



Prosecuting Attorney - Local Crime Victim Compensation 11701.841.

Mission Statement

Seek the Just Result

Function

The Victim Witness Services Division provides vital support and services to victims and survivors of crime. Employees within this division help crime victims and survivors work through the criminal justice system and ensure that they are treated in accordance with rights conferred through the Washington State Constitution and the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights. They also help coordinate witness participation in trial proceedings.

Trends/Events

Trends

- The continual increase in homicidal violence, felony violent crime, DV, crimes against children and sexual assaults has resulted in greater number of crime victims and survivors.
- Increase in drug overdoses has led to more controlled substance homicide investigations and the potential for more survivors to work with.
- Case law changes for juvenile offenders sentenced as adult to petition for resentencing has led to further work by the VWC. Years after a conviction and sentence, victims are being called by our office to reopen some wounds for another sentencing hearing. VWC also needs to assist in locating and contacting the original investigators.
- ISRB review of sex offenders and contact with survivors about possible release of offenders. For each review, the VWC has to locate the survivor, the original investigators, arrange meeting with the DPA and assist with the recommendation preparation.
- NGRI reviews every 6 months for those petitioning for release. Currently we have four people committed under NGRI. For each review, the VWC has to contact all the survivors and original investigators, have a meeting with the DPA and assist with the recommendation preparation.
- More and more victim/survivors require increased dedicated face time and efforts by VWC due to increased trauma.
- Jury trials back in session after the COVID suspension.
- Increase in multiple victim cases; more than one victim in one case.
- Fielding of calls from law enforcement about services.
- Fielding of calls and inquiries from community members about services even when no case referred.

Events (first six months of 2022)

- Three homicides this year thus far and multiple survivors per case; multiple levels of preparation and advisement.
- Completed the triple homicide trial with 90 witnesses, 5 sets of survivors and 3 sentencing. Countless hours expended in coordinating the survivors and witnesses for testimony, and trial preparation which sometimes occurred on weekends and after hours. Some witnesses needed weekly prep sessions. Locating witnesses that were off the grid and getting them to come to court. Provided an in court presence during the entire trial for the survivors and witnesses.
- Presented trainings for law enforcement and community groups on topics to include court process and victim rights.
- Presented two (2) training at WAPA. 1) Stalking case study with Jeffco and 2) Triple homicide case study to include our criminal, appellate, VWC and CCSO.
- Worked with first Clallam County controlled substance homicide survivor in late 2021.

Goals

- Cross train the VWCs
- Create a road map for Superior Court and District Court victims/survivors and collaborate with
- Cultural competency refresher.
- Training on implicit bias.
- Continue collaboration with all branches of law enforcement, community advocacy groups to maximize criminal justice system efficiencies.

Challenges

- VWC statistics do not adequately reflect the amount of work and effort required for each case because they fail to take into account the number of victims per case, the hours spent, the number of witnesses, and the cases that have extended over from a previous year.
- Extra help (Molly Ramsey) has been needed when a Victim Witness Coordinator has been out for statutory leave, as well as when another Victim Witness Coordinator was fully devoted to the triple homicide trial.
- One Victim Witness Coordinator has been required to devote significant amounts to time in support of several homicide cases, including six weeks upcoming exclusive dedication during a homicide trial. This again adds to the magnitude and severity of the present resource challenge.
- Each victim case is touched by a VWC in one way or another. The numbers below do not reflect the non-victim cases that the VWC work with witnesses. The numbers also do not reflect cases from previous years that are still open.
- District Court I & II have 413 victim cases from Jan-Jun 2022 (833 victim cases in 2021).
- Juvenile Court has 84 victim cases from Jan-Jun 2022 (86 victim cases in 2021).
- Superior Court has 302 victim cases from Jan-Jun 2022 (435 victim cases in 2021).
- Court suspension of jury trials due to the pandemic led to an increase and a backup of jury trials, upset survivors/witnesses, multiple continuances and extended time for access to justice.

- The number of victim crimes assigned to just two VWC makes it difficult to ensure that each victim/survivor are afforded the high level of involvement that we are accustomed to giving.
- Lack of certified court interpreters.
- Uninformed criminal justice professionals and participants concerning trauma responses and ability to be trauma informed.
- The legislative attempt to assist with service of process for civil protection orders electronically may potentially result in more unprosecutable violations and dangerous situations for victims.

Workload Indicators

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	6/30/22 Actual
Total Victims Served	826	879	460
Victims of DV	264	147	122
Adult Sexual Assault Victims	11	8	10
Child Physical/Sexual Abuse Victims	38	19	12
Services Provided: Information and Referral	1239	961	476
Services Provided: Accompanying to Court	335	479	565
Services Provided: Restitution Assistance	191	128	9
Services Provided: Criminal Justice Support	514	355	304
Services Provided: Notification of court hearings	1916	1829	1021

Grant Funding Sources

1. Department of Justice (Federal)
2. Washington State Department of Commerce

Revenues

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	6/30/22 Actual	2023 Budget
Beginning Fund Balance	148,823	79,791	9,627	20,430
Taxes	0	0	0	0
Licenses and Permits	0	0	0	0
Intergovernmental Revenues	79,388	66,351	43,268	78,647
Charges for Goods and Services	63,832	55,061	19,168	54,500
Fines and Forfeits	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Financing Sources	2,194	2,524	738	2,000
Transfers In	0	0	77,000	67,000
Total	294,236	203,727	149,801	222,577

Expenditures

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	6/30/22 Actual	2023 Budget
Ending Fund Balance	79,791	9,627	58,365	28,204

Salaries and Wages	107,610	105,452	58,891	125,298
Personnel Benefits	49,330	46,595	26,046	56,142
Supplies	57	0	0	200
Other Services and Charges	49,437	34,761	0	2,000
Intergovernmental Services	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlays	0	0	0	0
Interfund Payments for Services	8,012	7,292	6,499	10,733
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0
Total	294,236	203,727	149,801	222,577

Staffing

	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
Full Time Equivalents	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00