

NASHVILLE VOD SUMMIT 2008
October 15th and 16th, 2008
Holiday Inn Express
920 Broadway, Nashville, Tennessee

AGENDA

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

8:30 – 10:00:

Welcome & Introductions: who we are, where we're from, what our program is, if we have one, and key VOD issues that concern us. [*Karin Ho, moderator*]

10:00 – 10:15: BREAK

10:15 – 11:45:

"50 Years of Corrections-Based VOD Experience – Lessons & Cautions for Program Administrators: A panel discussion and Q&A with Betty Brown, Kathy Buckley, Karin Ho, and Mark Odom."* [*Jon Wilson, moderator*]

*This number comes from 15 years each in Texas and Iowa, 12 years in Ohio, 10 years in Pennsylvania – or 52 years total.

11:45 – 1:00: LUNCH

1:00 – 2:30:

"Outcomes Research in VOD – Inspiration from Ohio, with Ideas for Implementing a National VOD Research Initiative." [*Karin Ho, moderator*]

Dr. Ian Borton

2:30 – 2:45: BREAK

Brief Presentations: [*Presenters to be Announced*]

2:45 – 3:30: "Offender Apology Letter Files & Other Victim-Centered Options."

3:30 – 4:15: "Training and Managing Volunteer VOD Facilitators – Challenges & Opportunities."

4:15 – 5:30: OPEN DISCUSSION & FIRST DAY WRAP-UP

[*Karin Ho & Jon Wilson, moderators*]

Thursday, October 16, 2008:

8:30 – 10:00:

Offenders, Accountability, and Apology: Meeting Victims/Survivors' Needs, and Making Corrections Corrective – A Presentation and Moderated Discussion with Warden Burl Cain of Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. [*Jon Wilson, moderator*]

The path to personal accountability among offenders begins with an awareness of the impacts of violence and violation. Yet, understandably, many victims/survivors want nothing to do with directly addressing the offenders in their cases – even if only to tell them what they have done to their lives. But if victims/survivors don't tell offenders what they've done, how do offenders begin to comprehend the depth of the devastation they have caused?

We'll begin with a lively presentation by the inimitable Warden Cain on his deep interest in providing a select population of Angola inmates with a chance to express remorse, regret, and apology for their victimizations of others. His presentation will be followed by a moderated – and equally lively – discussion with veteran Victim Service directors whose agencies have offered VOD programs in crimes of severe violence for years.

The complexities raised by the very notion of this initiative provide considerable substance for a rigorous exploration of issues that matter deeply to every victim service provider, and we see a chance for illumination of some of these issues. We hope we will all come away from the discussion with new insights for thinking about victim-centered offender accountability. This may be an opportunity to take the whole discussion to another level, going forward.

10:00 – 10:15: BREAK

10:15 – 11:15: OPEN DISCUSSION – OR – continuation of the Accountability Session

[*Karin Ho & Jon Wilson, moderators*]

Some Potential Discussion Topic Ideas:

- On Presenting the VOD Request to Offenders.
- Facilitators and Confidentiality issues.
- Surrogate and Other Alternative VOD Approaches.
- VOD with Offenders under Community Supervision.
- The Question of Audio Taping Preparation Sessions.

11:15 – 12:00: WRAP-UP [*Karin Ho, moderator*]