



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Victim Assistance Program Receives OhioMHAS Certification

Victim Assistance Program has received certification from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS). The OhioMHAS has statutory and regulatory authority over providers of behavioral services, with separate standards based on the type and level of service provided. VAP is now certified to provide referral and information services to be used during crisis intervention and advocacy services.

The referral and information services rules and regulations define what services fall under this category and how these services should be carried out, based on best practice standards. A referral and information service means responses, usually via telephone, to questions from individuals about services in their community. Some additional rules and regulations include coordinating with other health and human service providers and ensuring that referrals and information provided are vetted and accessible.

Victim Assistance Program has always provided this important service to the community and will continue to do so. The new certification, in addition to VAP's long-standing reputation as experts in the field of victim advocacy and their accreditation from the Council on Accreditation, is another important milestone in the agency's journey to elevate their services to the highest standards possible.

The mission of Victim Assistance Program is to empower our community to restore lives impacted by crisis, violence, and tragedy. The purpose of the Agency is to provide 24-hour crisis response, advocacy services, and education to victims of crime and trauma and the professional community who serves this population. To learn more about Victim Assistance Program's services, and ways to get involved, visit victimassistanceprogram.org or call our 24-hour hotline, 330.376.0040.

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