaps in service. Imagine that a victim could go to one location and have all of their needs met. Imagine that a victim felt safe navigating all of these resources in one place. You are visualizing a Family Justice Center, and they are being developed across the country with great success.

### What is a Family Justice Center?

Family Justice Centers are multi-agency, multi-disciplinary co-located service centers that provide services to victims of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking. These centers focus on reducing the number of times a victim has to talk about their traumatic experiences, the number of places victims must go for assistance, and strives to increase access to services and support for victims.

Partner agencies at Family Justice Centers may include, but are not limited to:

- Community-based rape crisis, domestic violence, and human trafficking advocates
- Law enforcement personnel
- Medical personnel
- Prosecuting attorneys
- Victim-witness program staff
- Social service agency staff members
- Child welfare agency social workers
- County health department staff
- City or county public assistance workers
- Mental health professionals
- Civil legal service providers

### How a Family Justice Center Works

Family Justice Centers most often have a minimum of the following **full-time, co-located** partners:

- domestic violence and/or sexual assault program staff
- law enforcement investigators

- a specialized prosecutor
- civil legal services

Many Family Justice Centers have additional onsite partners on either a full- or part-time basis. Family Justice Centers also have a consolidated intake and information sharing process that is HIPAA- and VAWA-compliant with their full-time, co-located partner agencies (“About Family Justice Centers,” 2019).

In 2003, President George W. Bush announced the formation of the President’s Family Justice Center Initiative. The \$20 million Initiative created specialized co-located, multi-disciplinary service centers for victims of family violence and their children. The model was based on the San Diego Family Justice Center model ([www.familyjusticecenter.org](http://www.familyjusticecenter.org)) and was designed to reduce the number of places victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse must go to receive services. Between 1992 and 2007, the San Diego Family Justice Center experienced a 95% reduction in domestic violence homicides and was recognized as an international model of a comprehensive victim service and support center.

The Family Justice Center model has also been identified as a best practice in the field of victim services intervention and prevention by the United States Department of Justice. Further, U.S. Congress recognized the importance of the model in Title I of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA 2005; “The President’s Family Justice Center Initiative Best Practices,” 2007).

### Outcomes

Documented outcomes of Family Justice Centers include: reduced homicides; increased victim safety; increased autonomy and empowerment for victims; reduced fear and anxiety for victims and their children; reduced recantation and minimization by victims when wrapped in services and support; increased efficacy in collaborative services to victims among service providers; increased prosecution of offenders; and dramatically increased community support for services to victims and their children through the family justice center model (Gwinn & Strack, 2006).

To learn more about Family Justice Centers, please visit [www.familyjusticecenter.org](http://www.familyjusticecenter.org).

About Family Justice Centers. (2019). Retrieved from [www.familyjusticecenter.org/affiliated-centers/family-justice-centers-2/](http://www.familyjusticecenter.org/affiliated-centers/family-justice-centers-2/).  
Gwinn, C., & Strack, G. (2006). *Hope for Hurting Families: Creating Family Justice Centers Across America*. Volcano, CA: Volcano Press.  
The President’s Family Justice Center Initiative Best Practices. (2007). Retrieved from [www.justice.gov/archive/ovw/docs/family\\_justice\\_center\\_overview\\_12\\_07.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/archive/ovw/docs/family_justice_center_overview_12_07.pdf)  
Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2005, 42 U.S.C. §§13701 (2005).

## Intersections of Violence Conference First Annual Awards

DCJS Victims Services, along with the Virginia Victims Fund, will be honoring individuals and teams who embody excellence in victim services. On July 15, 2019, we will be honoring our award recipients at an evening ceremony at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. We are currently accepting nominations for:

- **Multidisciplinary Team of the Year:** A Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) that worked together to reach a successful outcome for victims and survivors of crime. Nominations should include each team member's role in the successful outcome. MDTs include but are not limited to a task force, a child abuse MDT, domestic violence fatality review team, Sexual Assault Response Team, etc.
- **Community Collaboration at Its Best:** Representatives from three or more agencies who worked together to create a system change benefiting victims and survivors of crime. Nominations should include each person's role in creating the positive change.
- **Trail-Blazer of the Year:** An individual who, or agency that, used new technology, new resources, or a new outlook and thought outside of the box to move their agency or field forward. Successful nominees will have created a system of change that benefits victims and survivors.
- **Mentoring for a Better Future Award:** An individual who has taken the time and shared his or her expertise to support, guide, empower, and uplift others in the pursuit of services to victims and survivors.
- **Tenacity/Miracle Maker Award:** An individual who did not give up in the face of adversity, but rather problem solved or pushed through boundaries in their service to victims and survivors.



Nominations are due to Andi Martin by 5:00 pm EST on June 21, 2019. Nomination forms and additional information can be found at [www.dcs.virginia.gov/content/3rd-annual-intersections-violence-domestic-violence-sexual-assault-and-child-abuse](http://www.dcs.virginia.gov/content/3rd-annual-intersections-violence-domestic-violence-sexual-assault-and-child-abuse). If you are interested in attending the awards ceremony, please RSVP to [tricia.everetts@dcjs.virginia.gov](mailto:tricia.everetts@dcjs.virginia.gov) by June 30, 2019. A social hour with heavy hors d'oeuvre will follow the ceremony.

### Victims Services Quarterly Conversation

The next Victims Services Quarterly Conversation (VSQC) will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2019, from 11:00am–12:00pm. Webinar log-in information will be emailed to all grant recipients at least one week prior to the VSQC. Please mark your calendars—we hope you can join us!

The PowerPoint™ slides from past VSQC may be found on our website at: [www.dcs.virginia.gov/publications](http://www.dcs.virginia.gov/publications)

#### TRAINING OPPORTUNITY (non-DCJS)

### ELDER ABUSE: Understanding Capacity, Consent, and Undue Influence

Friday, Aug. 30, 2019 • Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center • Abingdon, Virginia  
*Featuring Keynote by Paul Greenwood, Former Prosecutor and Nationally-Recognized Expert on Elder Abuse Investigation and Prosecution*

Breakout sessions on:

- Investigating & Prosecuting Elder Financial Exploitation
- Guardianship
- Representative Payees, Trustees, & Conservators in Virginia
- Understanding Legal Capacity & Ethics

and much more...

Registration required. To request a program brochure, email [dsexton@svlas.org](mailto:dsexton@svlas.org)



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Julia Fuller-Wilson, VAWA Administrator



#### Share a little about your educational and professional background.

I began working in victim services in 1996, as a college student, volunteering at the local domestic violence program in Charleston, South Carolina. That experience led to an AmeriCorps position at the rape crisis center in Charleston, which really inspired me to pursue a career in this field. After graduating from Charleston Southern University, I moved to Virginia for graduate school at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)—or so I thought. I began my work in Virginia at Project Hope and moved to state government in 2005 when I became a grant monitor at the Virginia Department of Social Services. Shortly after, I began working at the Office of the Attorney General in their Victim Notification Program, where I assisted victims through the criminal appellate and civil commitment processes. In 2010, I came to DCJS to be a grant monitor for victim services programs. After a few years, I became the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Administrator, and I have been in that position ever since. Each of these experiences has taught me so much!

#### What is your role at DCJS-VS?

I am the VAWA Program Administrator. I am also the State Crisis Response Coordinator.

#### Why were you interested in working for Victims Services at DCJS?

I wanted to stay in the victim services field, particularly sexual and intimate partner violence, and I wanted to grow and learn new skills. DCJS has really allowed me to grow personally and professionally.

#### What do you enjoy most about your work at DCJS?

I LOVE my job! I really enjoy learning about victim services programs from across the state and to see the amazing

work that they do every day. I love working in the victim services field and feel like I make a difference at a “macro” level through policy development, planning, and grants administration. Also, the Victims Services team at DCJS is pretty awesome!

#### What has been your proudest accomplishment at DCJS?

Earning a Master’s degree in Social Work from VCU. I FINALLY completed the program in 2014 and it was worth the wait. The administration at DCJS has been really supportive of me in reaching my educational goal.

#### Prior to working at DCJS, what is the most unusual or interesting job you have had?

When I was in undergraduate school in Charleston, I was a nanny for three children for almost four years. The family was amazing and taught me so much about the kind of parent that I wanted to be. It also prepared me for the chaos that comes with parenting.

#### When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be either a guidance counselor or a chef. I had an amazing guidance counselor in high school that really made a difference in my life, and she inspired me to want to be like her. The goal to be a chef was a no brainer... I LOVE food!

#### If you could only vacation one place for the rest of your life, where would it be and why?

I would choose Hawaii because it is absolutely beautiful! It has an amazing diversity and a family oriented culture that really creates a sense of ease and belonging. Also, it does not get too hot or cold, and you are surrounded by beaches and mountains.

#### What would you title the autobiography of your life?

“Are you Kidding Me?!” because I say this many times every day and the sentiment seems universal. It helps me see the humor in almost any situation.

## CADV24 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

(Non-DCJS training)

**Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CADV24)**, October 4, 2019, is a workshop for law enforcement and first-responders, victim advocates, social workers, probation officers, medical and mental health professionals. Featuring nationally recognized speaker with 20+ years of law enforcement experience, Mark Wynn. Read more about Mark Wynn at: [www.markwynn.com](http://www.markwynn.com). To register, go to: <https://cadv24.regfox.com/cadv-242019conference>

**Law Enforcement Officer Registration Scholarship:** Current Law Enforcement Officers are eligible a scholarship provided by DCJS to cover the conference registration fee. This conference has been approved by DCJS for five (5) Career Development Credits for Law Enforcement Officers. Scholarships are limited. Please contact Daphne Allen with Lynchburg Victim/Witness Program for scholarship details prior to registering at [dallen@ocalynchburg.com](mailto:dallen@ocalynchburg.com).