1. **Call to Order – Amy Bocks**
	1. Meeting was conducted virtually via WebEx and called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Amy Bocks.

**Attendees**

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| --- | --- |
| Alejandro Palacios, ADCRR | Holly Stokes, LSCVA |
| Alexandria Barnes, Chrysalis Shelter | Julie Williams, MCAO |
| Ashtyn Buechler, Attorney General’s Office | Katelyn Osselaer, City of Phoenix FAC |
| Amy Bocks, Attorney General’s Office | Kennesha Jackson, VRP AGO |
| Amy Palmisano, EMPACT | Laura Mandt, PVPD |
| Antony Bidonde, Maricopa County Adult Probation | Lindsey Kircher, City of Mesa |
| Brooke Fulton, NACASA | Lois Rees, Yavapai County Attorney’s Office |
| Carla Uyeda, DPS VOCA | Marc Tetzlaff, HSI |
| Christina Ashelford, Mohave County Attorney’s Office | Marcy Morales, DCS |
| Connie Chapman, AVAA | Melissa Thomas, Glendale PD |
| Dorinda Johns, ACJC | Mimi Kaplan, Shelter Without Walls |
| Elizabeth Hartley, Peoria PD | Natalie Gruner, Phoenix City Prosecutor |
| Gretchen McClellan-Singh, ADCRR | Renee Werner, MCSO |
| Heather Bohnet, ACJC | Three Unidentified Call-in Participants |

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Approval of January Meeting Minutes**
	1. No comments or corrections.
	2. Minutes were approved via poll – 71% approved, no response from other 29%.
3. **Arizona South Asians for Safe Families (ASAFSF)**
	1. Amy Bocks was unable to get into contact with them. If anyone has a direct contact please forward to Amy for a future presentation.
4. **Legislative Priorities**
	1. Kennesha Jackson, AZ Attorney General’s Office:
		1. Kennesha will share the legislative tracking sheet to Amy Bocks for distribution.
		2. If anyone has any victims’ rights legislation for the upcoming legislative session that they would like supported by the AGO, please contact Kirstin Flores at Kirstin.Flores@azag.gov or Kennesha Jackson at Kennesha.Jackson@azag.gov.
	2. Tasha Menaker, ACESDV – Not present but provided information in advance and shared by Amy Bocks:
		1. Due to limited capacity, they are focusing primarily on federal efforts, including the VOCA fix (HR1652) and the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (HR1620). Both are being heard in the House today.
		2. Information about the VOCA fix:
			1. The VOCA Fix is necessary to stabilize the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) for the future, but federal appropriations have been cut for the last 3 years, so cuts are probably inevitable in most states for at least a couple of years.
			2. Even with the VOCA Fix, they are anticipating that fiscal year (FY) 2022 will be a hard year at the federal level and that may mean a couple or a few hard years ahead for state victim assistance grant awards. With the VOCA Fix, they are hopeful that annual appropriations will higher again in federal FY2023.
			3. The VOCA Fix allows grantees (states, territories, tribes) to request a no cost extensions from DOJ. While that doesn’t add more money into their budgets, it may allow states to budget better with the funding they already have.
		3. Information about VAWA:
			1. Enhances and expands victim services;
			2. Increases funding for prevention programs;
			3. Expands Tribal sovereignty for prosecuting non-Native offenders of sexual assault, child abuse and elder abuse co-occurring with domestic violence, stalking, sex trafficking, and assaults on Tribal law enforcement officers on Tribal lands;
			4. Protects victims of dating violence from firearm homicide (aka closes the boyfriend loophole);
			5. Ensures compliance with VAWA non-discrimination requirements and guarantees equal access to VAWA protections for all victims regardless of gender;
			6. Provides economic justice responses that help survivors access unemployment insurance and help to clarify what constitutes economic abuse;
			7. Expands purpose areas in STOP, one of which relates to restorative justice practices;
			8. Maintains existing protections for all survivors; and
			9. Improves the healthcare system’s response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.
		4. This year, ACESDV is doing a “Month of Advocacy” focused on these bills if agencies would like to be involved. Registration information has been distributed and Tasha Menaker can re-send if needed.
		5. Laura Mandt shared additional information about the boyfriend loophole – currently, dating relationships do not meet the requirements for gun restrictions and this would change that.
5. **Updates from ACESDV, Tasha Menaker** – Not present but provided information in advance and shared by Amy Bocks:
	1. Tanner Swanson is no longer with ACESDV, currently hiring to replace him.
	2. See above information under Legislative Priorities
6. **State Agency Coordinating Team (SACT) – Funders Reports**
	1. VRP – Kennesha Jackson, Arizona Attorney General’s Office
		1. FY 2021/22 Funding Update – Agencies will receive their FY21 VRP second installment in the next few weeks, if not already received.
		2. VRP FY22 Performance Reviews have been distributed and are due March 19, 2021. If your agency is in the VRP Program and anticipates vacancy savings for FY21, recommend submitting a budget modification request form, if applicable.
		3. Victims’ Rights Education: Please refer to the AGO website for a list of upcoming trainings at www.azag.gov. Outreach and education presentations will be conducted via webinar. Please note that the Basic as well as new Advanced training curriculum is available for registration. For more information on the schedule, to register, or to request a private presentation for your office please contact OVSTraining@azag.gov. Training for Law Enforcement is also available.
	2. ACJC –– Heather Bohnet
		1. Victim Assistance Grant solicitation closed last Friday. Nineteen applications were submitted. They anticipate the awards to go to the Committee in early May and the full Commission at the end of May for approval. Due to revenue challenges, the program size for FY22 is $200,000.
		2. The allocation recommendation for the FY2022 Victim Compensation program size will go to the Committee at the end of March. The tentative recommendation is $2 million in Federal and $1.3 million in State funds for FY2022.
	3. VOCA – Carla Uyeda
		1. Sent note to Amy Bocks prior to the meeting to advise there are no updates from DPS VOCA.
	4. DES – Not Present
	5. DHS – Not Present
7. **Arizona Victim Assistance Academy (AVAA) – Amy Bocks and Connie Chapman**
	1. Basic Academy was held the last week of February and the first week of March on the virtual platform Adobe Connect.
	2. It went as well as could be expected but there were technology issues with the attendees.
	3. Heather Bohnet reported they were still able to conduct their training and use the breakout feature and chat feature.
	4. The virtual training was not ideal but there was still good feedback from attendees.
	5. Connie Chapman anticipates doing the August session in person with limited participants if NAU will allow them to do so.
	6. They are in early discussions of the possibility of an Advanced Academy in June.

1. **Committee Reports**
	1. Executive Board Report – Amy Bocks
		1. Shared that Beckie Miller from the Valley of the Sun Chapter of Parents of Murdered Children retired in January after serving 28 years as the Chapter Leader. Beckie will still be involved at the national and local level but there is a new Chapter Leader who will be invited to a future meeting.
		2. Recognized Beckie’s contribution to the field of victim services in Arizona and in turning her tragedy into something to help others.
	2. Treasurer’s Report – Amy Bocks provided update from Isela Devora
		1. Balances as of February 28, 2021:
			1. ACVS: $19,093.47 (decrease due to Admin fees)
			2. AVAA: $19,849.96 (decrease due to academy expenses)
			3. Relocation: $1,212.81 (increase due to Amazon Smile Donation – outstanding reimbursement checks pending and one $400 relocation was approved)
			4. Total: $37,820.23
		2. Isela updated everything with the AZ Corporation Commission.
		3. Reminder you can connect ACVS to their Amazon Smile account for donations to go to ACVS.
	3. Membership Committee – Marcy Morales
		1. Membership drive information will be sent out in May to remind agencies to renew their membership.
		2. If your agency needs an invoice please email Marcy at: marcela.morales@azdcs.gov
	4. Relocation Committee – Tracy Wilkinson – Not Present
	5. Website Committee – Marcy Morales
		1. If anyone has events or announcements for website contact Marcy.
2. **New Business/Open Forum**
	1. Holly Stokes, LCVSA
		1. Advocates from LCVSA were selected to participate in the first phase of a pilot program resulting from a new AZ Supreme Court Administrative Order that allows DV and Sexual Assault Advocates employed by a non-profit agency to provide limited civil legal document prep services at no cost to the victim. The pilot program is 2 years and up for renewal at the end of the first term.
		2. All of the advocates passed the mandated exam and are now able to offer civil legal document prep services for: family law actions, orders of protection, landlord/tenant actions, public benefits and debtor/creditor actions.
		3. If you have victims in need of any of these services please refer them to LCVSA.
	2. Amy Palmisano, EMPACT
		1. EMPACT Trauma Healing Services is doing the Take Back the Night event on a virtual platform this year in partnership with ASU’s Sexual and Relationship Violence Prevention Program. The event will be held via Zoom on Thursday, April 22nd from 5:00pm-6:00pm.
		2. They will be incorporating survivors speaking, virtual breakout rooms, a vigil and the clothesline.
		3. Details and registration information will be sent to Marcy for distribution.
	3. Amy Bocks
		1. Statewide National Crime Victims’ Rights Week event will be held virtually this year on Monday, April 19th at noon.
	4. Marc Tetzlaff, HIS
		1. Marc is working with a Federal victim who is currently in inpatient counseling treatment. Victim Compensation is covering $5,000 of the cost but the family is in need of additional financial resources to continue her treatment.
		2. Discussion of AHCCCS.
		3. Laura Mandt suggested that the family contact the facility and find out if they offer any financial assistance/pro bono programs.
		4. Amy Bocks suggested faith based agencies as several have branched out into crisis services.
		5. If anyone has another idea after the meeting please send it to Marc or Amy.
	5. Mimi Kaplan, Shelter Without Walls
		1. They are currently providing 95% of their services remotely and are doing everything they can under pandemic restrictions.
3. **Next Meeting**
	1. May 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. and will likely be held virtually. The conference room at the Family Advocacy Center has been reserved in the event that in person meetings can begin.
4. **Adjournment –** Meeting was adjourned by Amy Bocks at 10:48 a.m.