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# ***Being Victim/Survivor-Centered: Working with Sexual Abusers***

July 27, 2021 | Presented by:

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# Pre-Webinar Information



Google Chrome is recommended for your best listening and viewing experience.



Participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar.  
Submit your questions via the question box in the control panel.



Presentation slides, instructor bios, and corresponding resources can be found in the Handouts section of the control panel.

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# Post-Webinar Information

- A recording of this webinar will be available in the coming weeks at [ncjtc.org/OVWrecorded](https://ncjtc.org/OVWrecorded).
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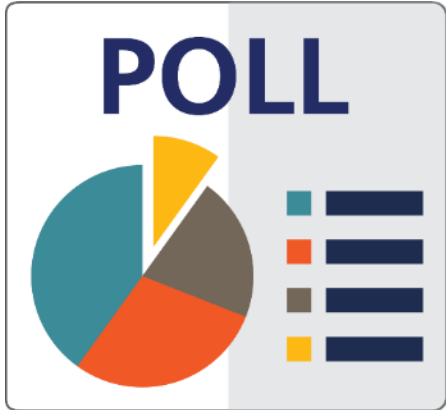
# Learning Objectives

- ✓ Explain strategies to increase collaborations between community supervision professionals and victim/survivor services providers
- ✓ Describe approaches to develop an effective victim/survivor-centered approach
- ✓ Identify how these victim/survivor-centered approaches specifically support victims and survivors

# Poll Questions

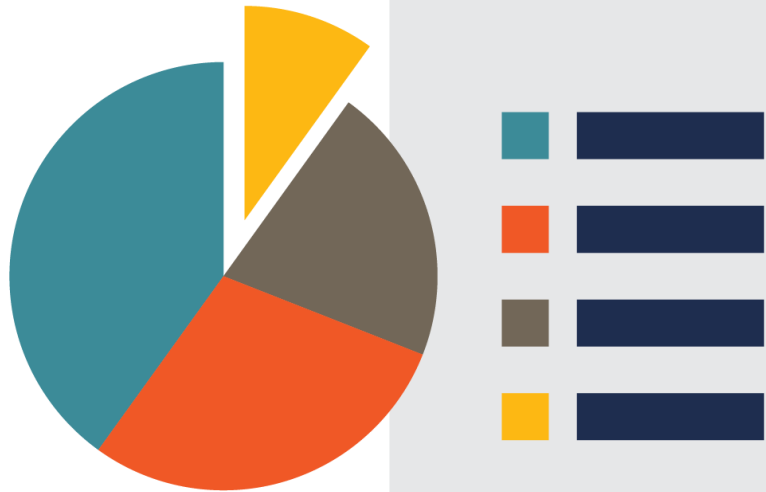
Poll questions may be asked during the webinar.

This is your time to weigh in with your thoughts.



Please respond promptly; polls are open for a short period of time.

# POLL



**Which of the following best describes your role?**

- Community Correction / Law Enforcement
- Court System Personnel
- Social Worker
- Victim Service Provider
- Other



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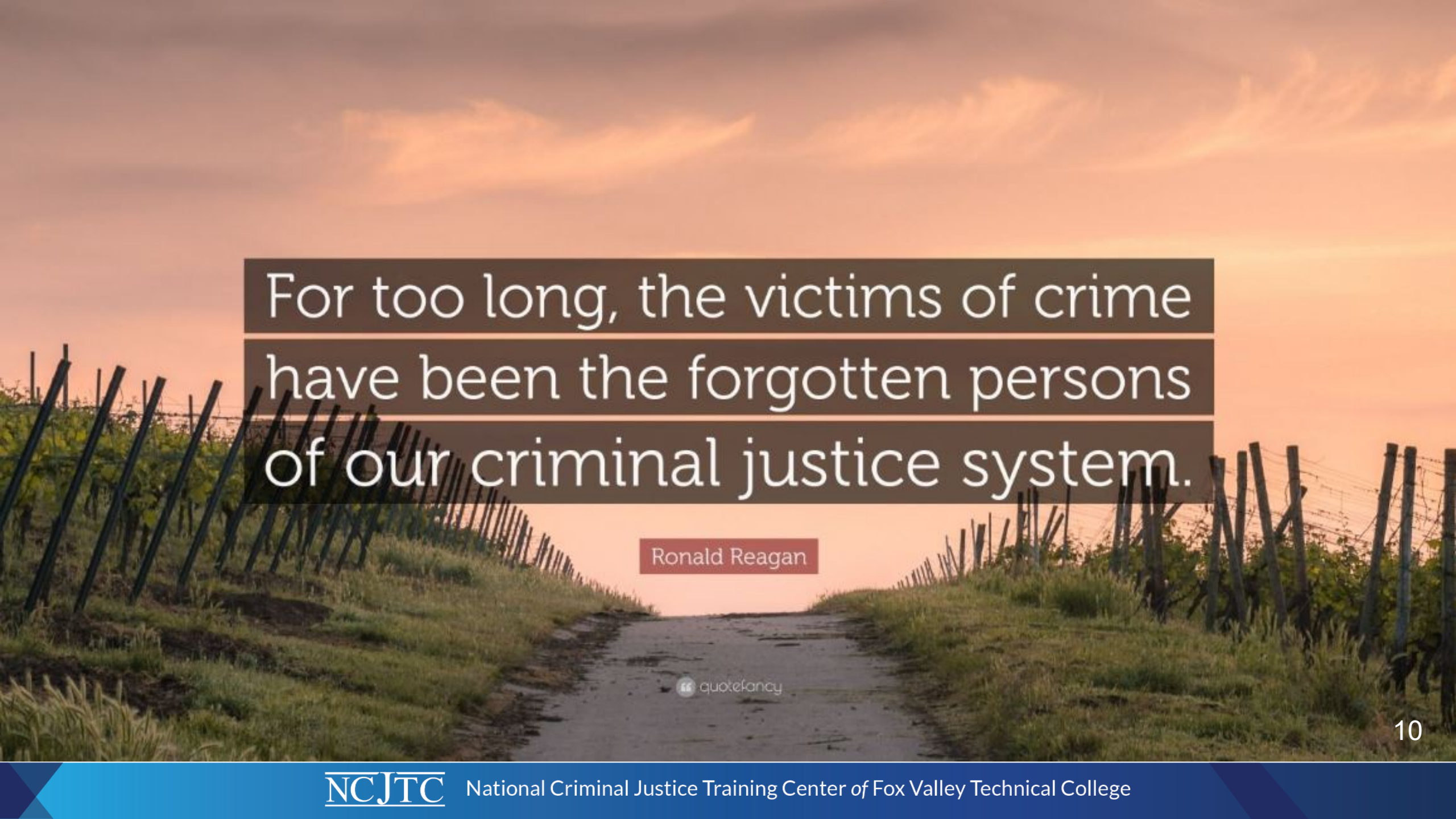
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**Greg Brown**  
Moderator

*Program Manager,  
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Training Center*





For too long, the victims of crime  
have been the forgotten persons  
of our criminal justice system.

Ronald Reagan

quote fancy





Victims are no longer  
on the sidelines in the  
sex offender  
management process.  
They now have a key  
place at the table.

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape 2008





# Session Benefits

- Provide relevant information to develop and implement victim centered strategies that serve to involve and empower victims in the post-conviction supervision with sexual abusers
- Share examples of tough conversations and barriers to implementing these practices
- Feel inspired and energized

# POLL




How would you rate your agency's victim centered practices?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor



**What does it mean  
to be victim centered?**



“A philosophy, principle and practice that recognizes sex assault victims as primary clients of the justice system and whose safety, rights and interests are a paramount consideration when designing and implementing perpetrator management strategies.”

- Victim safety and well-being are at the center of policy and practice decisions;
- Strategies are trauma-informed and facilitate healing, empowerment and personal agency; and
- Preventing further harm to victims – particularly system-induced trauma – is an explicit goal



# Specialized Professionals

- From DAs, to POs, PSI writers, victim advocates
- We have specialized treatment, why shouldn't other professionals be similarly specific?
- Specific training and/or experience required
- Not for everyone – secondary trauma and burnout
- Example: PSI writer working with VAC to get input and/or VIS to incorporate into report, sentencing recommendations and gives the POs this information



# Meetings with Victims and Family

WHO  
WHAT  
WHEN



# Feedback

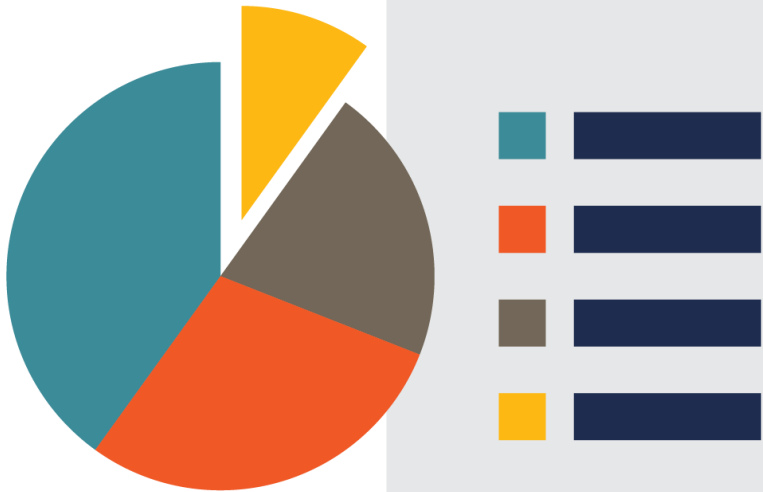
*"It helped me navigate the legal language that was very difficult to understand and the implications for my girls and me. It helped me emotionally with a sense of direction and personalized support in a difficult, emotionally charged context."*

*"I felt supported and heard. It seems simplistic really, but they genuinely cared about the outcome, my outcome."*

*"We wanted to be able to trust that this part of the sentencing would be carried out with fidelity. This meeting was important to us to be able to establish trust with the probation process and probation officer."*

*"Being able to process all the conditions of probation, and to be able to ask questions and how probation was implemented and overseen was important to us."*

# POLL



**Does your jurisdiction have a clarification process?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure





# Clarification Letters

**Communication is key!**

Therapist → Probation Officer → Victim Advocate



# In Person Clarification Meeting

- HRVOD (High Risk Victim Offender Dialogue)
- Example



# Teachable Moments

- Initial call to victim (Marcie)
- Clarification letter outreach (Danielle)
- Early Termination Motion (Denise)

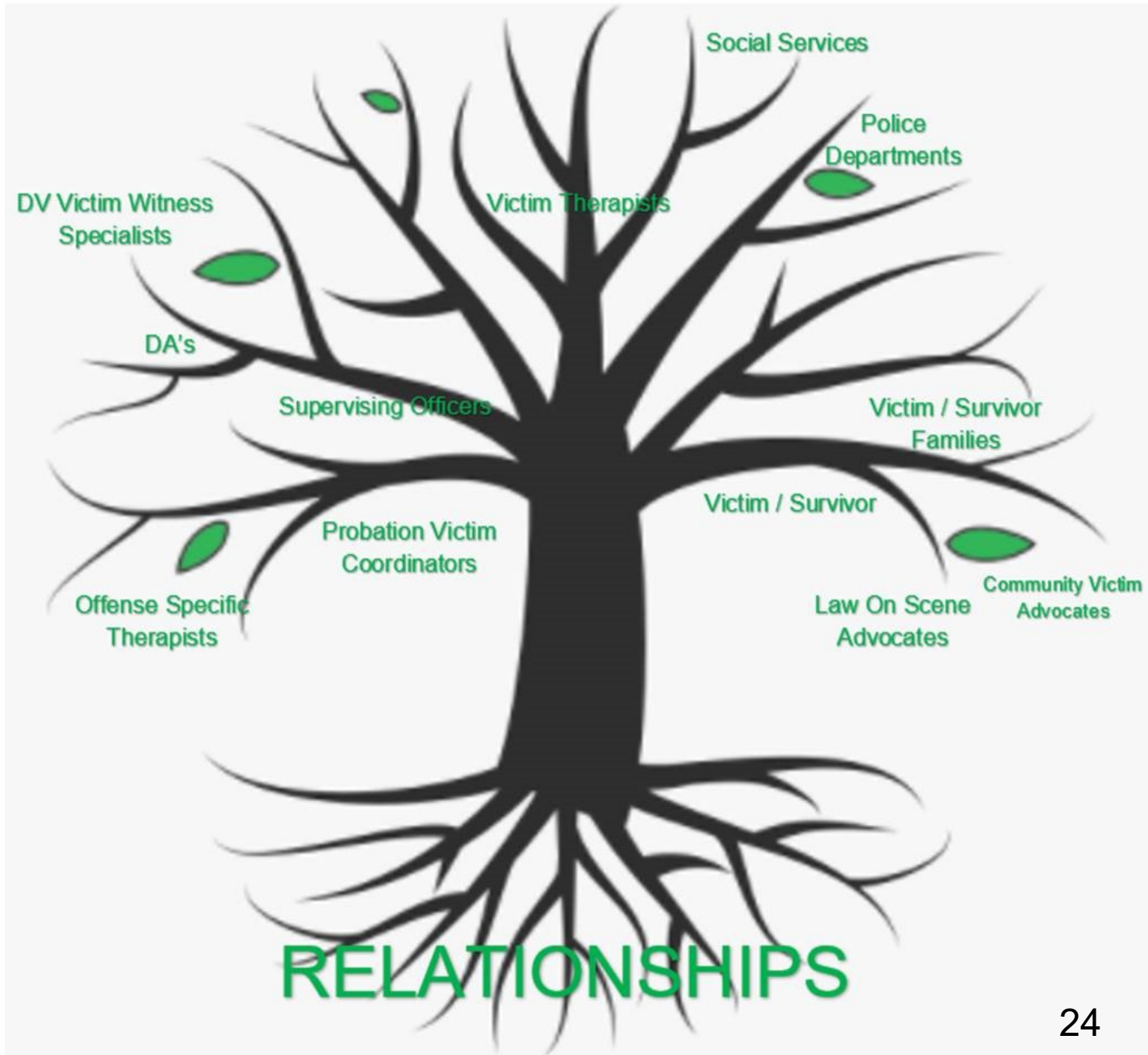




# Victim Centered Challenges

- Time
- Resources (money, people, positions, geography)
  - only one halfway house
- Department size and/or top-down priority
- Collaborating with less trained/experienced entities (halfway houses/WR)
- Training/lack of experience working with victims/clients – uncomfortable talking to victims or clients

# Relationships





# Implementation Tips: Victim/Family Meetings

- Attend sentencings
- Offer meetings as soon as possible after sentencing
- Have victim advocate present along with probation officer

# Implementation Tips: Clarification Letters

- Clarification Letter – read and get very familiar with the police report and what the victim reported as well as any victim impact statement
- Victim advocates – try to receive a clarification letter early on in your relationship with the victim/survivor
- Make the CST members aware of the enhanced process and set expectations for them
- Be transparent with clients about this process – how it will look and why

# Implementation Tips: Face-to-Face Clarification Meetings/HRVOD

- Connect with HRVOD facilitators
- Seek out HRVOD training for you and your staff
- Make victims / survivors aware this option exists



**TIME FOR RECAP**





collaboration  
is **everything**

**ENGAGE  
INVOLVE  
EMPOWER**

# Thoughts on Restorative Justice with Sex Offenders

- A topic that encompasses a variety of opinions
- Statute in CO
- Other countries
- Why are we telling victims what they need?
- Are current criminal justice interventions addressing the needs of victims/survivors of sexual harm?

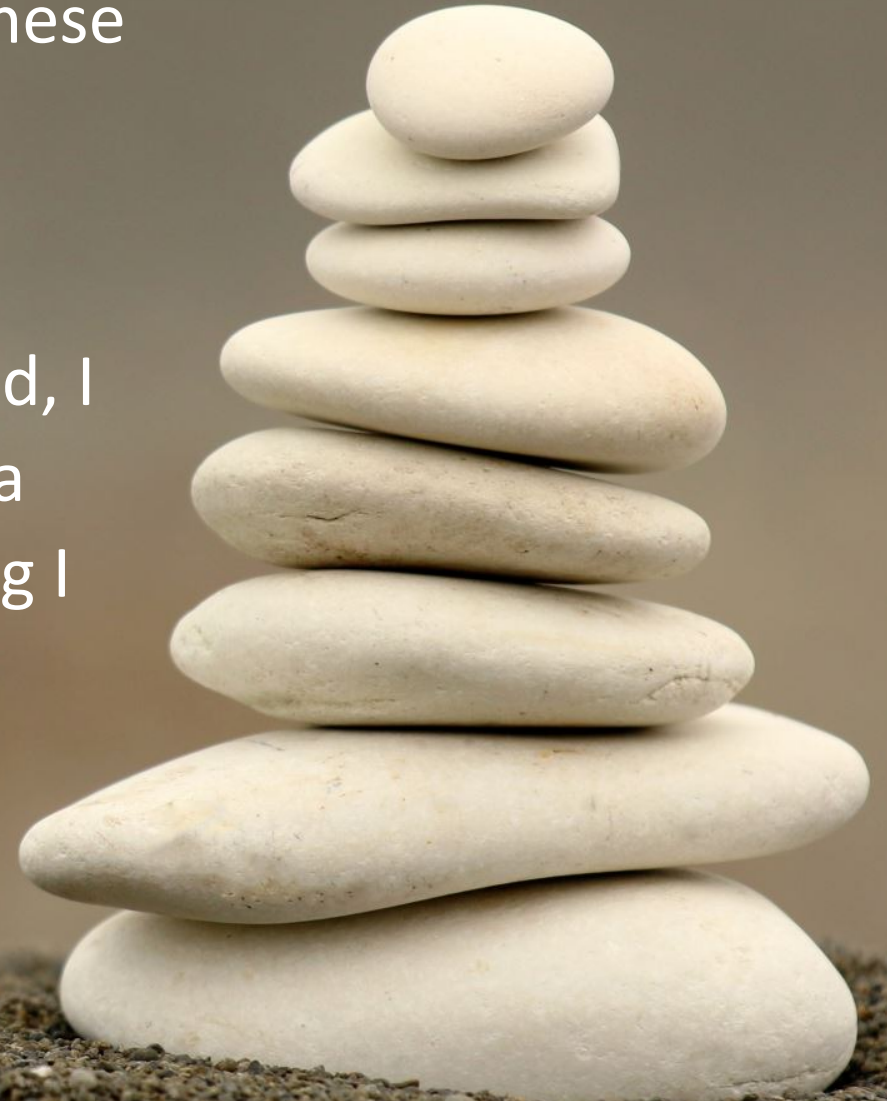




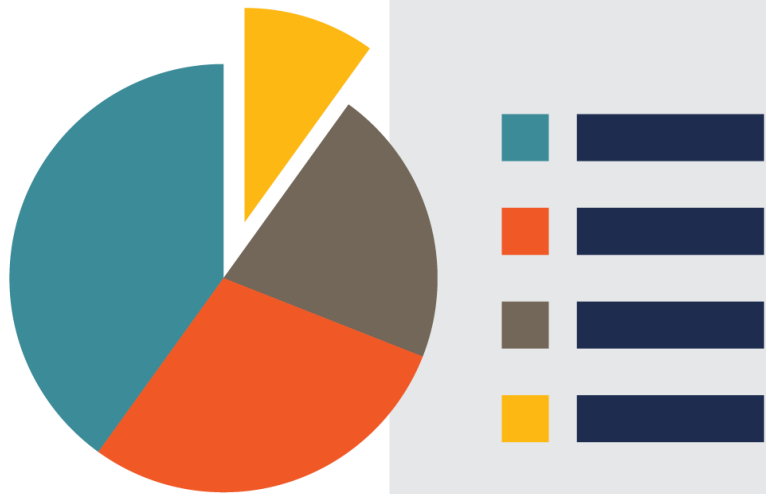
“I was fueled by this program to seek a new type of justice. That which restores voices that were lost and returned choice making to the survivor. These programs are integral to the healing process.”

...

“I feel that if these meetings had not happened, I would still be living with the shadow of trauma unchecked. These meetings sculpted an ending I wanted all along, but that I didn’t even know I needed.”



# POLL



**How likely is it that you will take back any or all of these strategies to your organization and have further conversations about them?**

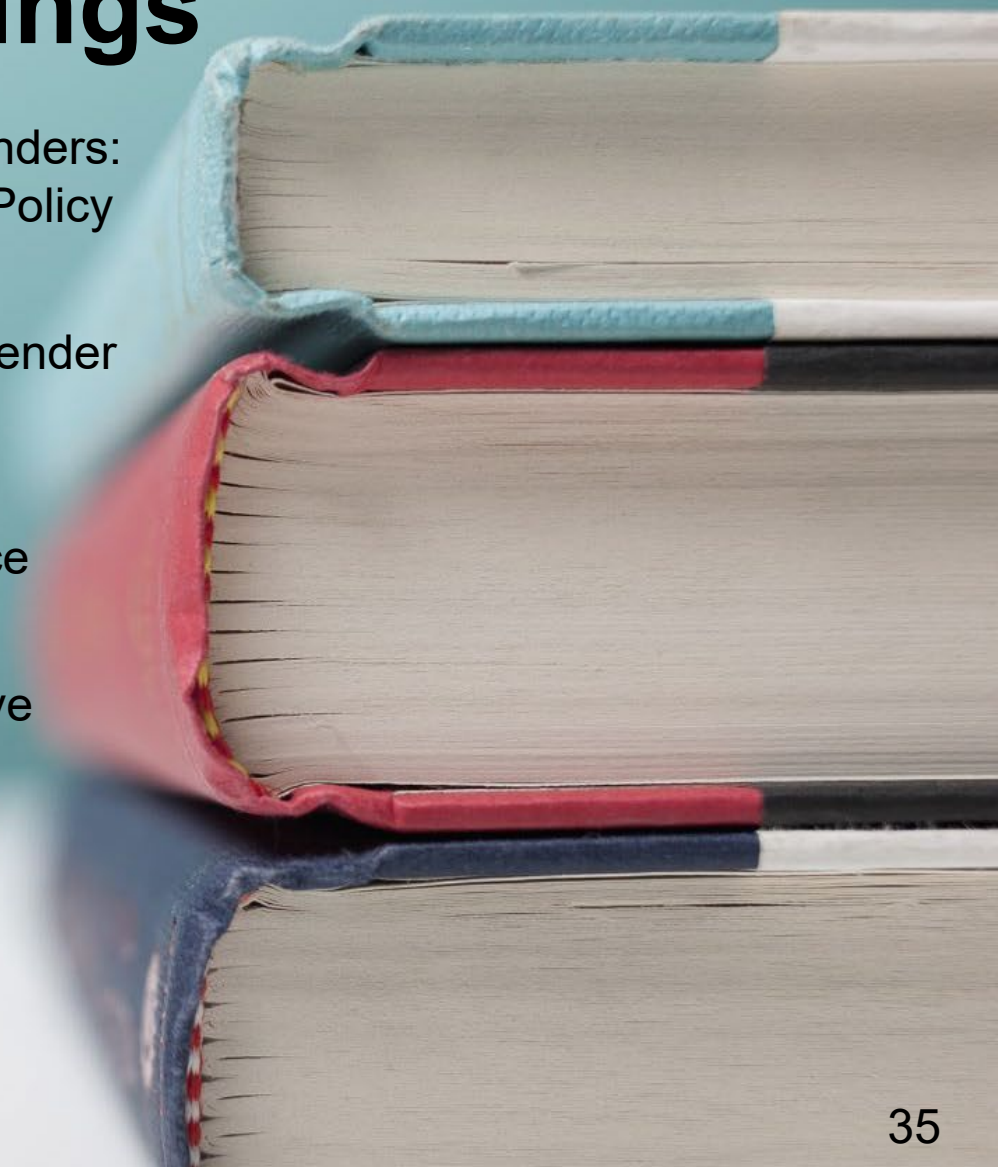
- Definitely
- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not likely
- No way





# Suggested Readings / Viewings

- Advancing a Victim-Centered Approach to Supervising Sex Offenders: A Toolkit for Practitioners. 2018, The Center for Effective Public Policy and The National Sexual Violence Resource Center
- Promoting Collaboration Between Victim Advocates and Sex Offender Management Professionals: A Resource Package 2016 Dept of Justice's OVAW
- Doing Restorative Justice in Cases of Sexual Violence: A Practice Guide. 2015, Leuven Institute of Criminology
- Healing from Sexual Violence: The Case for Vicarious Restorative Justice. 2019, Alissa Ackerman and Jill Levenson
- Podcast: Beyond Fear: The Sex Crimes Podcast
- Film: The Meeting 2018 directed by Alan Gilsenan



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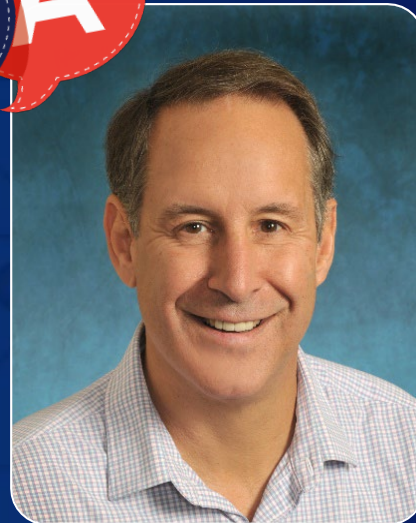


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# Upcoming Webinar Topics

August 17, 2021 | 1:00 – 2:00 PM CT

✓ *Ask the Expert: Preventing Vicarious Trauma*

Watch your inbox and visit [www.NCJTC.org](http://www.NCJTC.org) for more information on upcoming training and technical assistance.





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