

Oklahoma Department of Corrections' VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

The Oklahoma Department of Corrections (ODOC) has always had a vibrant Victim Services Unit that has continued to develop and grow through the years. The Victim Services Unit assists victims of crime by providing information related to the custody and status of offenders who are incarcerated or under the supervision of the ODOC. It is the mission of the Victims Services Unit to serve as the initial point of contact to assist victims and survivors of crime by providing information and resources in response to inquiries related to offenders;

ensuring the opportunity for victim notification; providing the opportunity for victim/offender dialogue, offering educational workshops and panels relating to the concerns of victims and their families, and opportunities for restorative justice that focuses on the needs of the victim, the responsibility of the offender and the role of the community in seeking the greatest level of restoration and healing possible.

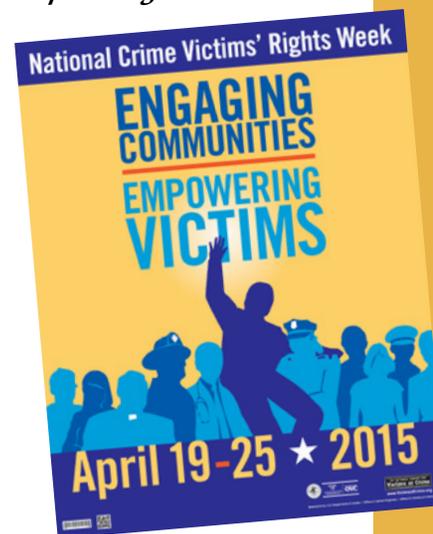
The Victim Services Unit offers services for victims at the point the offender is ready to re-enter society, called "Victims in Re-entry." This ser-

vice is especially helpful to those victims who may have been victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. The program is designed to wrap-around victims with several safety plans, information, and support with the primary focus on safety.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTSWEEK

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan declared a week in April as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Ever since that historic moment, states across the nation have joined in the celebration of the victories won on behalf of crime survivors. National

Crime Victims' Rights Week has become a symbol of hope and inspiration to those who have suffered the injustice of victimization. This year, National Crime Victims' Rights Week as been designated as April 19-25, 2015. The theme is "*Engaging Communities, Empowering Victims.*"



ILINDA JACKSON
Coordinator
Victim Services Unit

Ilinda Jackson began her career with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections in May 2003 as a Chaplain at Mabel Bassett Correctional Center and promoted to the Faith and Character Community Coordinator in 2007. In November 2009, Ms. Jackson promoted to Coordinator of the Victim Services Unit. Ms. Jackson graduated from Oklahoma City University with a Master's in Education, and has applied to test for Licensed Professional Counselor.

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES EMPOWERING VICTIMS



WE CAN HELP

VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS HELP VICTIMS REBUILD THEIR LIVES. WE CAN HELP YOU LEARN ABOUT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS, COPE WITH THE IMPACT OF CRIME, ACCESS VICTIM COMPENSATION, DEVELOP A SAFETY PLAN, AND NAVIGATE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL SERVICE SYSTEMS.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

April 19-25
2015

GATHERING TO HONOR AND REMEMBER CRIME VICTIMS AND THOSE THAT SERVE THEM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Oklahoma Judicial Center
(in auditorium)
2100 N. Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

IMPORTANT PARKING INFORMATION

State Capitol
South Parking Lot

You are invited to join us as we gather to honor and remember crime victims and those that serve them.



Tina Harman

Public Information Officer
District Attorney's Council

Tina is responsible for all press releases, training, and outreach programs pertaining to the Oklahoma Crime Victims Compensation Board program. Tina also attends Pardon and Parole meetings and is there to assist victims before and after testimony.

OKLAHOMA DISTRICT ATTORNEYS COUNCIL

Victims Services Division Functions

Administration of the Crime Victims Compensation Fund

Processing claims received from victims, making administrative decisions on applications currently allowed under law for certain types of claims, and providing support functions for the Victims Compensation Board fall among the general duties in this area.

Administration of the Sexual Assault Examination Fund

Processing claims for sexual assault examinations in the state from hospitals and sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) programs.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is very important for crime victims who feel they have lost their voice in the judicial system or have been left alone.

This year's theme is *"Engaging Communities, Empowering Victims."* This includes not just violent and physical crimes, but also cyber crimes. These crimes target those who can't take care of themselves.

The District Attorneys Council's goal is to raise awareness in communities of crimes that turn people into victims. Identity theft and cyber crimes can literally put people into bankruptcy if undetected.

The events for National Crime Victims' Rights Week are for ALL victims of ALL walks of life. It could be a business that has been defrauded out of millions, a person who has been the victim of a bogus check writer, white collar crimes and vio-

lent crimes. Across the board, the District Attorneys Council has seen an increase in these types of crimes.

The goal of this awareness week is to educate the public and victims. Many victims have suffered great losses financially, emotionally and physically. The District Attorneys Council is available to assist with medical bills, funeral expenses and counseling. In some instances, victims may take years to seek help, but the District Attorneys Council

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will be there when victims seek them out.

In order to meet the needs of victims, the District Attorneys Council receives monies from the Crime Victims Compensations Fund. This fund is supplied largely by the Oklahoma Department of Corrections from offenders at district and federal court levels. The offenders pay a percentage into this fund from their earnings to be distributed to victims.

Part of this year's theme of empowering victims, is just that. It empowers victims when they see a positive change whether the legislature passes a law in their favor or having their voices heard so it will make a difference. Victims feel empowered when they are validated. They feel good when they know that something is in place to help the next family. This is why the National Crime Victims' Rights Week is so important.

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OKLAHOMA DISTRICT ATTORNEYS COUNCIL

Victims Services Division Functions

Administration of VOCA Grants

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants are administered and monitored by this division.

Administration includes processing of grant applications, monitoring of subrecipients, and support functions for the VOCA grant Board.

Support of Victims Services

The Victims Services Division helps plan statewide training for Victim Witness Coordinators within district attorney offices. The division also maintains close contact with victims groups

around the state to solicit ideas on how better to serve victims, elicit concerns of victims about the criminal justice system, and advise victims about proposed reforms and changes.

Public Relations

The Victims Services Division is responsible for enhancing public awareness of the Crime Victims Compensation Program. Public service announcements, billboards, pamphlets, and public speaking engagements are part of the public awareness campaign.

Restitution

Subrogation Recovery

The Crime Victims Compensation Board has the legal right to seek judgment against the offender in order to recover funds paid on behalf of a crime victim. The Victims Services Division is responsible for the recovery of restitution owed to the Crime Victims Compensation Board. The staff actively seeks restitution from criminals and tracks the progress of the restitution recovery program.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Oklahoma District Attorneys Council
Oklahoma Crime Victims Compensation Board

421 N.W. 13th St., #290, OKC, OK 73103
(405) 264-5006

Toll-Free: 1-800-745-6098

Email: victimsservices@dac.state.ok.us

Click below to follow link:
<http://www.ok.gov/dac/>



Jan Peery

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)



Jan Peery provides domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking prevention and intervention services at the YWCA. In 2013, the Oklahoma City YWCA served over 20,000 clients through hotlines, outreach and education efforts. The YWCA operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with trained professionals answering hotlines for victims needing protection, shelter, transitional housing or just to answer questions.

First, the YWCA assesses a client's immediate needs. Is there a need for clothing, food or even a good night sleep? Sleep deprivation is a major issue for victims, as they force themselves to stay awake for fear their abuser will attack.

Peer groups are available at the YWCA for victims. In these groups, victims can discuss their situation and begin to understand they are not alone in this journey. Jan Peery, CEO of the YWCA, says, "Many victims have been brainwashed to be-

lieve they are the ones who caused the conditions they are experiencing. That is not true! My organization has certified counselors to meet the immediate and long term needs of the victim. There could be a need for clothing, resources for the future, or a safety plan for both adults and children."

Confidentiality and safety are the number one priority for Jan Peery, her staff and the victims. Jan and her staff orchestrate ways to get victims to the YWCA or other shelters. She says, "The YWCA offers assistance because nationally it takes seven times for victims to actually attempt to leave a violent relationship before they succeed." Victims may return to the YWCA several times, but Jan knows that with each return they become stronger on their journey to a normal, non-violent life.

The YWCA has several programs at their disposal that work in conjunction with Oklahoma Department of Corrections' Victims Services, such as, school programs for school age children and programs for men or women in a domestic violence atmosphere. Jan says, "The ideal goal is for people to realize that they don't have to live with violence in their

WE REMEMBER



CHAD GREGORY PEERY
December 6, 1976 - April 15, 2013

home or in a bad relationship. They don't deserve it! It isn't their fault and there are options."

JAN PEERY AND HER FAMILY BECOME VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Jan Peery has assisted thousands of victims through the YWCA, but on February 15, 2011, she would need help. On this day Jan and her family became victims of violence. Her son Chad Peery, an Oklahoma City police officer, was off-duty at Dan O'Brien's Public House with his dad. Chad and his dad were enjoying some father/son bonding time when a disturbance broke out near the bar. Workers at Dan O'Brien's knew Chad was a police

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officer and asked for his assistance. Chad approached the three men and escorted them out of the establishment. Once outside the three men, Jimmy Dan Smith, Joshua Bernard Rincken and Cadmio Lopez, attacked him. Rincken allegedly placed Chad in a headlock while Smith punched him. Lopez kept bystanders from coming to Chad's aid, including his dad. As a result, he was paralyzed with a broken neck and a spinal cord injury that could prevent him from ever walking again.

CHAD'S ROAD TO RECOVERY

The Peery family was praying for a miracle and knew Chad had a long road to recovery. Some days he was up and other days he was down. His mom and dad were right there with him. Chad was married with three boys and one girl, ages 3 to 11. He loved being a police officer and serving the public. There were times he asked why this happened to him. Through the trials and with support from the public and fellow officers, Chad tried to keep a positive attitude. As time went by, he was able to stand for brief periods. He always reminded others that if you keep a positive attitude and faith you can overcome obstacles.

The men who attacked Chad were found guilty and given 10 years in prison. The third man was given 15 years for preventing bystanders from coming to his aid. However, with prison overcrowding and good behavior, they may be up for parole after serving only a portion of their sentence.

On April 16, 2013, the Peery family was dealt another blow when Chad died from injuries sustained in a car accident.

Jan Peery says, *"The men who attacked my son and broke his neck had a history of domestic violence. One of the men had only been out of jail for a matter of weeks. There is a part of me that feels if our community and our state had done more about domestic violence they would have still been in jail and my son would still be alive."*

Following the attack and recovery, the community rallied around Chad and his family. His case was very high profile throughout the nation. Jan says, *"Chad was so gracious. He and his family tried not to focus on the evil that was done to him or on the men who perpetrated the violence. They tried to focus on the little things to celebrate."*

Jan says, *"We can't find closure in whether or not the courts meet what we think is just in decisions. We have to find closure in moving forward. In Chad's death, we focused on what were the positive things in that incredible journey. He touched so many lives and so many people touch his life."*

Jan recalls a conversation she and Chad had about the incident. She remembers him saying, *"You know mom, I don't deserve this. I am trying so hard not to be bitter."* She replied, *"I know that you*

have every right to be bitter, but you have to let it go because if you don't it will eat you up and then they will have taken that much more from you."

With a little crack in her voice and a tear in her eye, Jan says, *"It's difficult. I don't know that the pain will ever go away. But we can't focus on the pain, we have to force ourselves to focus on what we can do to move forward. I don't believe my son would want my life to be filled with anger and hate because that will only hurt me more."*

YWCA OKC History Facts

In 1907 the YWCA OKC was organized with 600 charter members and an annual budget of \$6,688.70.

In 1912 the YWCA OKC was incorporated as a non-profit organization.

In 1915 residence was established for permanent and transient guests with rates of \$1 per night lodging, 30¢ for breakfast, and 50¢ for dinner.



Kenneth Bryan

retired Chaplain, Mustang Police Department & Oklahoma Department of Corrections (ODOC)

Kenneth Bryan, a retired chaplain for ODOC's homicide support group and the Mustang Police Department, has spent his life helping others. His involvement with the Victim Services Unit began because of his desire to assist those experiencing a tough time with the loss of a loved one. Kenneth currently serves those in need through his church, hospice, retirement centers and assisted living centers. He feels that his experiences as a chaplain helps him assist those whose life is in a downward spiral with grief.

Kenneth Bryan has been married to his wife, Nina, for 61 years and they have two sons together. When their youngest son died at the age of four from a heart defect it was a devastating time for the

Bryan family, but their faith carried them through the storm. Their eldest son, Keith, grew up, got married, had children and became a fire chief for the Nichols Hills Fire Department.

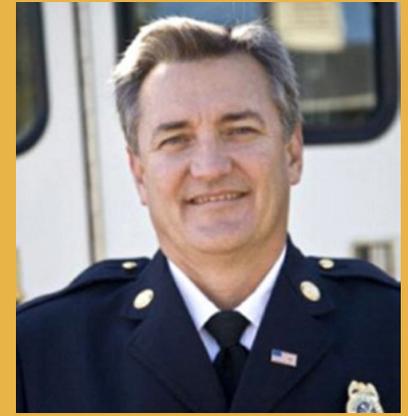
THE BRYAN FAMILY BECOMES VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

On September 20, 2011, Kenneth and Nina became victims of murder when their daughter-in-law, Rebecca (Becky) Bryan, placed a gun to the head of her husband, Keith, as he lay resting on the sofa, and pulled the trigger. Becky claimed an intruder shot Keith because he was not hired for a job with the fire department. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that Becky, a real estate agent at the time of Keith's death, had an extra-marital affair. Wishing to rekindle the affair, she needed to be free from her marriage. On July 9, 2013, Rebecca (Becky) Bryan was found guilty of murder and sentenced to Life Without Parole.

ROAD TO RECOVERY

Three and half years after the murder of his son, Kenneth Bryan depends upon the Holy Spirit to lead him. He says, "It will never be easy. The mother of my two grandsons and two great grandsons is locked up in prison for murdering her husband. The sons miss their father. The fact is this will never go away and a family is torn apart. The support our family receives from people around us and ODOC'S Victims Services Unit helps us every day.

WE REMEMBER



KEITH EDWARD BRYAN
November 28, 1958 - September 21, 2011

Some days are better than others. I remember some of the last things Keith and I were planning on doing together. We were trying to make a little extra cash by buying and fixing properties. It bothers me that this won't happen now."

Kenneth continues, "There will be things that happen that we don't particularly like, but we can always rejoice in the Lord. My background as a chaplain helps me look toward God for the strength to handle things that I can't handle myself. This is one of those things! However, one thing I'm sure of is, because of our faith, we will see Keith again."



Michael & Faye Taylor

The Taylors were looking forward to the marriage of their daughter, Ashley Celeste Taylor, to Kevin Sweat. Their daughter planned to travel to Louisiana for her wedding, but she never showed up. The Taylors called Ashley at her home but there was no answer. They received a call that their daughter was missing. This was the beginning of their nightmare.

THE TAYLOR FAMILY BECOMES VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

In July of 2011, Ashley Celeste Taylor's remains were found in Weleetka, Oklahoma on the property of Kevin Sweat's father. She had been burned in a brush pile, her remains crushed. Police questioned Sweat about his fiancée's murder and discovered that he had also killed two girls on a country road three years earlier in 2008.

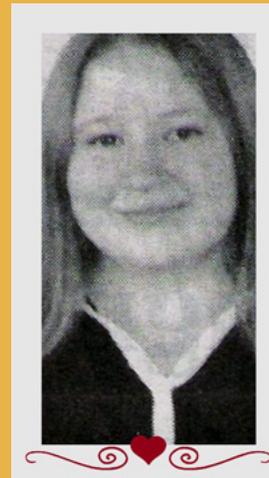
Fay and Michael's life was a roller coaster. As new information was revealed of their daughter's murder they would be up, then down, angry, and sad. Folks in this sleepy, central Oklahoma town were shocked to learn of Ashley's fate. They were shocked even more to find out that 13-year-old Taylor Paschal-Placker and 11-year-old Skyla Whitaker died when Kevin Sweat shot them 13 times because he thought they had turned into monsters.

Sweat pled guilty to those three murders and was sentenced to Life Without Parole. The families of his victims welcomed the sentence, but it would not change what he had done. Michael Taylor says, *"No matter what, my daughter is still gone. The pain is always going to be there. That is something you can't take away. Even if he received the death penalty, I will never hear my daughter's voice again."* Seeing the emotion on her husband's face and a single tear run down his cheek, Faye Taylor states, *"You have to develop a new way of accepting how to get through every day. We have to rely on God to be our strength."*

PATH TO RECOVERY

At this point the Oklahoma Department of Corrections' (ODOC) Victim Services Unit became a part of the Taylor family's life. Michael and Faye decided to join a support group to assist people in similar situations. ODOC's Victim Services Unit

WE REMEMBER



ASHLEY CELESTE TAYLOR
November 8, 1987 - July 2011



CHARYL FAYE SCHULTZ
June 20, 1981 - November 22, 2014

is there to comfort people on this grief stricken journey.

After Kevin Sweat was sentenced, Michael and Faye felt they had finally reached a resolution. Then they were faced with yet another blow. In November 2014, another daughter, Charyl Faye Schultz, was discovered with a rope around her neck, hanging in a storage

shed. This case is still being investigated.

Michael Taylor says, *"Not only is our daughter a victim, but we are a victim as well. Victim Services has actually been a blessing to us because we have someone to talk with. We have learned that a loss is a loss and if we can share with others who have gone through something similar, you may have a faster recovery time."*