

WASAVIN NEWS AND UPDATES

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2011

WASHINGTON STATEWIDE AUTOMATED VICTIM INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION

PROVIDED BY THE WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION
OF SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS

SAVIN'S FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

*Washington's
Statewide
Automated Victim
Notification
Program began in
October 2006.*

In 2005, the Washington State legislature provided matching funds for a federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant to implement a statewide victim notification program to notify registrants when there was a change in offender custody status.

The program was launched October 2006 with a press conference which included the primary program sponsors: Senator Pam Roach, who introduced the legislation and Senator Margarita Prentice, who placed the necessary funding into the state budget.

SAVIN, as the program is called in this state, also known as VINE, Victim Information and Notification Everyday, was created by Appriss, Inc. in Louisville, Kentucky in 1994 as the result of the homicide of a young woman, Mary Byron. It is now in 47 states across the nation and in every county and city jail in Washington, except Aberdeen. In 2010, the program expanded to include Washington's State Department of Corrections.

Victims of crime and other interested persons may register over the phone or on-line for information and notification

on the custody status of an offender in jail or prison. The program is available 24/7, is confidential, and highly valuable for those who use it.

The contact information is still the same:

**1-877-846-3492 or
www.vinlink.com**



Inside this issue:

<i>SAVIN Advisory Board</i>	2
<i>SAVIN History</i>	2
<i>SAVIN Enhancements</i>	2
<i>Message from the Past</i>	3
<i>SAVIN'S Future in Washington</i>	3
<i>SAVIN's Future Nationally</i>	3
<i>SAVIN Quality of Service</i>	4

SAVIN'S SUCCESS

Sometimes numbers tell the story. The goal of SAVIN is to provide information to those who need it. The program does not work if it is not used.

Since its beginning in 2006, 53,900 have registered to receive notifications. In the first month, there were 243

registrations. Five years later, in October 2011, there were 1217 requests for notification for a five-year total of 53,900 registrations.

Also in October 2011, there were 1419 phone notifications and 913 e-mail notifications. The total number of notifications since the program's in-

ception is 82,665. This number is larger than the registrations as folks may register more than one phone number, may register for both phone and e-mail notification, and more than one e-mail address. (King County VINE numbers are not included.)

SAVIN ADVISORY BOARD



In the original BJA grant application, a commitment was made to create a SAVIN Advisory Board to provide advice and guidance.

The Advisory Board was to be representative of the various agencies and groups who would be directly impacted including jails, law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates and crime victim/survivor representation.

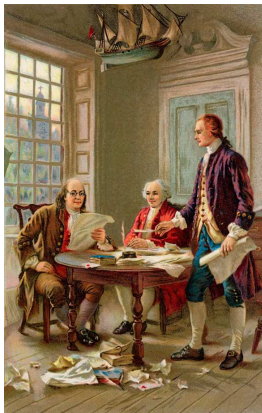
To date, the Advisory Board is still actively involved in SAVIN and the other victim-serving programs provided by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). Meetings are held quarterly and often include a representative from the program vendor, Appriss, Inc.

Of the original thirteen members, three are still involved—Kelly Pelland, Victim/Witness

Coordinator representing the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys; Leigh Hofheimer from the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and Steve Eckstrom, Director of the Victim Services Program for Washington State Department of Corrections.

THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE/SERVED ON THE ADVISORY BOARD!

SAVIN HISTORY



The 2000 legislature gave authorization to WASPC to move forward with the development of a statewide implementation program. Jim LaMunyon, then WASPC Deputy Director, took the lead in securing funding and submitted the grant proposal to BJA for SAVIN.

A two-year grant was awarded in 2005. In July 2006, Dawn Larsen was hired as Project Manager and the program implemented October 2006 with 37 of the 58 counties on-line. By the end of 2007, all but a small handful of county and city jails were participating.

WASPC has just received a

SAVIN enhancement grant to upgrade the system in an effort to reduce downtime and to expand accessibility.

Implementation of these new features will begin January 1, 2012. More information to come.

SAVIN ENHANCEMENTS



PAGE 2

It is important that all crime victims have access to SAVIN. WASPC and the SAVIN Advisory Board are committed to providing information in a variety of languages and formats.

Currently, printed information is available in English, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese. E-

mail and phone notifications can be received in any of these languages. TTY access is also available.

The new enhancement grant will allow for print materials in Tagalog, Korean, and Somali. In addition, the SAVIN website for Washington State, www.vinelink.com, will be

available in Spanish with the click of a mouse.

Notification of availability of these new features will be sent out when the brochures are ready and the website activated. The Spanish website will be the first new feature. The brochures should be available within six months.

SAVIN MESSAGE FROM PAST FOR PRESENT

The following information from the first SAVIN newsletter is still viable:

The Washington SAVIN project is an on-going effort to provide accurate, accessible, immediate information to victims of crime and other connected persons.

One of the biggest challenges will be keeping victim advo-

cates, law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, and others updated on service improvements, product additions, and other important information. The creation of this newsletter is one tool that will be used to communicate with and inform all interested parties.

Please share it with other individuals, agencies and organizations who may have contact with victims of crime.

Our second continuing challenge is to ensure crime victims are aware and can access SAVIN for custody information and notification when there is a change in that custody status.

For more information or questions contact Dawn Larsen, Director of Projects at WASPC. 360-486-2419 or dlarsen@waspc.org



SAVIN'S FUTURE IN WASHINGTON

As with all victim-serving programs at this point in time, SAVIN could be impacted by the budgetary woes of the state. However, as it is a contracted service, it is not a program that can be reduced, only eliminated.

WASPC is committed to ensuring the continuation of this proven program. With the

continued support of victim advocates and criminal justice agencies, we feel positive there will be no disruption in service.

However, as with all agencies, preserving one program may result in a reduction or elimination of another. The most vulnerable of the WASPC victim serv-

ing programs is the Protective Order notification program. We currently have funding for this program through 2012, but efforts will be needed to expand it usage and usability during this upcoming year.

Be on the alert for any opportunity to advocate for both SAVIN and SAVINPO.

***BAND TOGETHER
THIS LEGISLATIVE
SESSION.
VICTIM SERVICES
AND PUBLIC
SAFETY AT RISK.***

SAVIN'S FUTURE NATIONALLY

Two engaged national advisory groups are focused on improving the quality of SAVIN/VINE nationally.

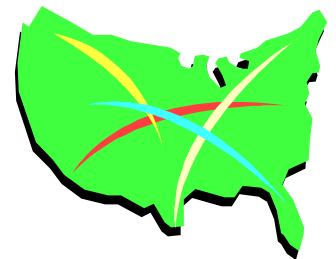
Appriss, Inc., the vendor for SAVIN, has pulled together a group of state program managers to assist with the development of

service delivery standards, improving customer service, identifying and addressing gaps in service, and providing training and technical assistance to program managers.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance also has an advisory

group reviewing program guidelines and standards, enhancing communication between state programs, identifying resources and also providing technical assistance and training.

Both groups are committed to victim service.



**WASHINGTON STATEWIDE
AUTOMATED VICTIM
INFORMATION AND
NOTIFICATION (SAVIN)**

**WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF
SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS
3060 WILLAMETTE DR NE
LACEY, WA 98516**



Phone: 360-486-2380

Fax: 360-486-2381

dlarsen@waspc.org



WHY A NEWSLETTER?

- * TO STAY UPDATED*
- * TO SHARE NEW INFORMATION*
- * TO GET THE WORD OUT*
- * TO ENCOURAGE USE OF THE PROGRAMS*

SAVIN QUALITY OF SERVICE

As more and more service providers around the state learn about and use SAVIN, we are seeing more and more dependence on the program to provide the necessary information for victim safety.

Appriss is well aware of the demand to reduce any program downtime and insure the program functions at the highest level.

The key component of our most recent enhancement grant from BJA funds are

to allow Appriss to implement new technology that will greatly reduce the time currently needed to identify and resolve breaks in data delivery from the jails. This will be a multi-year project starting with those agencies with the most frequent disruptions.

If you have concerns, issues, and/or ideas about SAVIN, please send to Dawn Larsen for presentation at the next national advisory board meeting.

In addition to reducing

downtime, the need to continue providing training and technical assistance to those who work with victims of crime is vital.

To schedule a training for your agency or community, either in person or as a program-specific webinar, contact:

**Dawn Larsen at
WASPC 360-486-2419
or dlarsen@waspc.org**

There are no costs for the training or any of the programs.

