



Arizona Coalition for Victim Services (ACVS)
 Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2021
 Virtual Meeting via Zoom

I. Call to Order – Amy Bocks

- a. Meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom and called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Amy Bocks.

Attendees

Adam Gendreau, AZ DCS	Heather Bohnet, ACJC
Amy Bocks, Attorney General's Office	Holly Stokes, LSCVA
Amy Palmisano, EMPACT	Isela Devora, Mesa City Prosecutor
B Datcher, City of Phoenix	Jamie Balson, LSCVA
Bianca Harper, ACASI	Jasmine Valentine, City of Phoenix HEAT Unit
Carla Uyeda, DPS VOCA	Kennesha Jackson, VRP AGO
Clemencia Cons, Phoenix City Prosecutor	Laura Mandt, PVPD
Daniela Munoz-Alvarez, Homicide Survivors Inc	Lois Rees, Yavapai County Attorney's Office
Danielle Langel, ACASI	Marcy Morales, AZ DCS
Denise Chen, AZ DCS	Melissa Brickhouse Thomas, Glendale PD
Dorinda Johns, ACJC	Shelly Ward, Mesa PD Victim Services
Elizabeth Hartley, Peoria PD	Tami Sanchez, Pima County Attorney Victim Services
Francisco Garcia, ACASI	Virginia Rodriguez, Pima County Attorney Victim Services
Gretchen McClellan-Singh, ADCRR	Unidentified Caller

II. Welcome and Introductions

III. Approval of March Meeting Minutes

- a. No comments or corrections.
- b. Motion to approve by Kennesha Jackson, 2nd by Marcy Morales.
- c. Minutes were approved via hand raise reaction function, chat and verbal response – 12 yes votes.

IV. Legislative Priorities

- a. Kennesha Jackson, AZ Attorney General's Office: No Legislative updates at this time.
 - i. If anyone wants input or possible support on legislation from AGO please reach out to Kennesha Jackson or Kirstin Flores.
- b. Jamie Aragon, ACESDV – Not present
 - i. Amy Bocks shared that the VOCA Fix Act passed and was headed to President Biden for signature.



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V. Updates from ACESDV, Jamie Aragon - Not Present

VI. State Agency Coordinating Team (SACT) – Funders Reports

- a. VRP – Kennesha Jackson, Arizona Attorney General’s Office:
 - i. FY 2021/22 Funding Update: VRP FY 2022 Budget Proposals are due Monday, August 2, 2021. Award agreements will be issued upon completion and approval of the budget proposal. Funding will then be distributed upon receipt of signed award agreements. FY 2021 Annual Reports are due August 13, 2021.
 - ii. FY21 Annual Report Webinar: If someone at your agency would like to view the webinars, they were recorded and can be viewed on the AGO file share. Contact Kennesha Jackson for a link.
 - iii. Victim Request/Waiver forms: Updated 2021/2022 R/W Forms (paper and electronic versions) will be distributed and delivered to all law enforcement agencies by September. AGO will be implementing a QR code on the form that will link to Spanish and English information.
 - iv. If your agency has leftover previous version forms, please follow your agency’s policy for archive and destruction. AGO recommends that agencies retain some copies in the event they run out of the new forms in the future.
 - v. Trainings: Please refer to the AGO website for a list of upcoming trainings at www.azag.gov. New curriculum on topic of death penalty will be available in October and training will be held virtually.
- b. .ACJC — Heather Bohnet:
 - i. ACJC is continuing to address revenue decline to Victim Compensation and Victim Assistance funds. They are conducting a gap analysis to continue support of funding.
 - ii. FY23 program size has not been determined but they do know that Victim Compensation and Victim Assistance have declined.
 - iii. The VOCA Fix Act will increase Federal Reimbursement of State dollars on Victim Compensation from a current 60% to 75% and removes the restitution collection penalty. However, this does not address the issue of declining State funds.
 - iv. ACJC is updating Victim Compensation pamphlets/materials and is working on training counties on the online application process.
- c. VOCA – Carla Uyeda:
 - i. The VOCA Fix Act passed last night with a 100-0 vote and has gone to President Biden for signature.
 - ii. DPS VOCA staff are currently conducting site visits remotely.
 - iii. All current grant year amendments were due at the end of June.
- d. DES – Not Present
- e. DHS – Not Present

VII. Membership Discussion on Human Trafficking Services, Programs and Needs

- a. Amy Bocks opened the discussion to find out what agencies are seeing as needs of human trafficking victims and what ACVS may be able to assist with as well as to find



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- out what resources currently exist. The GOYFF contacted ACVS to participate on the AZ Human Trafficking Council Task Force Workgroup. They hold quarterly meetings and Amy has been participating.
- b. Denise Chen has been hired into a new position at DCS in the CREST program. This position is funded through DOJ and focusses on minor victims of sex trafficking. Denise shared her email via chat if anyone wants to connect with her: Denise.Chen@azdcs.gov.
 - i. 3 Goals of the Program: 1) Identify children who are confirmed, suspected or at risk for trafficking; 2) Develop a directory of resources; and 3) Develop training and community outreach materials. They are currently developing objectives to meet these goals.
 - ii. In Maricopa County there is an established process and two judges are specifically assigned to work with involved youth. The goal is to make sure the needs of the minor are met and to meet the youth where they are. They are expanding statewide collaborations with law enforcement.
 - iii. They are conducting training for DCS staff in Pima County on August 5th and it is not limited to only DCS staff. Denise will send registration information to Marcy for distribution.
 - c. Amy asked attendees to share information on what work is being done now, what the needs are and what resources are available.
 - i. Mohave County – SAATURN program
 - ii. Laura Mandt shared via chat that their agency is active on the HT Task Force and she would like to see expanded human trafficking training in the police academy statewide. A lot of patrol officers are likely to encounter victims but less likely to have training on working with trafficking victims and on intervention practices.
 - iii. Carly Uyeda shared via chat that AZ Legal Women and Youth Services (ALWAYS) assists trafficking victims with expungement and visas.
 1. Laura clarified that ALWAYS assists U.S. citizens and only up to age 24.
 - iv. Daniela Munoz Alvarez is interested in learning about resources specifically in Pima County. Email her at Daniela@azhomicidesurvivors.org with information.
 - v. Jamie Balson shared that her agency provides assistance with legal document preparation as part of a free pilot program for domestic violence victims. Reach out to them for assistance. They are happy to help in other ways as well.
 - vi. Shelly Ward shared that there is trafficking training for patrol and that the Mesa HEAT unit works with other valley agencies. Education and awareness need to be focused on.
 - vii. Denise Chen shared that patrol officers don't have training or knowledge. Rural areas might not have resource and have issues with placement at the time.
 - viii. Amy Palmisano shared that Trauma Services in Maricopa County partnered with the Phoenix Family Advocacy Center. ASU's Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research (STIR) has a website resource for youth at sextraffickinghelp.com. Amy mentioned other resources through STAR groups, New Life Center, FBI Victim Services, TRUST office, Homeland Security, the



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STARFISH housing program, and Road to Rights program. There is a huge need for housing, medical, therapy, food and other basic needs.

- ix. Jasmine Valentine introduced herself as a victim advocate with Phoenix HEAT.

VIII. Arizona Victim Assistance Academy (AVAA) – Connie Chapman – Not present

- a. Amy Bocks reminded everyone that the Basic Academy is set in Flagstaff August 8/9-8/13.

IX. Committee Reports

a. Executive Board Report – Amy Bocks

- i. The Phoenix FAC has reopened for in person meetings. Amy is working with them to determine if they have the technology to conduct the meetings in a hybrid format of in person and virtual attendance.
- ii. Marcy Morales is stepping down from her role as ACVS Vice Chair. She is leaving Arizona for a position in Washington D.C. ACVS will be looking to fill the Vice Chair position at the November meeting. If you are interested or have questions reach out to Amy, Isela, Gretchen or Marcy (until September).

1. Marcy shared that the position does not require a large time commitment; there is some increased responsibility during the membership drive. The position can give you a new perspective, you network with other statewide agencies and individuals and it looks great on a resume. If you want to talk about the position please contact her.

b. Treasurer's Report – Isela Devora

- i. Report as of June 30th, 2021

- ii. ACVS: \$20,106.67

1. ACVS had an increase due to membership dues.

- iii. AVAA: \$10,392.04

1. AVAA had a decrease due to upcoming academy expenses.

- iv. Relocation: \$1,212.81

1. Relocation has stayed the same. Mesa Family Advocacy Center had an approved relocation request for the maximum \$400 on July 12th, 2021, for a victim who was working with different agencies. There are also 1-2 pending applications.

- v. TOTAL: \$31,711.52

c. Membership Committee – Marcy Morales

- i. If you have questions about whether or not your agency has paid you can check with Amy or Marcy.

- ii. If your agency needs an invoice please contact Marcy.

d. Relocation Committee – Tracy Wilkinson – Not Present

- i. Amy Bocks shared that the Relocation Committee is looking for additional members. Each case must be staffed with three committee members and with only 4 total members that can be difficult at times. This position does not require a large time commitment either. The committee member's contact information is on the ACVS website and you may be contacted about a case that needs



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approximately 15-20 minutes of staffing and decision making. If you are interested please let Amy or Tracy Wilkinson know.

- ii. Isela Devora reminded attendees that ACVS participates in the cell phone program. You can donate cell phones or tablets and the funds will go to ACVS relocation program. Isela can send labels to your agency and she will bring extra labels to the September and November in person meetings.
- e. Website Committee – Marcy Morales
 - i. If anyone has events or announcements for website contact Marcy.

X. New Business/Open Forum

- i. Isela Devora shared that ACESDV is looking for members to serve on their LGBTQ+ committee. Isela is a current member and they hold monthly meetings virtually. Contact Isela if you are interested.
- ii. Laura Mandt shared in the chat that Yavapai County is hosting MAP (Mobile Advocacy Program) trainings in July (tomorrow) and in September (the 22nd) Both training registrations are on [Eventbrite](#).
- iii. Daniela Munoz Alvarez from HSI, Inc. shared that they are holding a vigil tonight at the MSA Annex from 7pm-9pm due to the recent mass shooting in Tucson.

XI. Next Meeting

- a. September 15, 2021 at 10:00 am at the FAC and potentially also available virtually.

XII. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned by Amy Bocks at 11:30 a.m.