

Criminal Justice, Crime Victims Institute  
Assessment Plan Summary

Criminal Justice, Crime Victims Institute

Building The Reputation Of The Crime Victims’ Institute, Especially Within University Administration

Goal Description:

To increase the visibility and reputation of the Crime Victims' Institute and increase awareness of the Institute's mission.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS- - - - -

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Demonstrate Professional Knowledge Of Victim Services Delivery

Performance Objective Description:

The Crime Victims' Institute will take part in training in order to promote a better understanding and knowledge of the victim service delivery process.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Completion Of Training Relevant To Victimology And/or Victim Services

KPI Description:

New CVI Staff and CVI funded students will complete the online Texas Victim Assistance Training within their first six months of employment.

Results Description:

CVI had one new employee who completed TVAT training in the first week of employment.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Staff Training

Action Description:

Any new staff hired during the next cycle will complete TVAT training and others as appropriate.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Promote Victim Studies/services Related Activities Within University Community

Performance Objective Description:

Activities will be performed to promote victim studies/services within the university.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Organizing And/or Sponsoring Victim Studies/services Related Activities

KPI Description:

The Crime Victims' Institute will participate, sponsor, and/or organize at least two victim studies/services activities per year.

Results Description:

CVI and the Crime Victim Services Alliance sponsored the Clothesline Project (October 2015) in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

CVI worked with a number of other campus organizations to sponsor multiple activities in April 2016 in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Campus Events

Action Description:

CVI staff will continue to work closely with CVSA and other student and university organizations to sponsor campus events highlighting issues in victimization to raise awareness.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Raise Awareness Of CVI Research Activities

Performance Objective Description:

CVI research activities will be featured and distributed through the CVI Newsletter.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Publish CVI Newsletter Highlighting Research Activities And Issues

**KPI Description:**

The CVI newsletter containing information regarding current and upcoming activities and research will be published and distributed quarterly.

**Results Description:**

Four issues of the newsletter were distributed.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**CVI Newsletter**

**Action Description:**

CVI staff will identify relevant stories highlighting current issues in victimization and victim services for inclusion in the newsletter, which will continue to be disseminated quarterly.

**Connection With Academic Programs**

**Goal Description:**

The Crime Victims' Institute will achieve a connection with academic programs through various methods that will involve career development and/or research opportunities for graduate students.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Provide Career Development Opportunities For Students Interested In Victim Services**

**Performance Objective Description:**

CVI will sponsor events to highlight career opportunities for students interested in victim studies/services.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Career Development Events**

**KPI Description:**

CVI will sponsor at least one event highlighting potential career opportunities for undergraduate and/or graduate students interested in victims studies/services.

**Results Description:**

CVI organized one Voices lecture in Fall 2015 to highlight potential careers in victim services.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Career Development Events**

**Action Description:**

With recent changes to staffing within CVI, we will need to reevaluate our ability to continue offering career development opportunities. This is an important component of the undergraduate Victim Studies degree program, and CVI will explore whether this activity would be better offered through other College and University resources.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Support Graduate Students Involved In CVI Research Projects**

**Performance Objective Description:**

The Institute will encourage and support graduate students by involving them in research projects.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship**

**KPI Description:**

The CVI summer research program will fund at least one graduate student to conduct research on a topic related to victimization.

**Results Description:**

CVI funded two doctoral students for summer fellowships during summer 2016.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Graduate Student Summer Funding**

**Action Description:**

CVI will assess budget availability and appropriateness of topics in considering whether and how many graduate research assistants to provide with summer funding during the next cycle.

**Excellence In Research**

**Goal Description:**

The Crime Victims' Institute will achieve excellence in research by providing the most up to date research and analysis of current and emerging victim issues.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Produce Peer-Reviewed Research Products**

**Performance Objective Description:**

The Crime Victims' Institute will submit publications aligned with Institute research to peer-reviewed journals.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Peer-reviewed Publications**

**KPI Description:**

The Crime Victims' Institue will submit research publications to peer-reviewed journals.

**Results Description:**

The Director, Assistant Director, and graduate research assistants assigned to CVI submitted a total of 6 manuscripts reflecting work conducted in line with CVI's mission to peer-reviewed journals for publication consideration.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Peer-Reviewed Publications**

**Action Description:**

CVI will continue to track the number of peer-reviewed publications derived from CVI-funded projects and will assess the quality of publication outlets. CVI will continue to encourage faculty affiliates and graduate students who received Institute funding to pursue publication of their research through peer-reviewed journals.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Receive External Funding For CVI Research**

**Performance Objective Description:**

The Institute will explore and apply for external funding through relevant grants.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Grant Applications**

**KPI Description:**

The Crime Victims' Institute will investigate relevant grant opportunities for submission and will submit at least two grant applications.

**Results Description:**

The CVI Director and Assistant Director considered multiple requests for proposals. From those, one relevant RFP was selected, and one proposal was submitted to Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice. The proposal was for about \$393,000 over two years to collaborate with Houston Police Department to evaluate police officer training regarding a trauma-informed response to victims. The grant application is still pending.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Grant Applications**

**Action Description:**

CVI will consider all relevant request for proposals through local, state, federal, and private funding sources. As appropriate for staffing levels and available resources, CVI will apply for at least one grant during the next cycle.

**Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement**

**Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):**

In general, CVI has successfully met its goals for 2014-2015. The Institute will retain the same goals and performance indicators for the next cycle, pending available budget. In terms of specific plans for improvement, the Institute will more carefully review state and federal grant opportunities to maximize chances for success. Additionally, current projects have progressed enough that multiple manuscripts can be developed for submission to peer-reviewed journals, so we could expand our research productivity.

**Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:**

CVI was generally successful in meeting it's goals during the 2015-16 cycle. CVI has three main goals that will be specifically addressed below:

\*Building the reputation of CVI - It is critical to the mission of CVI that the personnel associated with the Institute are knowledgeable about victimization and victim services and that the importance of CVI's work is communicated to relevant audiences. We continue to excel in training and outreach. All staff have completed more than the minimum training requirement by participating in additional webinars on relevant topics. CVI continues to be actively involved in outreach by partnering with other groups across campus and within the victim services field on awareness-raising activities and events. We regularly share this information through the CVI newsletter with various audiences, including university personnel, the CVI Advisory Board, the Texas legislature, and victim services professionals. CVI will continue to improve our knowledge through additional training opportunities, to engage the university and broader community in outreach efforts, and to share relevant knowledge and highlight our activities through the newsletter.

\*Connection with SHSU's academic programs - With a focus on translational research and outreach, CVI prioritizes connection with academic programs within the College of Criminal Justice. The Institute organized and hosted a lecture highlighting career opportunities for Victim Studies and Criminal Justice majors. The Institute also funded two PhD students for summer fellowships to complete research projects related to victimization. Pending available budget, we plan to continue providing opportunities for students to be engaged in the research conducted by CVI and to conduct their own research relevant to CVI's mission. The Institute also provides funding for graduate students to attend and present their

research at both national academic conferences and local victim service conferences. Given the reduction in personnel we have experienced over the last two years (both temporary and permanent), it does not seem feasible for CVI to continue sponsoring the career speaker series alone. We will explore options for continuing the series with other resources available through the College and revise our goals and objectives as necessary.

\*Excellence in research - CVI's mission is to conduct research on issues relevant to victimization, victim services, and prevention. We continue to be successful in fostering peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, and translational reports derived from the numerous projects that are ongoing. During the 2015-16 cycle, CVI only submitted one grant proposal, so we did not meet that particular goal. However, another letter of intent was submitted shortly after the current cycle closed, and we anticipate submitting a full proposal. Our goal for the 2016-17 cycle is to identify additional sources of potential funding for our research activities.

CVI's activities were somewhat restricted during this cycle as a result of reductions in personnel. We lost one full-time staff research associate in August 2015, and partway through the 2015-16 cycle, CVI's remaining staff support person began family medical leave and has not yet returned. We did not disseminate as many research reports as we typically do, and we did not submit as many grant applications as planned. We anticipate returning to full form during the next assessment cycle.

## **Plan for 2016-17**

### **Closing Summary:**

CVI anticipates hiring at least one new staff person during the next cycle. This will allow the Institute to return to levels of activity as indicated in our goals and objectives. New staff will attend relevant trainings related to victimization and victim services, as well as trainings to assist in completing CVI activities, including newsletters, reports, and grant applications. The plan for next cycle is to continue quarterly newsletters and to develop a new research report series addressing campus sexual assault. CVI staff will also manage a large, federal grant and consider additional opportunities for grant funding.