

# *Executive Officer's Statement*

September 18, 2008

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## **California Hosts National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards**

The National Training Conference of the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards (NACVCB) held September 8-12 in San Diego was an invaluable learning opportunity for our organization. We were honored to be the host state for this year's conference which attracted compensation professionals from across the United States. In partnership with the national association, Board staff organized and participated in many informative presentations and workshops.

The conference attendees discussed current challenges facing victim compensation programs throughout the country. Additionally, the conference presented opportunities for attendees to share program successes. Workshops during the four days of the conference covered such important topics as domestic violence dynamics, elder abuse, child victims, privacy rights, revenue recovery, diversity, outreach/awareness and gang violence.

## **Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims**

September 25th is the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims. It is a day to honor the memory of murder victims and recognize the impact violent crime has on victims, surviving family members and loved ones. Annually in the United States there are close to 17,000 victims of homicide. Though the violent crime rate in California has decreased significantly during the past five years, there are still far too many homicide victims in this state each year. On the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, we will join with family members and victim service providers to honor those who have lost their lives to violent crime.

On behalf of the Board, we have sent a letter to all JP and County Victim Witness Offices encouraging them to use this day of remembrance as an opportunity to educate others about victim compensation and other resources available for crime victims. The VCGCB has also highlighted this annual remembrance on our public website. Finally, a communication to all board staff highlighting the significance of the event will be distributed on the remembrance day.

## **Victim Compensation Advisory Committee Meeting**

Yesterday, the Victim Compensation Advisory Committee held its quarterly meeting. This committee is comprised of representatives from several state agencies and non-profit organizations. We had the opportunity to hear an informative presentation by the Sacramento Police Department on hate crimes. Committee members provided updates on the activities of their organizations. In our day-to-day work, there are a number of opportunities for us to collaborate with these key stakeholders regarding victim compensation issues and issues regarding the delivery of victim services.

## **VCGCB Welcomes California Crime Victim Assistance Association Committee**

We are dedicated to working closely with our colleagues in the Victim Witness Assistance community statewide. We meet regularly with members of the Victim Compensation Committee of the California Crime Victim Assistance Association. I was pleased to participate with Board staff in the most recent committee meeting here at VCGCB headquarters on September 2. This was a great opportunity to share news on recent developments with the Victim Compensation Program and to interact with Victim Witness representatives from across the State.

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**Awareness Activities**

**The VCGCB participated, or will participate, in the following events and meetings:**

- Various forums with licensed healthcare providers, such as psychologists and marriage and family therapists, in locations throughout the state to share information regarding the VCP.
- VCP presentation to Port Hueneme Police Department, September 3.
- American College of Forensic Examiners National Conference, San Diego, September 4-6.
- California Dental Association Fall Scientific Session, San Francisco, September 12-14.
- Thirteenth International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Trauma, San Diego, September 14-17.
- California Crime Prevention Officers' Association Annual Training Conference, Sacramento, September 17-19.
- League of California Cities Annual Exposition, Long Beach, September 25-27.
- VCP presentation to CHP Morongo Basin Field Office, Joshua Tree, October 8.
- VCP presentation to Hemet Police Department, October 8.
- VCP presentation to Santa Clara Police Department, October 9.
- Crime Survivors Annual 5k Run/Walk Health and Safety Expo, Los Alamitos, October 11.
- VCP presentation to Claremont Police Department, October 16.
- Twentieth Annual Convention of the LA County Psychological Association, Culver City, October 18.
- Governor and First Lady's Women's Conference, Long Beach, October 21-22.

**Julie Nauman**  
Executive Officer