

# Through Their Eyes...



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 Director,  
 SCDPPPS Office  
 of Victim Services

## OVS Director's Corner

Happy New Year and Welcome...back! The beginning of the new year is as good a time as any to begin publishing again the OVS quarterly newsletter. Since the last publication, OVS has re-aligned and as a result, victim services has undergone tremendous change. In 2017, it is my hope the services OVS provides to victims will become more streamlined and that advocates will be able to provide services to all of the counties in his/her judicial circuit. In conjunction with streamlining services, OVS hopes to host various trainings in-house that will provide VSP credit for our advocates.

There are a few projects that OVS has begun that I hope to share in more detail in the next issue. As Victim Services at SCDPPPS continues to evolve, I encourage feedback as to how we can work together to ensure we succeed in our mission. My door is always open for any questions, comments or suggestions.

## National Stalking Awareness Month

### What is stalking?

The legal definition of stalking can vary from state to state. However, stalking can simply be defined as a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause tremendous fear for their safety. The State of South Carolina defines stalking as a "pattern of words or conduct that causes fear of death, assault, bodily injury, criminal sexual contact, kidnapping, or property damage to a victim or victim's family member. Aggravated stalking is stalking accompanied by an act of violence."

SC Code 16-3-1700. et. seq.

Stalking can easily escalate from simple harassment to violence over time. According to the National Center for Victims of Crime Resource Center, 7.5 million people are stalked in the United States. It is reported that 15% of women and 6% of men have experienced stalking at some time point in their life.

### Stalking Laws

- Stalking is a crime under the laws of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Territories, and the Federal government, and can vary from state to state.
- Less than one-third of states classify stalking as a felony upon the first offense.
- It is reported more than half of the states classify stalking as a felony upon second or subsequent offenses or when the crime involves aggravating factors such as:
  - ◆ Possession of a deadly weapon;
  - ◆ Violation of a court order/condition of probation/parole;
  - ◆ Victim under 16 years old or same victim.

In South Carolina, stalking is classified as a misdemeanor. Considering the circumstances, it may be punishable by a maximum fine of \$2,000 and/or a maximum prison term of two years. Aggravated stalking is a felony punishable by a maximum fine of \$7000 and/or a maximum prison term of 10 years.



## FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA VICTIM'S BILL OF RIGHTS

### Victim Rights #5 The Right to be Heard

SC Constitution  
 Article I, Section 24 (A)(5)

**(A) To preserve and protect victims' rights to justice and due process regardless of race, sex, age, religion or economic status, victims have the right to:**

**(5) Be heard at any proceeding involving a post-arrest release decision, or a plea or sentencing**

A crime victim has the right to be heard *before* a decision is made by a judge in a hearing that will affect the defendant's release or disposition of his/her case. For example, if a defendant motions the court for a bond reduction hearing, the crime victim must be notified of the date and time of the hearing and of the victim's right to address the court.

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## Agency Spotlight: Pee Dee Coalition

by Jami Beams

Director of Communications, Pee Dee Coalition

### *Pee Dee Coalition Works to End Interpersonal Violence*

Pee Dee Coalition is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to the reduction of sexual assault, family violence, and child abuse and to the needs of its victims. Organized in 1986, and funded in part by the United Way, Pee Dee Coalition has expanded into seven counties including Florence, Darlington, Marion, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon, and Williamsburg. Work of the Coalition involves both response in times of crisis and an array of prevention services.

Crisis response includes staffing the region's only 24-hour crisis help line (toll free 1-800-273-1820) where trained advocates answer calls at any hour from people in the wake of sexual assault, family violence or child abuse and neglect. Confidential community victim assistance includes meeting with victims at the hospital, emergency shelter for women and their children needing to escape violence at home, and providing medical, legal and criminal justice advocacy.

Pee Dee Coalition remains active on a person-by-person basis for months and sometimes years after crisis by offering individual and support group counseling, along with information on and referral to community resources that assist with healing and dealing with the need to re-establish life in the aftermath of violence.

Pee Dee Coalition also works to prevent future violence through Alternatives to Violence (ATV), a multi-session offender reeducation program that intervenes with those who cause conflict. ATV works from the premise that the only way to lasting change is for abusive individuals to take responsibility for their actions.

Durant Children's Center, "The House Where Healing Begins," is based in Florence with a satellite in the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit in Hartsville. This program of the Pee Dee Coalition offers multi-

disciplinary assessment and treatment to children and adolescent victims in cases where physical or sexual abuse or child neglect are suspected. Durant Children's Center provides forensic interviews, medical exams, clinical evaluation and therapy, expert witness testimony, and parent education and support groups (PEPS).

Another Pee Dee Coalition program is R.O.A.R – Reducing Our Assault Risk –

training for middle, high school and college students helping both young women and young men with values clarification, communication skills, recognizing the impact of media, knowledge of the consequences of arrest and conviction and that "No" – no matter the circumstances – means no.

Adult and adolescent women benefit from R.A.D – Rape Aggression Defense – designed to empower women to protect themselves, avoid potentially dangerous situations and respond confidently when threatened.

The philosophy behind Pee Dee Coalition is that reducing family violence, sexual assault and child abuse is a community issue and concerns everyone – not only women, not only service providers – everyone who values the basic human desire to be free from physical threat and harm. This fuels the vision that through our efforts the region in its entirety will be a safer more compassionate place to live.



## Remembering Solicitor Chrissy Adams

The SCDPPPS Office of Victim Services is saddened by the loss of Chrissy Adams, Solicitor of the 10th Judicial Circuit (Anderson, Oconee).

Mrs. Adams, who was elected as Solicitor in 2004, succumbed to cancer on December 28, 2016.



### *To Attend A Parole Hearing...*

**Contact any staff member in the SCDPPPS Office of Victim Services at 803-734-9367. Victims may call Toll Free at 888-551-4118.**



## 2nd Judicial Circuit Training

On November 18, 2016, the Office of Victim Services conducted a one-day training for the 2nd Judicial Circuit in Aiken County. Speakers included SCDPPPS' Chief Hearing Officer Kay Hutson, Interstate Compact Administrator Victoria Jakes, Aiken County Supervisor Mitchell Collins, 2nd Circuit Victim Advocate Anthony White, OVS Assistant Director Missy Knight, and Aiken County Sex Offender Agent Brian Wilson.



ABOVE: OVS and Aiken County staff members gather after the 2nd Judicial Circuit training in November.



LEFT: Training attendees included victim advocates from the Solicitor's Office, local law enforcement and service providers.



**Sweet Retreat!**  
On Friday, October 28, the Office of Victim Services held its Victim Retreat at the SCDC Pavilion. This was the first retreat held since the Office was realigned and Director Debbie Curtis assumed responsibility of supervising the Victim Advocates. They spent the morning discussing victim service issues within SCDPPPS and team building activities in the afternoon. At the end of the retreat the staff surprised Ms. Curtis with belated Boss' day gifts.

The next retreat is scheduled for November 3, 2017 at the SCDC Pavilion.

The National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center offers the following statistics on Stalking in the United States:



### STALKING VICTIMIZATION

- ◆ 7.5 million people are stalked in one year in the United States.
- ◆ 61% of female victims and 44% of male victims are stalked by a current or former intimate partner.
- ◆ 25% of female victims and 32% of male victims are stalked by acquaintances.
- ◆ 50% of victims are stalked before the age of 25.
- ◆ About 14% of female victims and 16% of male victims experienced stalking between the ages of 11 and 17.
- ◆ 46% of staking victims experience at least one unwanted contact per week.


### STALKING AND INTIMATE PARTNER FEMICIDE

- ◆ 76 % of intimate partner femicide victims have been stalked by their intimate partner.
- ◆ 67% had been physically abused by their intimate partner.
- ◆ 89% of femicide victims who were physically assaulted had been stalked in the 12 months before their murder.
- ◆ 54% of femicide victims reported stalking to police before they were killed by their stalkers.

### IMPACT OF STALKING ON VICTIMS


- ◆ 46% of stalking victims fear not knowing that will happen next.
- ◆ 29% of stalking victims fear the stalking will never stop.
- ◆ 1 in 8 employed stalking victims lost time from work as a result of their victimization.
- ◆ 1 in 7 stalking victims move as a result of their victimization.
- ◆ Anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression are much higher among stalking victims than the general population.

Source: <http://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center/stalking-information>



April 11th-13th  
2017

Victims' Rights Week Conference  
Doubletree Hilton, Columbia, SC



STRENGTH  
RESILIENCE  
JUSTICE

Sponsored by SOVA and SCVAN  
[www.victimrightsweek.org](http://www.victimrightsweek.org)

# Victim Advocate Spotlight

## Angela Angus

5<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit/ Richland and Kershaw Counties

Meet one of the Office of Victim Services' (OVS) newer advocates, Angela Ensley Angus. Angela, born in Greer, is a native South Carolinian. She came to the SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (SCDPPPS) in October of 2013 as a Field Operations Specialist for the Spartanburg County office. In June of 2015, Angela was the first of two advocates to be hired for the Richland County office.



Currently Angela provides victim services to both the Richland and Kershaw county offices. She also assists Central OVS staff with parole and pardon hearings, victim information input and sorting SRP and CSP releases.

Angela is an advocate who is dedicated to her work with crime victims. She is passionate about upholding the rights afforded to victims by the SC Constitution and is an asset to OVS. On being an advocate Angela states, "The best part of being a victim advocate is when a conversation truly impacts a victim's thoughts and feeling in a positive way. It feels really good to hear that I have helped ease their minds."

**Favorite Hobby:** Volunteering with her son's school and t-ball team. "You never know what a group of five-year-olds will try to do."

# PPP's Victim Services Staff

- |               |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Debora Curtis | Director                    |
| Missy Knight  | Assistant Director          |
| Sandra McCray | Victim Services Liaison     |
| Betsy Hegler  | Victim Services Coordinator |
| Trina Curry   | Administrative Assistant    |
| Yvonne Conte  | Victim Services Specialist  |

The Department employs Victim Advocates throughout in each Judicial Circuit to provide comprehensive services to crime victims, including: victim notifications, monitoring restitution payments, collecting and routing Victim Impact Statements, victim/witness advocacy, accompaniment at violation hearings, referrals to resources, training, education, and public awareness.

### Victim Advocates

Michelle Hughes	1st: Bamberg, Calhoun, Dorchester, Orangeburg
Anthony White	2nd: Aiken, Barnwell
Stacy McCray	3rd: Clarendon, Lee, Sumter, Williamsburg
Susan Clemmons	4th: Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Marlboro
Angela Angus Kristen Steen	5th: Kershaw, Richland
Tim Williams	6th: Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster
Bert Sparks	7th: Cherokee, Spartanburg
Debbie Arnold	8th: Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, Newberry
Bernadette Brown Susan Paitl	9th: Berkeley, Charleston
Wanda Johnson	10th: Anderson, Oconee
Nicole Morreale	11th: Edgefield, Lexington, McCormick, Saluda
Mamie Hannah	12th: Florence, Marion
Karen Patterson Andrea Plumley	13th: Greenville, Pickens
Katura Stephens	14th: Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper
Randy Worrell	15th: Georgetown, Horry
Vacant	16th: Union, York



*Through Their Eyes* is a quarterly publication of the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services Office of Victim Services

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The Office of Victim Services is committed to providing fast, comprehensive, responsive services to victims of crime as well as all stakeholders in the criminal justice community. We always welcome feedback. Please feel free to email comments, questions and/or suggestions about our program and what you would like to see in future issues of our newsletter to Debora.curtis@ppp.sc.gov.

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