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Maine Department of Corrections OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES 10-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE REPORT



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10-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

TIMELINE

7/1/1996	Victim Services Coordinator position created
7/31/1996	Victim Advisory Group established Toll Free number for Victim Information established Impact panels implemented at Maine Youth Center
1997	Harassment legislation passed Promising Practices Conference held
1998	Batterer Intervention Program Standards adopted
1999	Impact of Crime program begins at Bolduc Correctional Facility
2000	Victim Advocate position established
2001	Office of Victim Services authorized in statute
2002	Restitution disbursement automated
2003	Notification of release centralized in Victim Services First Victim Wraparound held in Androscoggin Impact statements done on all Reentry/SCC candidates
2004	Maine Crime Victim's Rights Week grant awarded to the Office of Victim Services from the Office for Victims of Crime
2005	After the Sentencing – handbook for victims published Domestic Violence in Workplace policy developed
2006	Sex Offender Management pilot program for victims A Victim Friendly Guide to Maine Court Ordered Restitution published

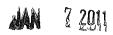


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INTRODUCTION

In the ten years since a Victim Services position was established within the Department of Corrections there have been numerous accomplishments as well as challenges. The ten year report is an attempt to highlight the accomplishments.

Traditionally the Department of Corrections (hereafter DOC) dealt with the issues of the offender while the victim received little to no assistance or support for the crimes committed against them. In order to address this issue, the Maine DOC established the position of Victim Services Coordinator in July of 1996. The Victim Services Coordinator is responsible for developing and implementing statewide policies and procedures; organizing, coordinating and evaluating program activities; and most importantly providing support to victims.

The first order of business was to develop a Victim Advisory Group, consisting of victims and victim service providers, brought together to review and comment upon policies of the Department of Corrections that may impact victims. The topic of the first meeting, held July 31, 1996, was the issue of prisoners who continued to harass their victims from within the correctional facilities. Legislation was proposed to give correctional officers the same authority as law enforcement in issuing harassment orders. Once that legislation was passed, during the very next legislative session a harassment policy was created and signed by the Commissioner of Corrections.

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS POLICY ON VICTIMS OF CRIME

A person who is the victim of a crime is entitled to certain basic rights: to be treated with dignity and respect; to be free from intimidation, to be assisted by criminal justice agencies and to be informed about the criminal justice system.

The Department of Corrections strives to ensure victims who request notification are notified of a prisoner's release; victims receive the restitution to which they are entitled and victims are free from harassment from offenders in the custody of or under the supervision of the department.

The department provides a toll free number for victims to receive information regarding an offender's status.

The Department of Corrections encourages the participation of crime victims on the DOC Victims Advisory Group and the Victim of Crime Impact Panels.

The Department of Corrections is committed to the premise that crime victims are the real customers of the department, and will receive the rights and respect to which they are entitled.

Office of Victim Services

Purpose: The Office of Victim Services is responsible for the provision of services to victims of crime whose offenders are in the custody of or under the supervision of the Department of Corrections.

Organization: The Office of Victim Services was created by the legislature in 2001 to advocate for and to provide services to victims whose offenders are in the custody of or under supervision by the Department of Corrections.

Program: The Office of Victim Services ensures that victims who request notification are notified of the prisoner's release, victims receive the restitution to which they are entitled, and victims are free from harassment by offenders in the custody of or under the supervision of the department. The Office of Victim Services provides a toll free number for victims to receive information regarding an offender's status. The Office of Victim Services encourages the participation of crime victims on the Department of Corrections Victim Advisory Group and Impact of Crime Panels. The Office of Victim Services offers assistance with victim impact statements, and promotes the inclusion of victim impact statements into decisions regarding prisoner release.

The Office of Victim Services certifies and monitors Batterer Intervention Programs throughout the state. The Office of Victim Services provides training and technical assistance as well as support to juvenile community resolution teams throughout the state.

The Office of Victim Services provides referrals to appropriate community based service providers.

CORE SERVICES

Victim Notification (Title 17-A M.R.S.A. sec. 1175) -

The Victim Notification Law applies to a victim of a murder or stalking, or a class A, B, or C crime for which the defendant is committed to the DOC or to a county jail, or for which the defendant is found not criminally responsible by reason of mental disease or defect and is placed in institutional confinement.

Victim of these crimes must receive:

- (1) Notice of the defendant's unconditional release and discharge from institutional confinement upon the expiration of the sentence or upon discharge under Title 15, sec. I 104-A.
- (2) Must receive notice of any unconditional release of the defendant from the institutional confinement, including probation, parole, furlough, work release, intensive supervision, supervised community confinement, home release monitoring or a similar program or release under Title 15, sec. 104-A.

A victim who wishes to receive notification must file a request for the notification of the defendant's release with the office of the attorney for the State. The request is forwarded to the DOC, to the state mental health institute, or to the county jail to where the defendant is committed. The victim's request is confidential. The Department of Corrections will notify the victim 30 days prior to release or as soon as the date of release is set.

The DOC initiated a toll free information number on July 17, 1996 for victims of crimes. The 800 number (1-800-968-6909) is a direct line for victims to access information on the status of an offender. The number can be used to answer a victim's questions and concerns about the status of an offender, can inform the victim about anticipated dates of release, place of confinement, or sentencing information. Victims can also seek assistance if they are being harassed by a prisoner.

VICTIM ADVISORY GROUP

1996 – The Victim Advisory Group is a committee composed of victims, victim advocates, victim service providers, and representatives from other State agencies and was formed to assist in defining and implementing programs within the DOC. The initial issue identified by the Advisory Group for action was ongoing harassment of victims or others by prisoners in the institutions. This prompted legislation which was successfully passed to amend the harassment statue and allows corrections staff to warn prisoners not to contact or harass a specific person. If the behavior continues it could ultimately lead to new prosecution of the crime of harassment. The prior course of DOC action was a formal warning and possible loss of good time for continued harassing behavior.

VICTIM SERVICES IN CORRECTIONS TRAINING CONFERENCE AT SUGARLOAF SEPTEMBER 9-11, 1997

Maine was selected to participate in the "Promising Practices and Strategies for Victim Services in Corrections" training and technical assistance project, sponsored by the Arlington Virginia-based National Victim Center (NVC) with support from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) within the U. S. Department of Justice. Project cosponsors were: the American Correctional Association, American Jail Association, Association of Paroling Authorities, the American Probation & Parole Association, and Restorative Justice Association.

This project was a component of the nine-year effort by NVC and OVC to initiate and enhance victim services in corrections at the local, state and federal levels.

Nineteen states submitted applications to participate in the "Promising Practices and Strategies" project. In 1997-98, eight states – Alaska, Maine, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio and Wisconsin – sponsored the in-depth statewide training conference.

The project assessed the current status of victim services in Maine's adult and juvenile corrections systems, and developed a three-day training program to improve victims' rights and services in the post-sentencing phases of their cases. The "Promising Practices and Strategies for Victim Services in Corrections' curriculum focused on three key areas:

- 1. *Victim Services in Corrections:* including notification, input and involvement, protection, restitution, public awareness, victim/offender programs, and building networks among victim service providers, corrections, and allied professions.
- 2. "Impact of Crime on Victims" Program: A 40-hour educational curriculum for offenders that incorporates crime victims as guest speakers and helps offenders understand the impact of their crimes on their victims, communities, their families, and themselves.
- 3. **Responding to Workplace Violence in Correctional Settings:** included policies, protocols, and programs to help correctional agencies assist staff who are victimized on or off the job.

1997 - The Victim Advisory group met in November to discuss current issues for victims of crimes. Topics that were discussed included the film, Choices, which features Maine State prisoners. The purpose of the film was to be made available to schools as a prevention tool. The advisory group suggested that the film should be used as a supplement to an existing program to maximize the potential of preventing future crimes.

1999 - Victim Advisory Group - The Department of Corrections submitted two bills to the legislature impacting victims this session. One to extend to the victims of juvenile offenders the same rights afforded to victims of adult offenders, and one to enhance the collection of restitution.

2000 - Victim Advisory Group - The Department of Corrections Victim Advisory Group met with Commissioner Magnusson to discuss concerns regarding parole. Members of the advisory group were opposed to parole and believed that the Supervised Community Confinement Program is the appropriate mechanism to return offenders to the community. The program takes into consideration victim and community impact, appropriateness of housing situation and employment status of offender. Victims who have been notified of the offenders' application for acceptance into the program have been supportive with only 2 victims expressing opposition to date.

The information the commissioner shared with the Advisory Group included the fact that 96% of prisoners were paroled at their first appearance before the board. The parole board is a separate entity from the DOC and acts independently from the department. As an example, there was the case of the prisoner who shortly prior to his appearance before the parole board, stabbed another prisoner in the dining room and despite objections from the Warden was still paroled. This scenario caused great concern among Advisory Group members, several of whom were crime victims themselves. The Parole bill was not passed by the Legislature.

2001 The Victim Advisory Group held their quarterly meeting on August 7, 2001. Legislation that created the Office of Victim Services was reviewed, as was the legislation, which permits the Department to inform victims who inquire as to whether or not a prisoner has received a disciplinary action resulting in a loss of good time. The policy, which guides the Victim Advisory Group, was also reviewed.

Victim Notification of prisoner release is an important responsibility of the Department of Corrections. Victim Services goal is to increase the percentage of victim notifications received from the counties, especially in cases where sex offender notification is also a consideration. The local television stations have been contacted and asked to run the Department of Corrections Public Service Announcement regarding a victim's right to notification.

2002 Victim Advisory Group -Discussion of issues regarding prisoner visitation was held. The DOC has a policy, which prohibits prisoners from having visits from people or classes of people (i.e. children under sixteen), if those conditions are imposed as a condition of probation.

There are occasions when a family court order is in opposition to probation conditions – DOC considers probation conditions to be the controlling instrument. Recently an individual prisoner challenged this policy. The unanimous opinion of the advisory group members present was that DOC needed to do whatever necessary to maintain that policy. The recently passed LD 1969 should assist in supporting that policy decision.

An additional visitation issue occurs in cases when a person has requested notification and then requests to visit that prisoner or to be a furlough sponsor for the prisoner. The new automated client information system will automatically place a no contact alert for any individual requesting notification. A decision was made to modify "Victim Notification Request Form" to include a notice that victims requesting notification will not be permitted to visit the prisoner or to be considered as a furlough sponsor.

2003 The Victim Advisory Group monitored the meetings of the Commission to Improve Sentencing Supervision Management and Incarceration of Prisons. The group also coordinated a presentation on Victim Services and the impact of parole and good time on victims for the Commission.

2004 Victim Advisory Group - Steve Thomas presented information on treatment of sex offenders. Mr. Thomas is a sex offender treatment provider who has worked for over 23 years with probation and contracts with the US probation office. He spoke regarding Clarification letters and the Cognitive behavioral program. Clarification letters are part of restitution-based sex offender treatment, a restorative justice process. The goal of a clarification letter is to clarify who has responsibility for offense. Cognitive behavioral programs are recommended. Most sex offenders are in treatment for three years; all groups are led by both a male and female co-facilitators. No treatment provider has the right to send to a victim anything that will bring back issues. Participants discussed what the impact has been on victim. Sadistic, psychopathic sex offenders do not participate in the process and offenders are made aware of the five factors that contribute to the clarification letter. There are around 700 or 800 offenders who have participated in treatment over the past twenty three years. 50% may have written letters, 100-125 letters may have been sent out and there is feedback from 20 or 30 victims with mixed reactions. No one has been angry about the process. There have been 25-30 meetings, half of which have been with family members and have helped heal relationships. The Advisory Group reached a consensus that there should be informed consent, a process for how victims are notified of the existence of the clarification letter and perhaps a review team for clarification letters. Also, in cases where there is no contact as a condition of probation, clarification letters are not appropriate.

2005 Riverview does have written release notification polices and provides written and phone notices for victims of NGRI offenders. The information provided to victims is primarily reassurance, no specific info re: patient. The group suggested a handbook for victims/families detailing "a day in the life of."

Following the presentation by the Riverview staff, the Advisory Group had the following recommendations:

- DOC will request a copy of the Riverview victim notification policy.
- Confirmation from Riverview administration that Daly or Lamoreau are point of contact for victims, including correct address and contact numbers.
- Riverview staff should become familiar with 17-A M.R.S.A. section 1175 and all its requirements, including those for the incompetent to stand trial population.
- Continue exploration of proposal for DOC to do Riverview victim notifications.
- Compile information for an informational booklet/ pamphlet to be provided to victims.
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 4-8 hour passes – without hearing may be on grounds, unsupervised-notification similar to the DOC furlough pass should be provided to victims.

Following the presentation made by Gerald Daly and Bob Lamoreau the recommendations from the May 2005 meeting were responded to by Brenda Harvey, Associate Commissioner DHHS. Her response was handed out to members and discussed. Victims continue to be concerned with the lack of information provided by Riverview such as: what happens when someone is committed to Riverview; what does treatment consist of; what needs to happen in order to be released; what are the release criteria; are there conditions imposed as part of a modified release plan (i.e. no contact requirements); what is the average length of stay; what is a partial release; what is the purpose of the release hearings. There continues to be a need for services for victims whose offenders are in Riverview. Denise Giles requested an informational sheet from Bob Lamoreau. Continued discussions occurred with the Attorney General's Office, victims, legislators and DHHS.

2006 The Department of Corrections Victim Advisory Group met on August 1, 2006.

The sex offender focus group findings were approved to be sent to Commissioner Magnusson along with a cover letter from the Victim Advisory group.

The web based public access to the DOC offender information system through INFOME should be online in September. There will be an opportunity for the Advisory group to preview the site before it goes active. The release date provided on the site is a concern for the group as a "current" release date is often much further out than the "earliest possible". This concern will be reviewed with MIS staff.

The Maine Crime Victimization telephone survey has completed the test runs and the questions finalized. The calls will be made in September/October to maximize the probability of contact with year round rather than summer residents.

The public service announcement update is in the design phase with Maine Audio Visual. **Randy Tunks** has requested assistance with "casting". **Diane Gagnon** volunteered her family to take part in the filming. Randy Tunks will be provided with Dianne's contact information.

Denise Lord described the role of the Correctional Alternatives Advisory Committee and the pre-trial study that was conducted. One of the findings by the consultant **Maria Van Nordstrom** that Maine overutilizes economic sanctions created a great deal of discussion within the group. The Victim Compensation fee is a minimal fee that does a great deal of good for crime victims and the Advisory Group feel strongly that this economic sanction should receive our strong support. Maria Van Nordstrom will present her final report on September 14, and Advisory Group members are invited to attend. Denise Lord went on to describe the role of the sentencing subcommittee and its review of the use of split sentences.

The Advisory Groups next meeting will be scheduled when the preview date for INFOME is set.

VICTIM ADVOCATES AND INTERNS

MOVING UP-VICTIM ADVOCATE LEAVING JOB FOR STATE POST

2001 - By Donna Perry (Reprinted with permission from Lewiston Sun Journal)

Tessa Mosher has comforted hundreds of victims and witnesses and helped them through the court system in cases ranging from bad checks to rape of a child. She says she finds it rewarding to ease their minds by helping them know the criminal system and process better.

June 18, Tessa left the Franklin County District Attorney's Office to work for the Maine Department of Corrections in Augusta. There she'll be researching state records to locate victims due restitution by a convicted offender, as well as working with victims.

Her mother gave her an angel pendant on a chain for her 25th birthday and it has brought nothing but good luck, she said, including a new home on the horizon in New Sharon and being offered a new position.

This is an advancement and I'm ready for that change," Mosher said. She'll be starting off at \$28,000 an increase of \$6,000 from her current pay.

"I'm single and not married, have no children, and there's no better time to make this move, "she said.

Mosher currently works mostly with adult domestic abuse cases. But she has seen her share of gross sexual assault cases committed against children in the last 3-1/2 years.

She graduated from Mount Blue High School in 1994 and worked as a Franklin County corrections officer and dispatcher while going to the University of Maine at Augusta, where she earned her criminal justice degree.

"I had no victim involvement at the jail but I was a hard worker and had a lot of good references, Mosher said. When she first saw the posting for her current job, she thought it sounded interesting and something that would suit her.

I have a very kind heart and I think I am a very friendly person and I love people," she said. "I've always been an empathetic person and I understand people have hardships in their life and I always want to help to make it better."

She considers her job emotionally hard, she said, "because I've sat and cried in the courtroom along with the victims and I'm supposed to be the strong supportive one."

The position has hardened her some, she said; knowing that crimes happen so often, it's hard not to be desensitized.

"I find working with children that have been sexually abused the most difficult, for the fact that children are innocent," she said, "and they never deserve to be treated the way they have been by the perpetrators."

She has helped at least 1,500 victims and witnesses in more than 4,500 cases during her tenure, she said.

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"I'm going to miss this job and I'm going to miss the people I've worked with," she said.

"Tessa is the greatest victim's advocate in the entire world and we're going to miss her." Assistant District Attorney Andy Robinson said, and he's worked with several during his career. "Tessa is very organized and, more importantly she's very compassionate and she keeps (Assistant District Attorney Jim Andrews and me in line.

CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK

VICTIMS' RIGHTS: Right for America and Right for Maine"

The time-honored tradition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week was observed April 19 to 25, 1998. This special commemoration encompassed the theme "Victims' Rights: Right for America: and was observed by thousands of victim service and allied professional organizations and agencies across the United States.

As part of Maine's recognition of Crime Victim's Rights Week Governor Angus King signed a proclamation declaring April 19-25, 1998 as Crime Victim's Rights Week in Maine. The proclamation was presented to State Trooper John Mahan at the Ellsworth County Courthouse during the dedication of a plague in memory of his sister Mary Mahan's contribution to crime victims. Mary was the Hancock County Victim Witness Advocate until 1997.

The Department of Corrections recognized the volunteers who spoke on the Crime Victim Impact Panels at a reception at the Maine Youth Center on Tuesday, April 21, 1998. Commissioner Martin Magnusson presented the panelists with certificates and on behalf of the Department expressed appreciation of the significant contribution they make. Dorothy Arrigo and Jennifer Bryon, two of the panelists honored had also done a Victim Impact presentation on WMPR radio in Orland in conjunction with Victim's Rights Week.

Staff victimization issues are a priority for the Department. District Attorney Goeffrey Rushlau presented a program on staff victimization and crime victims' rights to the correctional officers at the Maine Prison on Wednesday, April 22, 1998. The presentation and discussion of concerns was beneficial for the staff and the prosecutor.

2003 CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK - COLORING CONTEST

Department of Corrections had an outstanding group of entries for the Coloring Contest in celebration of Crime Victims Rights Week. The awards were announced on April 7, 2003 at the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee Room following the proclamation of Crime Victim's Rights week and the presentation of silhouettes that were constructed by the Charleston Correctional Facility for the Silent Witness Project.

All of the entries were children of employees at Department of Corrections. Congratulations to all of you and thank you for participating in Crime Victims Rights Week.

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2004 CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK COLORING CONTEST WINNERS

"What Makes You Feel Safe" was the theme of 2004's year Crime Victim's Rights Week coloring contest. Twenty-seven entries were received from children of correctional employees. Judging was done by Deborah Shaw Rice Director of the Victim's Compensation Program and Mary Farrar Victim Advocate in the Office of the Attorney General. Downeast Correctional Facility, Maine Correctional Center, Best Western Senator Inn, Sugarloaf USA, Jokers, Two Sisters Tag It, and Dingley Press donated prizes.

Thank you to all contestants, and hope to have you back next year.

"VICTIMS' RIGHTS: AMERICA'S VALUES" America Commemorates the 24th Anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Augusta-Maine – During the week of April 18th through the 24th, 2004, crime victims and survivors, victim service providers, criminal and juvenile justice and allied professionals, and community volunteers joined together across America to commemorate the 24th anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The year's theme, "Victims' Rights: America's Values," helped us recognize that when we *value* equal rights for all Americans, safety and protection for those who have been victimized, and justice for *all*, we *value* crime victims' rights and services.

The National Crime Victims' Rights Week event was held on Friday, April 23, 2004 at the Senator Inn, Augusta, Maine presented by the Maine Department of Corrections, Victim Services. This was a public awareness event beginning with a Victim Impact Panel that was videotaped and is used for educational purposes. A luncheon included Attorney General Steven Rowe as keynote speaker. Information on community notification protocol and conducting a town meeting regarding release of sex offenders was discussed as well as the differences between anger management and batterer's intervention programs.

U.S. Department of Justice NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK

In 2005, Paula D. Silsby, the United States Attorney for the U. S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maine recognized Denise Giles for her outstanding service to crime victims.

The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Maine took the opportunity to thank Denise for all she does to support federal crime victims, and this Office and its programs, and to recognize the assistance and support she provides to Maine crime victims.

Coloring Contest Winners

2005 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK

"What Are You Most Proud of" was the theme of this years Crime Victim's Rights Week coloring contest for the children of correctional employees. Twenty-seven entries were received from children of correctional employees. Judging was done by Deborah Shaw Rice Director of the Victim's Compensation Program and Michelle Cram, Victim Advocate in the Office of the District Attorney (Kennebec County).

The winning entries were on display in the reception area of Central Office during Crime Victim's Rights Week of April 10-16. All contestants received a certificate signed by Commissioner Magnusson and a Crime Victim Rights Week ribbon.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK - APRIL 23-29, 2006

This is a time-honored tradition in America where we join together to recognize the devastating impact of crime on victims and communities, and to dedicate ourselves to helping victims and survivors of crime.

The Maine Chapter of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc., for the families and friends of those who have died by violence, hosted a ceremony on April 23rd at the Calumet Club in Augusta.

Panel of speakers included:

Commissioner Michael Cantara, Department of Public Safety

State Representative, Richard Sykes

Assistant Attorney General, Lisa Marchese

Assistant Attorney General, William Stokes

Lt. Gary Wright, CID II, Maine State Police

Chief Wayne McCamish, Augusta Police Department

Denise Giles, Victims Services, Department of Corrections

Kate Faragher Houghton, Family Violence Project

Donna Strickler, Executive Director, Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center

Diane Gagnon, Chair, Maine Parents of Murdered Children

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE POLICY COMMITTEE

A MESSAGE TO CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES HARMED BY WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

As a victim of a crime committed while you were performing your duties, you:

- Should be treated with dignity and respect by the Department and all of its employees.
- May request assistance and support for you, your family, and co-workers from the Department's Victim Services.

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Victim Services can provide you with information about your rights as a victim under the law and other information including:

Prisoner Information

Location of prisoner

Anticipated date of release

Notification

Notification of the release or escape of prisoner

Notification of disciplinary hearing

Notification of criminal hearing

Supervision

Input into special conditions of probation

Community corrections officer responsible for supervision of the probationer.

Assistance if You Are Being Threatened or Harassed

Restitution

Restitution collection procedure

Victim compensation claim

Lawsuits by Prisoners or Probationers

Orientation to civil process

Resources/Referrals

To learn more about the wide variety of programs and services within the Department and in the community, please contact the Victim Services Program at (800) 968-6909.

In 2005, as a result of a Governor's Executive Order, each state agency worked with a team from the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence in Workplace Violence policy development and outcomes. The goals were to train employees who may be seeing Domestic Violence in course of their jobs, all employees will receive training — There are Domestic Violence victims among employees, no one is singled out, information is provided to all.

Domestic Violence victims may or may not have sought assistance from a family violence project. The policy information comes from a victim perspective. Domestic violence is deceptive by its nature. People who are violent may not present that face to the public. Most offenders do not wear that label. Employees may be abusers as well. The policy is intended for all employees of the department.

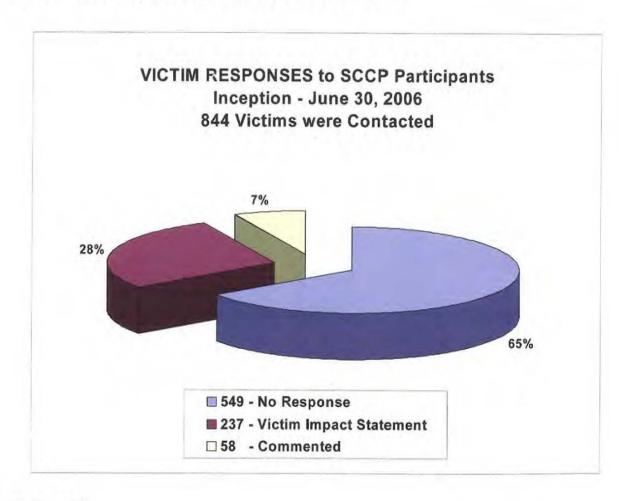
The Domestic Violence Workplace Policy cross references sexual harassment, as well as other policies already implemented for employees. One issue the committee considered was how to appropriately approach a fellow employee to offer assistance without violating privacy. Training provides the knowledge and ability to respond to red flags. Domestic Violence is a pattern not a single event. A goal is to increase sensitivity to victims.

Posters and policy indicate the workplace is meant to be a safe place. Interventions to be put into place to provide safety to victims, support is the key. There is a need for annual training on policy for supervisors to review current research, and opportunity to discuss incidents that have occurred. Workshop approach is being considered and updated resources availability will be provided.

SCC/REENTRY VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENTS

A primary goal of the Office of Victim Services is to increase the number of victims who participate in the process of holding their offenders accountable by providing opportunities for input through impact statements. Statements are sought from victims whose offenders are involved in the re-entry project, supervised community confinement applicants and potential transition unit participants. The statements include the facts of the offense from the victim's perspective, the financial, physical, emotional and psychological impacts and any safety or security concerns the victim may have. The victim may also request special conditions regarding contact should the prisoner be allowed the privilege of participating in one of the programs.

Once a referral is received CORIS is checked for victim information. If there is no victim information, the Victim Witness Advocate in the DA's office is contacted. Once the victim information is obtained, a telephone call is placed to the victim, if there is no answer, a message is left and a follow up with a letter and copy of a blank victim impact statement is sent. By speaking with the victim in person it is possible to answer questions and attempt to make the process as clear as possible. Victim Services makes every attempt to provide accurate information as quickly as possible. Victim Services notifies victims of approval or denial for SCC or may schedule a victim wraparound for reentry if this service is requested by the victim.

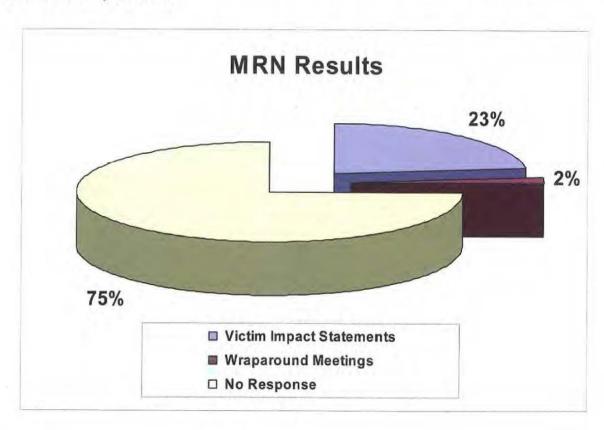


OFFENDER REENTRY AND VICTIM WRAPAROUND

The first victim wraparound safety planning meeting was held at the Auburn probation office on November 23, 2003. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the victim an opportunity to inform members of the offender's reentry team of their needs upon the offender's return to their community. Present were the victim, the victim advocate from the district attorney's office, the offender's former probation officer, the reentry specialist, Victim Services Coordinator and DOC victim advocate. There were two issues for the victim, possible retribution from the offender and his unmet restitution obligations. The reentry specialist and the probation officer were able to address the safety concerns and the victim advocate from the district attorney's office explained the process of a motion for non-payment of restitution. The victim felt that the plan developed by the reentry team would assist the offender in not re-offending and possibly enable him to meet his restitution obligation.

The DOC Office of Victim Services has contacted 250 victims of the Maine Reentry Network program participants referred to Victim Service from October 2003 through June 30, 2006. A total of 58 Victims provided victim impact statements and were used to inform the re-entry plan. Victims requested 5 wraparound meetings which were held, regarding offenders whose charges were the following: 2 domestic violence assaults, 1 Gross Sexual Assault, 1 Terrorizing and 1 Robbery.

The chart below is an outline of the contacts made to victims whose offenders were participating in the Maine Re-entry Network.



BATTERER INTERVENTION

BATTERER'S EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In June of 1997, a working group convened by Maine Coalition Family Crisis Services (MCFCS) collaborated in developing a system to certify, monitor and evaluate intervention with individuals convicted of partner abuse. Legislation was passed to transfer the responsibility of certifying the Batterer's Education Program from the Department of Pubic Safety to DOC. The DOC in consultation with MCDA (Maine Commission on Domestic Abuse) is responsible for implementing the standards which were developed, and reviewing and monitoring.

2001 BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Victim Services in the Department of Corrections is responsible for monitoring and certifying the 15 Batterer Intervention Programs that operate in the State of Maine. These programs are staffed with men and women who have completed one of three nationally recognized batterers' intervention programs. The national programs are: Emerge out of Massachusetts, VCS out of New York, and the Duluth Institute, Minnesota.

The Batterer's Intervention Programs (BIPs) are one component of a coordinated community response to domestic violence. Their main goals are to work toward the safety of victims, to hold batterers accountable for their actions, and to provide information and skill training to men who batter. They are specifically designed to intervene with court referred adult men who are abusive to their intimate women partners, although there are men who attend the programs on a voluntary basis. According to the Batterer Intervention Program Standards, requirements of the programs are educational, no more than 15 participants at a time (except VCS Model Programs), open/rolling admission, 90 minutes in length each week for 48 weeks, and co-facilitated by a male and a female. There is a weekly fee to attend a BIProgram.

2002 BATTERER INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

The Maine Standards for Batterer Intervention programs were reviewed by the program subcommittee of the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse. Probation officers and other interested parties are invited to comment or to attend committee meetings. A copy of the standards can be found on the Secretary of State's homepage under APA rules. www.state.me.us/pub/sog/cec/rcn/apa/03/201/201c15.doc

RECERTIFICATION PROCESS OF BATTERER INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Batterer Intervention Programs need to apply for recertification every two years. The process is fairly simple but sometimes can take awhile to be completed. The process starts when Victim Services sends a letter to notify the program that their recertification is due in 60 days. Included with the letter is an application and the certified assurances, all to be filled out, signed, and returned along with letters of working agreement from the Regional Correctional Administrator and the family violence project in the programs area. The programs then return all the paperwork with a fee. Once the completed application is received by Victim Services the program is certified for another two years.

Page 15 of 33

2003 BATTERER INTERVENTION PROGRAMS' SURVEY

In May, 2003 Victim Services sent a survey to 15 of the 16 Batterer Intervention Programs in Maine. The sixteenth program was newly certified this year. The purpose of the survey was to monitor how clients are being referred to BIPs, to find out where judges are sending batterers, and to see what problems BIPs are having throughout the state.

All of the surveys were returned by the end of July and a tally was done. The total referrals to BIPs ranged from a low of 10, in Oxford County and the Dover Foxcroft area, to as high as 300 for one program in Cumberland County.

The highest percentage of batterers are referred to BIPs from Probation and the Court system, DHS was second, very small numbers are referred from mental health providers and bail commissioners, there were also a few partner referrals and self referrals that sign up pre-conviction.

The information is gathered for two reasons; first for the Annual Legislative Report and second for the Maine Association of Batterer Intervention Programs to review the results to determine what issues need to be addressed by the Association.

The Office of Victim Services sponsored a Batterer Intervention Program Workshop on August 24, 2005 at the Department of Pubic Safety. The morning session was attended by Batterer Intervention Program staff and monitors from the family violence projects. The recent revisions to the program standards were reviewed and issues of program monitoring were discussed.

Barbara Hart, a nationally known expert in the field of domestic violence led the afternoon training on Coordinated Community Responses. Participants were particularly interested in Barbara's description of the concept of context.

2005 OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Currently offenders on probation who have domestic violence indicators include 443 domestic violence offenders ordered to attend anger management programs and 714 domestic violence offenders who are ordered to attend a 48 week certified batterer intervention program. Domestic Violence is not about anger it is about power and control. The effectiveness of CBIPs is still unproven, but what is known was summarized by Bob Moyer in a report to the Domestic Violence Court project in York County last year.

2005 EXCERPTS FROM ROBERT MOYERS TO BIP OR NOT TO BIP

"In conclusion, although experiments on BIPs effectiveness are inconclusive, the research I have reviewed in the second part of this presentation provides two compelling reasons for making offenders complete a BIP.

1. REDUCED REOFFENDING:

When more offenders complete batterer education programs there will probably be fewer victims of domestic violence.

2. IMPROVED RISK MANAGEMENT:

Monitoring BIP attendance will improve risk management of DV offenders.

SEX OFFENDERS

1997 - Regional Law Enforcement Training

The Department of Corrections formed a Steering Committee to develop a Regional Law Enforcement Training around the issue of community notification regarding sex offenders. The members of the committee felt that a training session for regional law enforcement was a necessary step for sex offender notification. During the training sessions local law enforcement had outlined for them what the laws are, what information can be released, and how to release that information.

There was a separate training for Probation Officers to discuss their role in notification. Jail Administrators and Sheriffs received training which outlined County Jail and Sheriff Department roles in mandatory sex offender notification requirements and to suggest ways departments might handle community notification as well as media notification.

2001 SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS EMERGENCY SERVICES (SAVES) AND COMMUNITY AND DAYCARE NOTIFICATION OF RELEASE OF SEX OFFENDERS

Victim Services printed two new pamphlets regarding community and daycare notification of the release of sex offenders. Pamela Adams, the Director of Client Services for Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services (SAVES) wrote and designed the two pamphlets. One pamphlet answers frequently asked questions about community notification and the other discusses guidelines for talking with children about sex offenders. The pamphlets are available through Victim Services.

2002 SEX OFFENDER COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION PUBLIC FORUM

On Tuesday, September 24, 2002, at 6:30 PM, at the Augusta City Hall, the statewide Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse hosted a forum on issues related to sex offenders and the community. This was an opportunity for the residents to share their concerns regarding sex offenders with key city officials and those who work directly with sex offenders. The information was presented by the Sheriff, an Assistant District Attorney, a Sex Offender Specialist, Sex Offender Treatment Provider and the Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center of Augusta.

Those attending the forum received information on:

Sex Offenders;

The process of registration and notification of sex offenders;

The rights of the community, as well as the sex offender; and how to educate your children on keeping safe.

SEX OFFENDERS ARE RELEASED INTO THE COMMUNITY ON A REGULAR BASIS; LEARN HOW TO KEEP YOUR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SAFE

2006 ENGAGING ADVOCATES AND OTHER VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS IN THE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT OF SEX OFFENDERS

The Office of Victim Services provides support for victims dealing with the criminal justice process after the conviction. Services provided include information about victim's rights, the corrections system, assistance in receiving restitution, and support during re-entry, referral to services, and providing notification of release. Through the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA), Maine operates nine sexual assault crisis centers. The Sexual Assault Centers provides advocacy for the victim with law enforcement personnel, support for family members and friends, follow up and referrals, support groups, and training and education.

Currently twenty five percent (25%) of the MDOC prisoner population has victim notification of release requests on file. Two hundred and forty victims were notified of prisoner release from confinement for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. The Office of Victim Services has been concerned with the number of sex offenders who are released without a victim notification of release request ever having been received by DOC. The possibility of a victim learning of the release of a sex offender through the Community Notification that may take place raises a concern of the unnecessary retraumatization of the victim. Last year, the Office of Victim Services proactively contacted 79 victims of sex offenders who were being released without a notification request ever having been submitted. The victims were located in fifteen of the sixteen counties and the contact was possible only through the assistance and support of the Victim Witness Advocates in the prosecutor's offices Victim safety and well-being must be a priority when convicted sex offenders are released on probation or parole. A pilot project in Androscoggin county is based on the "victim safety wraparound". Advocates, victim service providers and other members of the team which includes the sex offender specialist and community treatment provider will assist victims in many ways through the victim wraparound model by:

- helping victims address their concerns and plan for safety;
- explaining the community supervision and treatment program;
- making sure that victims are informed of changes in offenders' status in the criminal justice system and the conditions of probation;
- providing victims with ongoing support, information, and referrals;
- communicating with justice system agencies, treatment providers, and other stakeholders;
- facilitating victim input regarding supervision and treatment plans;
- ensuring that offender assessment is routinely repeated to identify risks and that appropriate changes are made to supervision and treatment plans;
- ensuring that treatment providers view their responsibility to the victim as equal to their responsibility to the offender with whom they are working—interventions they utilize must be in the best interest of the victim and the community (recognizing that what is in the best interest of victims and the community is also in the best interests of offenders);

- helping treatment providers develop victim empathy in their programs;
- participating in case review meetings and sharing information (with victims' consent) to promote informed case decisions that promote victim protection; and assisting victims in intrafamilial sexual abuse cases to assess the risks involved in family reunification and, if reunification is to occur, monitoring the process to ensure safety.

By involving advocates and other victim service providers in the day-to-day management of sex offenders, victims whose offenders have been convicted of sex crimes can receive more comprehensive assistance and advocacy.

SEX OFFENDERS ARE RELEASED INTO THE COMMUNITY ON A REGULAR BASIS; LEARN HOW TO KEEP YOUR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SAFE

RESTITUTION

2000 RESTITUTION UP AND RUNNING ---- THANKS TO ALL

The final steps were completed and the new Restitution Prototype was brought on line. The restitution prototype replaces two existing systems and numerous paper tracking systems. The prototype provides for restitution case setup and collection posting at the regional offices and tracking of cases and victim disbursements from the central office. The prototype will provide the Department a central data store for all restitution related offenders, victims, collections, and disbursements.

2002 ☆STAR PERFORMER AWARDS☆

We would like to express our appreciation for the assistance and professionalism that Tessa Mosher provided to us each and every time that we are in contact with her. She is always willing to do the little extra to get the information needed to resolve the matter.

As subrogation adjusters at One Beacon Insurance, we often have to follow-up on claims where the responsible party has been ordered to pay restitution. It is not always easy to track down the information we need, but large or small Tessa always is willing to help us and provide the information we need. It is such a pleasure to deal with someone who is consistently friendly, professional and helpful.

In our office we have what are called Star Performer Awards. Tessa is truly a Star. Sincerely,

Cheryl Moore, Senior Adjuster, Linda Komulainen, Senior Adjuster, Susan McGarvey, Subrogation Specialist

2003 INCOME TAX RETURNS FOR RESTITUTION

Did you know that income tax returns can be attached to satisfy restitution obligations?

The probation officer can notify the State Tax Assessor, in writing, and supply the name address and social security number of the probationer owing restitution and the assessor shall set off the debt against any tax refund. There are probation officers who have already used this tool successfully. The taxation committee of the legislature recently passed a bill that would put restitution obligations immediately behind child support in the priority of claims. If you need any assistance with this process please call Victim Services at 800 968-6909.

2004 RESTITUTION IS NOT DISCHARGEABLE THROUGH BANKRUPTCY

On occasion offenders will try to avoid their restitution obligations by filing bankruptcy. The United States bankruptcy code provides that the State's criminal restitution order is automatically exempted from discharge (through bankruptcy), without requiring the State to take any further action to protect its right to collect restitution from the debtor. 11 U.S.C. section 523(c)(1) specifies which non-dischargeable debts require determination by the bankruptcy court. The State is not required to file an adversary complaint in the bankruptcy court or take any other action to preserve its rights to collect court ordered restitution.

2004 ABANDONED PROPERTY

Victim Services has been working for several months on cases in which there is money available from restitution paid by the offender, but the victim can not be located either through a current address or a phone number. Victims' addresses frequently change from the address provided at the time of the crime for several reasons, sometimes the address has been changed because of E911, or the forwarding order from the postal service has expired, and their State driver's license has not been updated.

The legislature enacted a law regarding victims who are unable to be located. The bill states "If the location of a victim cannot be ascertained, the money collected as restitution must be forwarded to the Treasurer of State to be handled as abandoned property" which allows us to protect the victim's restitution.

Victim Services researches these cases and needs to show "due diligence" before the victim's money can be sent to abandoned property. Abandoned property serves as a mechanism to ensure that the victims restitution will be available to the victim for years to come. Abandoned property publishes a list of names in the newspaper at least once a year and also has a web site where you can search to see if the State is holding any money for you http://thor.dafs.state.me.us/pls/treasurer/tredev.unclaimed_property.search_form. Victim Services is hopeful that this will be a way to reach victims we have been unable to locate.

2005 VICTIM FRIENDLY GUIDE TO MAINE COURT ORDERED RESTITUTION

The Maine Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services, Victim Advocate, Tessa Mosher has completed a special project handbook titled "Victim Friendly Guide to Maine Court Ordered Restitution". This handbook was written in an easy to read format to assist victims of crime in understanding Restitution.

The handbook is not in legal language and is not meant to be legal advice. Victim Services is committed to the premise that crime victims are the real customers of the department. Victims will receive the rights and respect to which they are entitled. This booklet was written to provide helpful information for victims of crime.

The handbook includes definitions, restitution as a condition of probation, restitution collection if the offender is in prison or county jail, paying restitution through the District Attorney's Office, Victims' Compensation, Civil Suits, general information, copies of a Judgment and Commitment, Income withholding order as well as contact numbers for support services.

If you are interested in receiving a copy please contact Victim Services.

OFFICY OF AICHAI SERVICES

The Office of Victim Services is interested in whether victims feel informed, use the Office of Victim Services as an information resource and believe the information provided to be satisfactory.

The mission of the Maine Department of Corrections is to reduce the likelihood that juvenile and adult offenders will re-offend by providing practices, programs and services which are evidence based and which hold the offenders accountable.

A person who is the victim of a crime is entitled to certain basic rights: to be treated with dignity and respect, to be free from intimidation, to be assisted by criminal justice agencies and to be informed about the criminal justice system.

The Department of Corrections strives to ensure that victims who request notification are notified of a prisoner's release, victims receive the restitution to which they are entitled and victims are free from harassment from offenders in the custody of or under the supervision of the department.

The department provides a toll free number for victims to receive information regarding an offender's status.

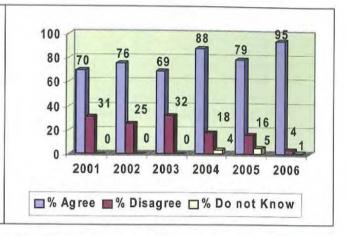
The Department of Corrections encourages the participation of crime victims on the DOC Advisory Group and the Victim of Crime Impact Panels.

The Department of Corrections is committed to the premise that crime victims are the real customers of the department, and will receive the rights and respect to which they are entitled.

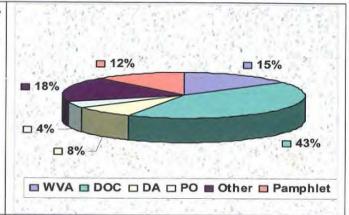
The survey was first conducted in 1998 with victims whose offenders were released during the previous fiscal year. We have continued to conduct the survey on an annual basis in an ongoing effort to improve our performance.

The Survey

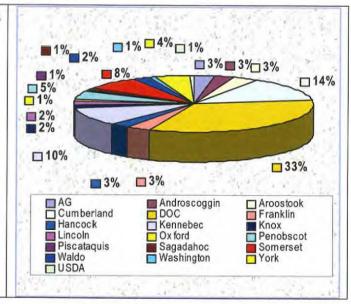
We asked victims if the notification form contained the information they need.



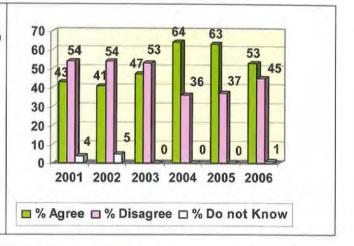
We asked victims how they learned of their right to notification 7/1/2005-6/30/2006



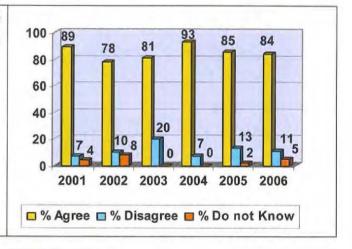
Source of actual notification requests received from 7/1/2005 to 6/30/2006



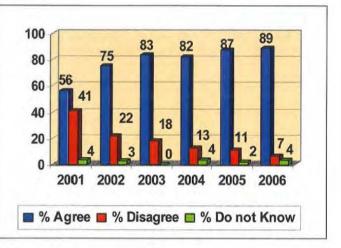
We asked victims if they believe the public is aware of the services provided to victims by the Department of Corrections.



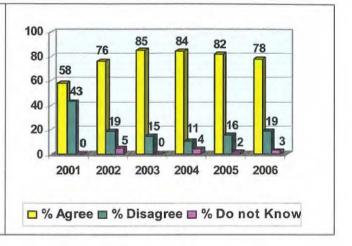
We asked victims if they believe the Department of Corrections provides a valuable service to victims



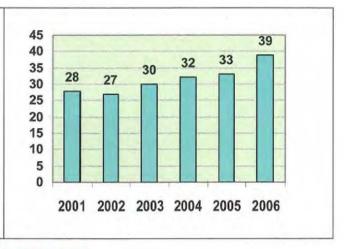
We asked victims if they know whom to contact if they have any questions regarding notification



We asked victims if the notification arrived reasonably in advance of the release.

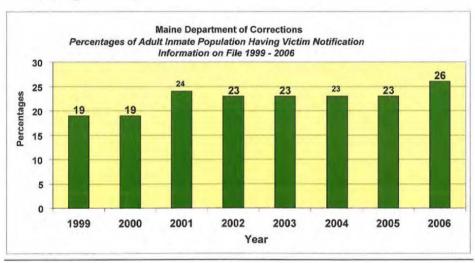


Average Number of Days in Advance Notice was sent for Discharges.



METHODOLOGY

The survey is administered annually through a written instrument. Although not a statistically valid sample, it provides an indicator of performance. 2006 marks our tenth survey. (It had a 30% response rate)



IMPACT OF CRIME

Maine Department of Corrections 2006

The Impact of Crime program is an educational approach designed to teach offenders about the human consequences of crime. Offenders are taught how crime affects the victim and the victim's family, friends, and community, and how it also affects them and their own families, friends, and communities. Specific modules address property crimes, sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, drunk driving, drug-related crimes, violent crimes and homicide. Victim impact classes have been adapted for both adult and juvenile offenders in Maine correctional facilities

A key element of the classes is the direct involvement of victims and victim service providers. They tell their personal stories of being victimized or of helping victims to reconstruct their lives after a traumatic crime as part of a victim impact panels, composed of three to four victims of various types of crime examined in the curriculum. When the panel format is used, the class participants may ask questions at the end of the presentation, but usually do not engage in discussion with the victim presenters.

Goals

The goals of victim impact classes include:

- Teach offenders about the short-and long-term trauma of victimization.
- Increase offenders' awareness of the negative impact of their crime on their victims and others.
- Encourage offenders to accept responsibility for their past criminal actions.
- Provide victims and victim service providers with a forum to educate offenders about the consequences of their criminal behaviors, with the hope that it will help to prevent future offending.
- Build linkages between criminal and juvenile justice agencies and victims and victim service organizations.

Implementation

The victim impact class program is a 15-week curriculum. Strong support and involvement from crime victims, victim service providers, and community members are essential to program planning, development, and implementation. Like any other program that brings offenders together with victims, it is essential that both participating offenders and victim speakers be carefully screened to ensure that they are appropriate candidates for this intervention. Every precaution is taken to avoid any retraumatization of the victims involved. They are thoroughly prepared before coming to the class and debriefed afterward.

Victim Impact Panels: <u>Date from DOC Talk</u>

A pilot project began at the Maine Youth Center in February of 1997 and was based on the MADD model. The Victim Panel Coordinator conducts a personal interview with a victim who wishes to participate on the panel. The Coordinator involves the victim based on whether or not the Coordinator feels that the experience of speaking on the panel will be more helpful than hurtful, and if the victim is able to relate their story without additional trauma.

The goals of the Victim Impact Panel are to enhance emotional healing of victims, and for offenders who participate to understand the impact of their offense and leave an imprint in their minds of true stories, told from the heart, which might be recalled when a decision to offend is again an option.

2001 IMPACT OF CRIME CLASSES

Victim Impact classes were held at Bolduc Correctional Facility on October 20, 2000 and completed on March 9, 2001. The facilitators were Denise Giles, Ellis King, Pascal Poe, Kevin Burns, Maureen Jordan, Scott McCaffery, and Jane Farmer. There were a total of 13 inmates completing the course.

A very important part of the classes is the victim and the story they have to share. The participants really looked forward to having the victim talk to them about their experience with crime and what that experience has done to their lives. To hear a victim talk about the financial, emotional, and physical burdens certain crimes have caused them appears to make the necessary impact on the inmates.

Victim Services has conducted an Impact of Crime class at MCC. The class began on Tuesday, July 3 and will end on November 20, 2001. This class was being presented to the female population and is being taught by Ellis King, Jane Farmer, Denise Giles, and Jay Pennell.

2002 IMPACT OF CRIME PROGRAM

The Office of Victims Services, Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) has completed the Impact of Crime Program at the Maine Correctional Center. The program was presented to selected residents of the Substance Abuse Program's Therapeutic Community (TC). The program was facilitated by Jane Farmer and Ellis King from the MDOC's Central Office.

The program, which is based on the principles of Restorative Justice, was presented in a new curriculum format. The new format covered nine categories of crime in separate weekly class modules.

The last weekly session and the highlight of the program consisted of a panel of 3-5 victim speakers who spoke about their personal experiences and emotions that they experienced as a victim of crime. This presentation and the discussion that follows were very emotional and a learning experience for the program participants and were also very rewarding for the victim speakers.

The men who participated in the program evaluated the program as worthwhile and important to learn how different types of crimes affect the people who are the victims of these crimes.

In recognition of the Restorative Justice Week the Impact of Crime participants made a banner with text, drawings and poems as a group project.



For more information on this program contact Denise Giles at 287-4385.

Photo: **Denise Giles**, Director of the MDOC Office of Victims Services, presents the TC Unit's Impact of Crime group project that was made to celebrate the Restorative Justice Week - 2002 to **Penny Bailey**, Unit Manager of the TC Unit at MCC.

2003 MCC WOMEN'S UNIT & THE IMPACT OF CRIME PROGRAM

On March 20, 2003 Victim Services started their first Impact of Crime Program in the new Women's Unit at MCC. There were 30 applicants who wanted to attend the class which is open to a total of 20 participants. This is the largest class ever for the Impact of Crime Program.

The class was being co-facilitated by Ellis King and Jane Farmer, along with Donna Berry who recently completed the Impact of Crime facilitator training in New Hampshire. The women are doing a 12-week format, which includes an introduction, nine different modules of crime, a Victim Panel, and an evaluation.

The goals for the program are 1) to give victims a voice and 2) to promote empathy and accountability in offenders. Most of the women seem excited about the class and willing to consider what it takes to finish - listening, processing, putting themselves in the shoes of the victim, and finally taking responsibility for their actions.

2004 EVALUATION GRANT

On behalf of the Office of Victim Services, the Trustees of the Margaret E., Burnham Charitable Trust awarded Rollin and Lynda Ives of the Behavioral Health Sciences Institute a grant to evaluate the Impact of Crime Program. The program has been offered at the Bolduc Correctional Facility and Maine Correctional Center on a rotating basis since 1999. It is important to evaluate its effectiveness, both in terms of recidivism, as well as outcomes for the victim speakers.

The program offered at the Correctional Recovery Academy at the Maine Correctional Center was evaluated. Participants and non-participants took a pre-test. Rollin Ives and researcher Professor Win Turner from the University of Maine, Orono have made initial observations of the class. The participants and non-participants took a post-test at the end of the program; the participants will complete an evaluation of the program, as will the facilitators and victim speakers.

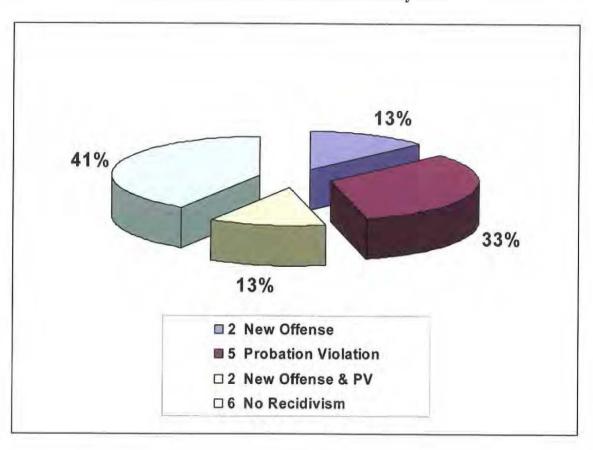
The results of the evaluation have been used to make decisions regarding the future of the program.

2005 IMPACT OF CRIME PROGRAM

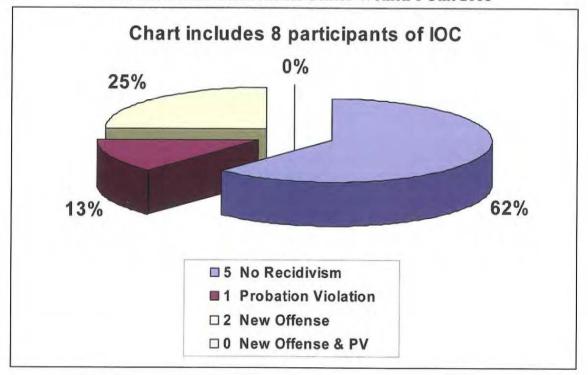
The Office of Victims Services completed a session of the Impact of Crime Program (IOC) at the Maine Correctional Center in South Windham, Maine. The program was presented to residents of the MCC Correctional Recovery Academy who have volunteered to participate. This is the primary Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program of the MDOC and provides treatment for the adult inmates that have been identified as having severe substance abuse issues. The program was facilitated by Norene Dunphy, MCC Correctional Officer and Ellis King from the MDOC's Central Office.

The following charts result from a recidivism study of completers of the Impact of Crime Program. Criminal history data was obtained on all offenders completing the Impact of Crime Program while incarcerated at an adult Maine Correctional Facility. Participants continuing to serve the same sentence they were serving at the time of participating in the class have been excluded from the findings. Additional information on each participant was sought through the Maine Corrections Information System, State Bureau of Identification and NCIC III, looking for any new charges since the release from incarceration after completing the class. A conviction resulting from a Probation Violation or a new criminal offense within three years after the completion is counted as recidivating for purpose of this review.

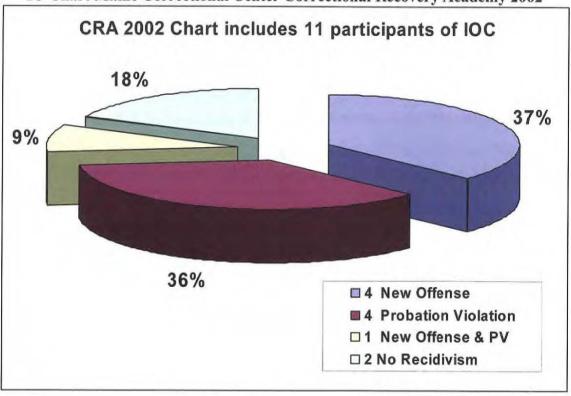
IO Chart Bolduc Correctional Facility 1999



IO Chart Maine Correctional Center Women's Unit 2001



IO Chart Maine Correctional Center Correctional Recovery Academy 2002



VICTIM—OFFENDER DIALOGUE

In 2002, The Department adopted a written policy concerning Victim Offender Dialogue, which is a process available for victims who request an opportunity to meet with the offender who committed the crime that impacted their life. The process must be initiated by the victim and agreed to by the offender. The dialogue is a one time meeting with a trained facilitator following an intensive period of preparation. Since the adoption of the policy there have been a total of three Victim offender dialogues completed.

On December 4, 2003, the Region 1 probation office was the site of the second Victim Offender Dialogue between a victim and an incarcerated offender. The first was held at the Bolduc Correctional Facility. The victim made the request for a dialogue when contacted by Victim Services for an impact statement as part of a Supervised Community confinement investigation. The offender agreed to participate, and the process began while the offender was in the institution. The process required a great deal of preparation of both the victim and the offender by the facilitator prior to the dialogue. This resulted in the offender already being placed in the community on supervised community confinement prior to the meeting taking place. The Regional Correctional Administrator, acting as Chief Administrative Officer agreed to allow the meeting to take place, as did the supervised community confinement officer. The meeting was considered a success by all parties.

OUTREACH

Visit to "the MAX" Proves Super (Reprinted from the Parents of Murdered Children newsletter)

Debbie O'Brien, Chapter Leader of Parents of Murdered Children and other Survivors of Homicide Victims reported that on September 10, 1999 several members of the Maine Chapter toured three of Maine's state prisons. Warden Jeff Merrill and Denise Giles from the Maine Department of Corrections Central Office accompanied the group.

Of particular interest was the Correctional Institution known as "Super Max" This facility is designed to house the system's most disruptive inmates and those who pose a threat to public security.

Also toured was the Maine State Prison at Thomaston. This facility confines inmates classified as medium and close security. It provides correctional treatment and rehabilitation programs along with a prison industries program.

Third on the tour was the Bolduc Correctional Facility. This prison provides work and educational release programs.

Debbie noted that Channel 6 news reporter, Colleen Harry covered the tour along with a York County Coast Star newspaper reporter who wrote an article for her publication. We see this as great coverage for the Maine Chapter, PMOC.

PRISON TOUR

On September 19, 2001 the Maine Chapter of the Parents of Murdered Children toured the Maine Correctional Institution and the Maine State Prison for the fourth consecutive year. Warden Jeffrey Merrill conducted a 90-minute educational presentation on the new facility, followed by a question and answer opportunity for the participants. Members of the group were interested in a "day in the life of" which was explained by Colonel Steve Mahoney for the Max and Captain David Cutler for the Prison. Colonel Mahoney led the tour of the Max and Esther Riley joined Captain Cutler at the Prison to walk the wall. The tour concluded with a brief closing question and answer opportunity and a tour of the museum. Members of the POMC expressed their appreciation of the difficult job done by correctional staff. Captain Cutler assured them he would make their sentiments known to staff at the morning briefing on Thursday.

Thank you Warden Merrill, Esther, Captain Cutler and Colonel Mahoney for again providing an opportunity for the members of the Parents of Murdered Children.

AWARENESS INCREASED AT MAINE GENERAL MEDICAL CENTER

Wednesday, July 7, 1999 Denise Giles spoke at the Maternal/Child Health monthly meeting at the Maine General Medical Center in Augusta. The participants were social workers from area hospitals and private practices. Denise gave a brief history of Victim Services and what she has done in the department since the position was created. She explained victim notification, restitution, the Victim Advisory Group, and discussed programs such as the Impact of Crime Classes. The group noted that

there is little public knowledge of victim rights in general. They were mostly concerned with the rights their patients have, specifically the right to receive victim compensation. Denise informed them that patients can be eligible for victim compensation if the injury resulted from a crime and the crime has been reported. This was important for the group to hear because many of the patients seen by the Social Workers don't have insurance or other means of paying hospital bills. The group was concerned with how they could make victim rights known to their patients. Denise left the women with referral phone numbers and pamphlets for incoming patients to have. Awareness was increased, and hopefully expand to other hospitals and caregivers throughout Maine.

VICTIM SERVICES PRESENTATIONS

Presentations were offered to each of the ten Domestic Violence Projects and the ten Sexual Assault Centers about the services offered by the Office of Victim Services at the Department of Corrections. At these presentation their staff members and/or interns of the projects.

Several topics were discussed for services offered by the Office of Victim Services.

- Introductions of office personnel.
- The reason for presentation, survey results which indicated most people do not believe victims are aware of Department of Corrections' Victim Services.
- Restitution (issuing of checks, research, contacting DA's offices, and/or courts and probation officers).
- Notification of a prisoner's release.
- Assistance with Victim's Compensation; and
- Referrals to other agencies (example Abused Women's Group, Rape Crisis Centers, Counselors, and any referral that would need to be given).

There were frequently questions regarding how to request notification, a form that can be filled out by the victim of the crime, (also victims of DV and PFA) which result in notification 30 days prior to release.

A Handbook for Victims about Offenders Time in Prison

In 2005, the Office of Victim Services received the first 250 handbooks specifically written for victims about an offender's time in prison. *After the Sentencing* provides information regarding the programs, services and living conditions of Maine's six adult correctional facilities. Information is also provided concerning victim's rights and resources. The booklets are paid for with PIEH money which is money generated from certain prison industries programs within the Department of Corrections. The original booklet was created by Peter Michaud, Victim Services Coordinator, New Hampshire DOC and adapted for Maine by Denise Giles, Victim Services Coordinator, Maine DOC with assistance from Paryse Thibodeau, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Maine Correctional Center and editing by Wesley Andrenyak, Chief Advocate DOC and Ellis King, Correctional Planner. The booklet can be accessed online at www.maine.gov/corrections/victimservices/publications/index.htm.