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Inaugural CVI Conference

Our Mission

The mission of the Crime Victims' Institute is to:

- Conduct research to examine the impact of crime on victims of all ages in order to promote a better understanding of victimization.
- Improve services to victims.
- Assist victims of crime by giving them a voice.
- Inform victim-related policymaking at the state and local levels.

This month, the Inaugural Crime Victims' Institute Conference, *Championing Advocacy, Policy, and Research for Victims and Survivors through a Broader Lens*, will take place at Sam Houston State University, October 16-18, 2024. Victim advocates, law enforcement professionals, lawyers/legal professionals, policymakers/government officials, and academics/researchers from various district attorney's offices, police departments, sheriff's offices, juvenile justice departments, TDCJ, non-profits, and universities will be in attendance. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from experts in the fields of our conference focal areas (i.e., Restorative Justice, Mass Violence Incidents, and Victimization-Related Policies and Procedures).

Our presenters include:

- Mark Odom - Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- Matthew Fuller, Ph.D. - Sam Houston State University
- Melissa Stroop, LCSW - Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Rose Luna - Texas Association Against Sexual Assault
- Noël Busch-Armendariz, Ph.D. - The University of Texas at Austin
- Monica Muñoz Martinez, Ph.D. - The University of Texas at Austin
- Hillary England, MSW - Office of the Texas Governor

We look forward to seeing all who plan to attend.

CVI Advisory Council Appointments

Governor Greg Abbott has appointed Heather Ayala and Forrest Mitchell and reappointed Melissa Carter, Hillary England, Matthew L. Ferrara, Ph.D., Lindsay Kinzie, Jeffery “JD” Robertson, and David Schwartz to the Crime Victims’ Institute Advisory Council for terms set to expire on January 31, 2026.

The Council is charged with conducting an in-depth analysis of the impact of crime on victims, close relatives of deceased victims, guardians of victims, and society.

More details, including their bios, can be found here:

<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-appoints-eight-to-crime-victims-institute-advisory-council>

TVSA Biennial Training Conference



Look for upcoming publications, CVI Talks episodes, webinars, and fact sheets from the Crime Victims' Institute:

- Post-conviction Victim Services Fact Sheet
- Restorative Justice and Victim-Offender Mediation: The Nation's Slow Move Towards Restorative Justice and Texas' Efforts by Dr. Chelsey Narvey
- Secondary Trauma Among Criminal Justice Professionals Fact Sheet
- Narrative Victimization Experiences for Justice-Involved Military Veterans by Dr. Philip Mulvey
- Bystander Intervention Fact Sheet



Other commemorative events/upcoming activities:

October

National Bullying Prevention Month
National Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Crime Prevention Month

November

National Veterans and Military Families Month
National Native American Heritage Month
CVI and SHSU Victim Studies Virtual Careers in Victim Services Panel

December

Universal Human Rights Month
National Grief Awareness Week
12/02/24 - 12/08/24

Crime Victims' Institute Advisory Board

Heather F. Ayala

Grand Prairie
National Director of Victim
Services, MADD

Hon. Lee Ann Breading

Denton
District Judge, 462nd Judicial
District Court

Abigail “Abby” Brookshire

Arlington
Student, The University of
Texas at Arlington

Melissa Carter

Bryan
Victim Assistance Coordinator,
Brazos County District
Attorney’s Office

Hillary A. England, MSW

Pflugerville
Deputy Director of Victim
Services
and Prevention Programs,
Office of
the Governor

Matthew L. Ferrara, Ph.D.

Austin
Forensic Psychologist

Elizabeth “Libby” Hamilton

Austin
Crime Victim Liaison, Texas
Board of Pardons and Paroles

Hon. Joan Huffman

Houston
State Senator for District 17 &
Chair of the Committee on
Finance

Chief Emmitt R. Jackson, Jr.

Argyle
Chief of Police
Argyle Police Department

Lindsay M. Kinzie, Esq.

Keller
General Counsel, The
Gatehouse at Grapevine

Forrest A. Mitchell

Corpus Christi
Retired Director of Operations,
Nueces County Medical
Examiner’s Office

Hon. Andrew Murr

Junction
Texas State Representative
District 53 & Chair of the Texas
House General Investigating
Committee

Brandi L. Reed

Amarillo
Director of Education, Family
Support Services of Amarillo,
Inc.

Jeffery “JD” Robertson

Wimberley
Independent Consultant &
Retired Major, Texas Rangers

David E. Schwartz

Bellaire
Retired Pharmacist

Hon. Erleigh N. Wiley

Forney
Criminal District Attorney,
Kaufman County

Texas State University System Board of Regents

Alan L. Tinsley

Chairman
Madisonville

Don Flores

Vice Chairman
El Paso

Charlie Amato

Regent
San Antonio

Duke Austin

Regent
Houston

Sheila Faske

Regent
Rose City

Russell Gordy

Regent
Houston

Stephen Lee

Regent
Bastrop

Tom Long

Regent
Frisco

William F. Scott

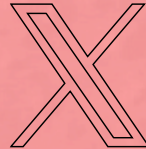
Regent
Nederland

Olivia Discon

Student Regent
Huntsville

Resources

- Aging and Disability Resource Center 855-937-2372
- Cyber Civil Rights Initiative 844-878-2274
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving 877-623-3435
- National Child Abuse Hotline 800-422-4453
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988
- Texas Abuse Hotline 800-252-5400
- Texas Council on Family Violence <https://tcfv.org/survivor-resources/>
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault <https://taasa.org/get-help/>
- Victim Connect Resource Center 855-484-2846



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