



Arizona Coalition for Victim Services (ACVS)

Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2017

2120 N Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

- I. **Call to Order:** Debbie Olsen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 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. All guests and new members are asked to please print clearly when adding themselves to the sign-in sheet.

Present

Amy Bocks, AZ Attorney General	Jacqueline Lopez, Pinal County Attorney
Amy Palmisano, EMPACT	Jessica Grecco, Phoenix FAC
Angela Rose, City of Scottsdale	Julie Williams, Maricopa County Attorney
Anne Ngamsombat, Childhelp	Kennesha Jackson, AZ Attorney General
Beckie Miller, POMC	Laura Penny, Pima County Attorney (Phone)
Christine Osborne, AZ Dept. of Corrections	Lynn Golden, AZ Supreme Court
Connie Chapman, AVAA	Melissa Brickhouse-Thomas, Glendale PD
Danielle Langel, ACASI/NAU	Nancy Larsen, Pinal County Attorney
Debbie Olsen, Yavapai County Attorney	Rebecca Begay, Mesa City Prosecutor
Denise Lundin, AZ Supreme Court	Stephanie Loyer, ACASI/NAU
Frida Guzman, AZ Dept. of Corrections	Stephanie Smith, Peoria Police Dept.
Jan Upchurch, AZ Dept. of Corrections	Thea Walsh, ACESDV

- III. **Approval of July Minutes:** Amy Palmisano advised that a correction was needed to the draft January Meeting Minutes; bottom of Page 5, second bullet under New Business/Open Forum. The bullet should be changed to state the following, “Amy Palmisano announced that a Take Back the Night event is planned for April 7, 2017 at Civic Space Park in downtown Phoenix from 5pm – 9pm. The event will feature survivors of sexual and domestic violence.” Kennesha Jackson made a Motion to approve the January Meeting Minutes with the requested change. Motion seconded by Beckie Miller. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Restitution Presentation, Denise Lundin and Lynn Golden, Arizona Supreme Court:** Denise and Lynn showed a PowerPoint presentation (provided a copy of the slides) of the work that has been done by the Commission on Victims in the Courts regarding improving the collection and disbursement of restitution to victims

The Commission on Victims in the Courts (COVIC) was created in 2006 by then Chief

Justice McGregor of the Arizona Supreme Court. It is the only known Commission established to focus on Victims' Rights. Retired Judge Ron Reinstein (Maricopa County Superior Court) Chairs the Commission, which has representation from a variety of government and non-profit entities, as well as the public. The Commission is charged with four main duties:

- Make recommendations regarding training and education for judges and court personnel on victims; rights and treatment of victims
- Work to promote the improved collection and disbursement of restitution
- Liaison with other established victims' advocacy organizations while maintaining neutrality
- Make other recommendations that preserve victims' constitutional rights and administration of justice.

COVIC has three workgroups: Administration of Justice; Restitution; and Training/Education. Recently Kirstin Flores from the Attorney General's Office requested that the Restitution Workgroup be reconvened, and as such she is the Chair. The Restitution Workgroup has four main goals:

- Review statutes and proposed legislation
- Revamp the Arizona Supreme Court's restitution webpage and restitution lien forms
- Review and comment on recommendations made by the Task Force for Fair Justice for All
- Draft Restitution Court best practices

In revamping the Arizona Supreme Court's restitution webpage, the Restitution Workgroup is attempting to focus on reducing the number of clicks an individual has to go through in order to access needed information and reducing the use of legalese.

Improvements to the webpage are a work in progress and everyone is encouraged to visit the site (www.azcourts.gov/restitution). There are six categories under Restitution:

- Who is eligible?
- FAQs
- Resources
- Forms & Instructions
- Restitution Laws in AZ
- Do You Need Help?

Any comments or suggestions should be provided to Denise (dlundin@courts.az.gov) and Lynn (lgolden@courts.az.gov).

The Restitution Workgroup is currently focusing their attention on the adult criminal justice system. The group lacks expertise in juvenile court and will look to tackle that in the future. Additionally, they will look at providing training after the Legislative Session.

V. 2017 Legislation Priorities:

a. Kennesha Jackson provided a handout of the Bills being tracked by the Attorney

General's Office. She highlighted HB2269, which provides for modernization of language, makes technical corrections to statute references, updates one area of the juvenile code to coincide with the adult code, and requires probation to provide victim notification to ADOC when probation has been revoked. Additionally, in any civil action, a monetary judgment cannot be paid to a person who is or was previously incarcerated in the DOC before all restitution and incarceration costs owed by the person are paid if the monetary judgment is against the state, a political subdivision, correctional facility or officer or agent of a correctional facility. If the monetary judgment is not sufficient to pay both restitution and incarceration costs owed, the judgment must first be used to pay any outstanding restitution. *This Bill passed the House, but must go back as an Amendment has been added to allow victim's to file a pre-conviction restitution lien.*

b. Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence. Thea Walsh highlighted several Bills:

- HB2268 (supported by ACESDV) would require health care facilities to notify law enforcement with 24 hours after collection of evidence via a sexual assault kit and for law enforcement agencies to take possession of said kit within five days and submit it for forensic analysis within 15 days of receipt. It also requires law enforcement agencies and public accredited crime laboratories to submit a report on the sexual assault kits to the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission by August 30 of each year and for a compilation of those reports to go to the Governor and the Legislature by December 1 of each year. *This Bill has been transmitted to the Senate, having passed the House Judiciary Committee.*
- HB2444 (supported by ACESDV) would provide sexual assault victim advocates the same privilege communications granted to domestic violence victim advocates when working with sexual assault survivors in civil cases. *This Bill has been transmitted to the Senate, having passed the House Judiciary Committee.*
- HB2372 (opposed by ACESDV) would put forth an additional 12 months to the TANF lifetime limit if those receiving cash assistance met strict guidelines including a 90% attendance record for their children. A February 24th Amendment was passed resulting in even stricter policies, such as a provision that any noncompliance would result in a loss of 50% of their benefits. *This Bill was transmitted to the Senate after passing the Health and Human Services Committee.*
- SB1355 (supported by ACESDV) establishes a list of rights that a survivor of sexual assault has, including the right not to be prevented from, or charged for, a medical forensic examination, as well as various rights relating to a sexual assault evidence collection kit. *This Bill passed the Senate and was transmitted to the House.*
- SB1107 (ACESDV watching) defines a Family Advocacy Center, including how funds are allocated.

VI. Updates from ACESDV. Thea Walsh reported that Thriving as One Advocacy in Action was held March 9; another one is being planned. The event focused on federal initiatives.

VII. Grant Sources Updates:

a. ACJC: Larry Grubbs was not present.

b. VRP: Kennesha Jackson reported the following:

- Community Conversations: Arizona Victim Services Strategic Planning events will be held across the state (Flyer provided). This is being convened by the State Agencies Coordinating Team (SACT) and is an opportunity for agencies to provide input into how Arizona is responding to the rights and needs of victims. Four Regional Meetings will be held and you must register if you wish to attend. Flyers and information will be posted on the ACVS website.
- Performance Reviews have been completed. If vacancy savings is anticipated, please complete and submit a budget modification.
- The Victims' Rights Week Event will be held April 4, 2017 from 11:00am – 2:00pm at the El Zaribah Shrine Auditorium in Phoenix. The Distinguished Service Awards will be presented. Space is limited, so please register. Information for registration is on the ACVS website.
- Refer to the Attorney General's Office website for a list of upcoming trainings at www.azag.gov. The next basic and advance training will be held on March 23 and 24 in Globe.

c. **DPS/VOCA:** The Department of Public Safety was unable to send a representative to the meeting.

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

- The Basic Academy being held at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix June 12 – 16, 2017 is almost full; only 9 slots available. Register soon if planning on attending.
- A second Basic Academy is being planned for Flagstaff (dates still to be determined).
- An Advanced Academy is being planned for February 2018 wherein Dr. Wilson will present on how trauma affects the brain, vicarious trauma and how supervisors can identify and respond to vicarious trauma in their staff.
- An additional Advanced Academy is being planned related to Human Trafficking (date to be determined).
- Later today the group will be meeting to discuss these trainings.
- Suggestions for additional training should be forwarded to Connie at avaacademy@gmail.com.

IX. Committee Reports:

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

- A suggestion was made at the January meeting to add language to the Operational Guidelines regarding having member agencies conduct audits of the ACVS financial records. The Executive Committee determined that this is not necessary, as the ACVS financial records are periodically audited by our funding agencies.
- The search for a new accountant is presently on hold and will be discussed again after tax season. Despite previous problems, the current accountant did a good job last year and we will see how she does this year.
- Idea for a guest speaker for the May 17th meeting is representatives from the

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office regarding their TRACS system and their improved reporting of victim information. A possibility for the July meeting is Pastor Brian Steele for the Phoenix Dream Center. Any other suggestions should be submitted to any member of the Executive Committee.

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

- ACVS, \$15,311.31
- AVAA, \$37,624.49
- Relocation, \$599.29

She also reported notable income of \$2,500 in RICO funds from the Yavapai County Attorney's Office.

c. Membership Committee. Amy Bocks reported that ChildHelp recently joined ACVS, bringing the Agency memberships to 46. The membership drive will begin in July. If you have any suggestions on new agencies that Amy could reach out to, contact her at amy.bocks@azag.gov or membership@acvs.net.

d. Relocation Committee. A couple of requests were made and staffed but not approved for funding.

e. Website Committee. Amy Bocks requested that announcements regarding events to be posted on the ACVS website be forwarded to her at amy.bocks@azag.gov. She asked if anyone was experiencing difficulty in receiving emails from ACVS, as has been reported by Erin Yabu at the City of Phoenix. Angela Rose at the City of Scottsdale is the only other one reporting a problem.

X. New Business/Open Forum:

- Amy Palmisano announced that a Take Back the Night event is planned for April 7, 2017 at Civic Space Park in downtown Phoenix from 5pm – 9pm. The event will feature survivors of sexual and domestic violence (English and Spanish) and include a health fair and food trucks. If you wish to have a table at the event, contact Amy at amy.palmisano@empact-spc.com.
- Jan Upchurch reminded everyone about the Victims' Rights Week Event April 4, 2017 at the El Zaribah Auditorium, 552 North 40th Street in Phoenix beginning at 11:00am. Brooks Douglass is the featured speaker; the film *Heaven's Rain* is based upon his experience as a survivor. While the event is free, space is limited and you must register at <https://2017vrwevent.eventbrite.com>.

XIII. Next Meeting: May 17, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. at the Phoenix Family Advocacy Center, 2120 N. Central Avenue, #250, Phoenix, AZ.

XIV. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.