



Arizona Coalition for Victim Services (ACVS)

Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2018

2120 N Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

- I. **Call to Order:** Debbie Olsen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- II. **Welcome and Introductions:** Debbie Olsen welcomed everyone and reminded them to please sign the sign-in sheet and utilize the tent cards.

Amy Bocks, AZ Attorney General	Gina Winn, Glendale Police Dept.
Amy Palmisano, EMPACT	James Gierke, Homicide Survivors
Andrea Alvarez-Guzman, AZ DPS	Kennesha Jackson, AZ Attorney General
Angela Rose, City of Scottsdale	Kiley Schneider, MADD
Angelina Castagnola, MADD	Lindsey Sherman, Mesa City Prosecutor
Bob Steward, Prescott Valley Police Dept.	Melissa Brickhouse-Thomas, Glendale Police
Candice Hewitt, Phoenix FAC	Natalie Gruner, Phoenix City Prosecutor
Carla Uyeda, AZ Dept. of Public Safety	Renee Glaze, ACESDV
Connie Chapman, AVAA	Renee´ Werner, MCSO
Dan Levey, Crime Victim Rights Law Group	Stephanie Bradley, Gilbert City Prosecutor
Daniel Torrez, AZ Dept. of Corrections	Teisha Portee, Scottsdale Police Dept.
Danielle Langel, ACASI	Tony Bidonde, Maricopa Adult Probation
Debbie Olsen, Yavapai County Attorney	Traces Gordon, Prescott Valley Police Dept.
Elizabeth Hartley, MADD	Vanessa Helms, Pima County Attorney

III. **Approval of May Minutes:** Kennesha Jackson made a Motion to approve the May 23, 2018 Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Dan Levey. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. **Never Again Foundation:** Keith Perkins, Founding Attorney & Executive Director, provided the following information regarding the Never Again Foundation (NAF):

- NAF was founded in 2001 and its mission is to bring hope, justice and healing to victims of domestic violence murder by providing holistic nonprofit legal representation in the criminal, civil, probate and family courts.
- Since its inception, the NAF has won more than \$288 million for crime victims.
- Through the efforts of NAF, killers are prevented from profiting through life insurance, taking victim’s property, as an heir to a Will or Trust, marital property, and selling the story/book deals.
- ARS § 14-2803 states that a person who “feloniously and intentionally” kills the decedent forfeits all benefits from the decedent’s estate. The loophole is that

only First and Second Degree Murder fit this definition. Manslaughter and Negligent Homicide do not. This statute is contained within the Probate statutes, wherein the burden is much lower than in Criminal Court.

- Other exceptions/loopholes include Guilty Except Insane and Murder/Suicide.
- 2012 Amendment to ARS 14-2803 fixed the loopholes noted above.
- Criteria for NAF representation is any DV homicide in AZ, federal or state charges, and the suspect does not have to have been charged.
- New branch just opened in Utah, also VOCA-funded.

V. Update on ACVS Secretary & Chair: Debbie Olsen advised that ACVS is still in need of a Secretary. She asked if there was anyone present who is interested in serving in this capacity; there was no one. Debbie encouraged the membership to consider this opportunity and to contact anyone of the Executive Committee members if interested. Regular voting for this position is to take place at the November 2018 meeting, with the two-year term beginning in January 2019. In the meantime, Debbie volunteered to continue to prepare the Meeting Minutes. Debbie Olsen also advised that she will complete her current term as Chair (ends December 2018) and will not be seeking reelection as she will be leaving Victim Services and assuming another position within the Yavapai County Attorney's Office. Anyone interested in being considered for the Chair position is encouraged to contact any Executive Committee member. Voting for this position is to take place at the November 2018 meeting with the two-year term beginning in January 2019.

VI. Legislative Priorities

a. Arizona Attorney General's Office: Kennesha Jackson asked that anyone having legislation they would like reviewed and supported by the Attorney General's Office contact Kennesha Jackson or Kirstin Flores.

A copy of the June 2018 Victims' Rights Brief, which highlights legislative updates, was provided.

b. Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence: Renee Glaze highlighted the following:

- HB 2651 expands tenants' rights by allowing tenants to terminate their rental agreement in the event they are the victim of sexual assault and if the sexual assault occurred in their dwelling.
- In June the Policy Team traveled to Washington, D.C. for the National Network to End Domestic Violence Annual Advocacy Day.
- ACESDV requested the release of additional funds from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) fund and for Congress to establish a tribal funding stream to address the gap in services.
- ACESDV also requested the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) and that they be funded at their full authorized levels.
- The Policy Team has also been working on the changes to federal immigration policy and how it impacts sexual and domestic violence survivors, particularly those seeking asylum, VAWA self-petitions, and those seeking U or T Visas.

- Contact Whitney Walker, whitney@acesdv.org, Domestic Violence Policy Coordinator, if you have any suggestions for new legislation.

VII. Updates from ACESDV: Renee Glaze provided the following update:

- ACESDV recently hired a bilingual Domestic Violence Coordinator and can now provide domestic violence training in Spanish.
- ACESDV is in the process of finalizing the Arizona Guidelines for a Coordinated Community Response to sexual assault in partnership with the Governor's Office. They should be ready for distribution by the end of the year.

VIII. Grant Sources Updates:

a. VRP: Kennesha Jackson reported the following:

- FY2019 Budget Proposals are currently under review. Award Agreements will be issued upon completion. Funding will be distributed upon receipt of signed Award Agreements.
- FY2018 Annual Reports are due August 11, 2018. The Annual Report Webinar was recorded and can be viewed on the Attorney General's Office file share. Contact Kennesha if you would like to view it.
- Request/Waiver booklets will be distributed in August. The Attorney General's Office is currently working on developing Best Practices, which is expected to be released in the coming months.
- Please refer to the Victims' Rights Presentation schedule online for a list of dates.
<https://www.azag.gov/victim-services/victims-rights-training-schedule>.

b. ACJC: No one from the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission was present.

c. DPS VOCA: Carla Uyeda reported the following:

- DPS now has nine Grant Coordinators, thus reducing the caseload of each Grant Coordinator to approximately 20 sub-grantees.
- The Victims' Rights Enforcement Fund renewal is coming up.
- The 3rd Quarter Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Report is due July 30, 2018.
- Sub-grantees need not submit any new documentation for the beginning of the second year of the VOCA grant (October 1, 2018).
- The Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) Performance Management Tool (PMT) is now working, but sub-grantees will likely not have to enter data directly into the PMT until January 2019.

IX. Arizona Victim Assistance Academy (AVAA). Connie Chapman reported the following:

- Leadership Training was held in Phoenix June 11, 2018. The evaluations and feedback indicate that the event was a success. Another Leadership Training is being considered for possibly November 2018. A limited number of hotel rooms will be available. Ideas for content should be provided to Connie at avaacademy@gmail.com.
- The Basic Academy in Flagstaff August 6 – 10, 2018 is full and there are 65 people on the waiting list. Those on the waiting list will be the first ones eligible to attend

the next Basic Academy.

- AVAA applied for and was approved for a grant from the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. The approved funding will cover a Basic Academy in Phoenix; possibly in July 2019. A limited number of hotel rooms will be available free of charge.
- Dr. Wilson's Neurobiology of Trauma training will be held again February 28, 2019. Registration will be open soon. Cost is \$75.00.
- AVAA applied for a three-year technical assistance grant from the Office for Victims of Crime. We are still waiting to hear if funding was awarded. The concept for this grant is that agencies could request individualized training on a specific topic and AVAA would seek out local subject matter experts who would provide said training.
- VOCA funding can be utilized for registration fees, but you must first receive approval from your Grant Coordinator at the Department of Public Safety. Additionally, you can receive approval to use the current year funding for training taken place after October 1, 2018 so long as the registration fees are paid no later than September 30, 2018.

X. Committee Reports:

a. Executive Board Report. Debbie Olsen reported the following:

- Elections/voting on the Chair and Secretary positions will be held at the November Meeting.
- November meeting is currently set for the 21th, but will be rescheduled due to the Thanksgiving holiday (possibly November 28th).
- Let any Executive Committee member know if you have ideas for future guest speakers.

b. Treasurer's Report: Angela Rose reported the following account balances:

- ACVS, \$16,043.09 (increased due to member dues)
- AVAA, \$39,123.96
- Relocation, \$2,218.61
- Transition from Angela Rose to Gina Winn will be complete this summer.

c. Membership Committee: Amy Bocks reported that 18 membership renewals have been received (\$2,700). There are still 53 agencies left to renew. Amy encouraged agencies/individuals to renew their membership as soon as possible. Agencies/individuals needing an invoice/receipt should contact Amy at amy.bocks@azag.gov or 520-628-6977. Keep in mind that the membership year ended June 30, 2018 and that you cannot vote until membership is renewed for the current year. Contact Amy if you know of any agencies who might be interested in joining ACVS.

d. Relocation Committee: Four applications for relocation were received. Two found other means to fund their relocation, one did not meet the requirements, and one application was approved for \$100.

- e. **Website Committee:** If you would like events added to the calendar on the ACVS website, they can be submitted on-line at the bottom of the calendar, or you can contact Amy at amy.bocks@azag.gov. Also contact Amy with any job posting you want included (or removed) on the website.

XI. New Business/Open Forum:

- Dan Levey provided a handout announcing STRIKE Out for Crime, a bowling event benefitting the Arizona Crime Victim Rights Law Group. The event is being held Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 10:00am – Noon at Bowlmor Lanes, 7200 East Thomas Road, Scottsdale, AZ. Contact Dan at dlevey@victimsrights.org or 480-946-0832 to register or for more information.
- Daniel Torrez advised that the Arizona Department of Corrections is developing a Victim Offender Dialog Program (VOD). Arizona is the 33rd state in the nation to develop a VOD program, which is primarily initiated by survivors of homicide and can be implemented any time post-conviction. We will arrange for Daniel to make a formal presentation regarding the program at either the September or November ACVS Meeting.
- Renee Werner advised that during the past year she has been seeing judges in Maricopa County issue a “place holder bond” of \$50 when a defendant is booked for a probation violation and a new victim crime. The defendant is held no bond on the probation violation matter, and the “place holder bond” is set on the victim crime. This poses concerns for the victims. She has not heard back from Denise Lundin, who was going to take this information to the Commission of Victims in the Courts (COVIC). Debbie Olsen related that COVIC does not meet again until October. Kennesha Jackson indicated that the concept may be the result of the Arizona Supreme Court’s Task Force on Fair Justice for All, wherein bond amounts are intended to secure presence and not punish.

XII. Next Meeting: September 19, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. at the Phoenix Family Advocacy Center, 2120 N. Central Avenue, #250, Phoenix, AZ.

XIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.