

FEBRUARY 2023

# CalVCB Victim Advocate Newsletter



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A graphic for Black History Month featuring the text "BLACK HISTORY MONTH" in large, bold, multi-colored letters (green, yellow, and orange). The text is set against a dark background with several hands of various skin tones reaching out towards the center.

### Thank you!

January was a devastating month, with back-to-back shootings in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay. Thank you for your hard work on behalf of all victims. In each of those tragic events, CalVCB was quickly engaged and working closely with our local partners to provide language-appropriate materials and meet with officials to determine ways in which we could best support the victims. Executive Officer Lynda Gledhill did a nationally televised interview that also provided details on how CalVCB could support victims of mass violence and some of the benefits that may be available.

February is both Black History Month and Teen Dating Violence Awareness month. We extend our thanks to your organizations for the work done to support these groups. We appreciate the opportunities to partner to reach these victims and share how we can help, not just in February but all year long. Please let us know if you see an area where CalVCB can improve its outreach.

### Reminders

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Sign up for the **advocate training** on Feb. 21 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Topic: Funeral/Burial and Required Documentation.

State offices are closed Feb. 20 for Presidents Day.

Are you signed up for **Morning Coffee**? Receive a brief daily email with news articles of interest to CalVCB.

Remember to include CalVCB in your plans for National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Email [infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov](mailto:infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov).

## Telehealth Mental Health Changes

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Effective March 1, CalVCB will implement updates to the telehealth section of the mental health guidelines. The primary change is that the Telehealth Therapy Verification form requirement will be eliminated. Previously, mental health providers were required to submit a verification form to CalVCB for review and approval if they wanted to provide more than five sessions via telehealth.

The new guidelines will state:

- Telehealth is delivering mental health treatment via communication technologies while the patient is at the originating site and the mental health provider is at a distant site. All statutory and regulatory requirements established by the provider's licensing board must be met.
- Mental health session limits apply to all mental health services, regardless of how they are delivered (in person or telehealth).

If you have questions, you may attend one of the scheduled mental health forums

- Wednesday, Feb. 22: 1:30 to 3 p.m.
- Friday, March 10: 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 29: Noon to 1:30 p.m.

The calendar is available on our [website](#), so you may track upcoming sessions.

To register for an upcoming forum, email [ProviderForums@victims.ca.gov](mailto:ProviderForums@victims.ca.gov) with the following information:

- Name
- Title
- Organization
- Email address
- Phone number

## FISCP Halfway Point

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January 1 marked the halfway point of the CalVCB-administered Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Program (FISCP). Radio and television ads began airing in English and Spanish in Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area and the Sacramento area.

CalVCB is also mailing out hundreds of posters and fact sheets to 1,000 skilled nursing facilities more than 500 libraries, and dozens of regional centers and independent living facilities.

Since launching Jan. 1, 2022, CalVCB has approved 61 applications and is currently

processing 185 others.

We created a [social media toolkit](#) – we would appreciate your organizations sharing it on your channels.

To request FISCP posters and fact sheets, please email [publicaffairs@victims.ca.gov](mailto:publicaffairs@victims.ca.gov).

## Trauma Recovery Center Satellite Offices

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At its January Board meeting, CalVCB approved **\$2.5 million in grant funding** to Amanecer Community Counseling Service to open three new satellite offices in Central California. The grant was established to support crime victims in rural or underserved communities.

CalVCB previously awarded a similar grant to the Alameda County District Attorney's Office to open satellite offices in Sacramento and Santa Rosa.

The offices will be located at three hospitals affiliated with CommonSpirit Health, formerly known as Dignity Health:

- St. Joseph's Medical Center in Stockton, San Joaquin County
- Mercy Hospital Downtown in Bakersfield, Kern County
- Mercy Hospital Southwest in Bakersfield, Kern County

## Training Schedule

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Outreach specialist Cindy Kaiser has visited multiple counties since the start of the new year. In the past month, she and several other CalVCB team members have given presentations in Kern, Kings, Mendocino, Sacramento, Stanislaus and Tulare counties.

Do you have an event, training, or panel discussion you would like CalVCB to attend? Is there a specific training you and your team would like to request? Fill out our [presentation request form](#) and email it to [infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov](mailto:infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov).

## Regional Training Update

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Thank you to those who answered our regional training survey questions earlier this month. CalVCB aims to hold a one-day regional training event for victim advocates this spring in Sacramento.

Details are still being worked out. We will provide you with more information when we have it.

## Keeping Cares2 Up to Date

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Reminder: As you add or lose advocates on your team, email [infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov](mailto:infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov) with the changes. We will update our internal contact list and revise roles within Cares2.

Also, remember to log into your Cares2 account at least once every 90 days or it will automatically deactivate. To have it reactivated, you must email [infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov](mailto:infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov).

## Did You Know

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Under most circumstances, only a direct victim who suffers a period of disability due to a qualifying crime-related injury is eligible for income loss. However, parents or legal guardians of a victim, who at the time of the crime was under the age of 18 years and is hospitalized or dies as the direct result of a qualifying crime, may be eligible for up to 30 days of income loss. For all applications submitted on or after Jan. 1, 2003, compensation is to be based on the law in effect at the time the application was submitted. (Gov. Code, § 13959(d))

When considering expenses for a victim, the claimant would be eligible for benefit levels in place at the time the application is filed.

If a California resident is victimized in another state and applies for that state's compensation benefits, they may still use CalVCB's benefits if the other state denies the benefits or if they need additional help after exhausting the other state's benefits. Verification will be necessary in either case.

## Contact Us

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[Visit our Website](#)

**California Victim Compensation Board**

800-777-9229

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