



Arizona Coalition for Victim Services (ACVS)

Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2017

2120 N Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

- I. **Call to Order:** Debbie Olsen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:08 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	Marc Tetzlaff, Homeland Security
Amy Palmisano, EMPACT	Melissa Brickhouse-Thomas, Glendale Police
Beckie Miller, POMC	Mimi Kaplan, JFCS Shelter
Carolee Holbrook, POMC Volunteer	Patty Abeyta-Young, MADD
Connie Chapman, AVAA	Randall Udelman, AZ Crime Victims Law Inst.
Danielle Langel, ACASI	Sarah Armbrust, Glendale Fire Dept.
Debbie Olsen, Yavapai County Attorney	Stephanie Smith, Peoria Police Dept.
Debra Olson, Southwest Family Advocacy	Sylvia Conchos, FBI- Phoenix
Denise Lundin, AZ Supreme Court	Thea Walsh, ACESDV
Dorinda Johns, ACJC	Tracey Wilkinson, Scottsdale Police Dept.
Gina Winn, Glendale Police Dept.	Vanessa Helms, Pima County Attorney
Jaquel Moody, AZ Dept. of Corrections	
Julie Williams, Maricopa County Attorney	
Kennesha Jackson, AZ Attorney General	

III. **Approval of September Minutes:** Kennesha Jackson made a Motion to approve the September Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Beckie Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. **Southwest Family Advocacy Center:** Debbie Olsen introduced Chris Panneton, Prevention Coordinator, and Kim Escobedo, Victim Advocate, with the Southwest Family Advocacy Center (SWFAC). Several handouts from SWFAC were provided to all present.

- The mission of the Southwest Family Advocacy Center is to reduce the trauma of interpersonal violence through a multi-disciplinary collaboration.
- The SWFAC collaborates with law enforcement from the City of Goodyear, City of Avondale, City of Buckeye and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office; the Department of Child Safety; Phoenix Children's Hospital; Honor Health; ChildHelp; and the Maricopa County Attorney's Office regarding investigation, treatment, management and prosecution of interpersonal violent crimes.

- Chris played Katy's Story video and asked the members what impact the story had on them.
- Kim explained her role as a Victim Advocate for SWFAC. She helps to ease the family's anxiety by letting them know what to expect. She informs parents about the criminal justice process, victim compensation program and victims' rights. She conducts crisis assessments, safety planning and provides resources and wrap around services including forensic interview, medical exams, trauma therapy, and counseling. Chris explained the facility and room descriptions.
- VOCA funds two therapists and private insurance is accepted. Services can be provided for as long as is necessary.
- The vision of prevention education is to work directly with surrounding communities in the west valley to raise awareness and prevent child sexual and physical abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assault. Prevention education can be provided to: children, school staff and volunteers, leaders and supervisors, parent groups/PTA, faith based organizations, youth serving organizations, sports organizations, child care providers, businesses and public and community events.
- 2016 Statistics: 5,500 clients served since 2008; 832 clients involved in cases investigated in just 2016.
 - 78% of victims were children
 - 67% of victims were girls under the age of 18
 - 96% of offenders were parents, step parents, relatives or parent's dating partner
- Chris suggested members view a documentary called The Mask You Live In, which is available on Netflix and explores the harmful notions of masculinity in American culture.
- Stephanie Smith asked if SWFAC therapists can help victims from other jurisdictions. Yes they can, however, there is a 2 to 3 month waiting list.

V. Vice Chair and Treasurer Nominations:

- Amy Bocks advised that she updated the membership roster, indicating those agencies that have paid their FY2018 dues. Amy asked members to check the list as only those who have paid are eligible to vote.
- Debbie Olsen explained to the members that due to other commitments, Angela Rose is no longer able to continue as Treasurer. However, she is willing to continue until we get a replacement. Debbie asked if there was anyone present who was interested in running for Treasurer; there was no one. Debbie asked members to consider his opportunity and to contact Angela Rose if they are interested in the position.
- Beckie Miller asked about the details of the Treasurer's position.
- Connie Chapman gave a brief overview of the Treasurer's duties: Review the income taxes, works closely with the relocation committee, bank deposits and reports to the Chair.
- Amy Bocks agreed to run for the Vice Chair position. Debbie Olsen asked if there were any others who were interested; there were none.
- A vote was taken and Amy Bocks was unanimously voted in as the Vice Chair for another term.

VI. 2017 Legislative Priorities:

- a. Arizona Attorney General's Office:** Kennesha Jackson advised that there is nothing to report at this time.
- b. Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence:** Thea Walsh reported on the following legislative priorities for ACESDV:
 - Terminating parental rights of rapists. Current statute requires a conviction in order for parental rights to be terminated. ACESDV is proposing the removal of the conviction requirement.
 - Establish Sexual Violence State Funding. Arizona has a Domestic Violence line item but there is currently no state funding for sexual violence.
 - ACESDV has been supporting ACJC's work on revamping/improving the Order of Protection (OOP) process. An automated process is being considered, wherein law enforcement will have immediate access to OOPs and can serve as soon as contact is made with the party.
 - A short Legislative Session is anticipated.

VII. Updates from ACESDV: Thea Walsh advised of the following:

- ACESDV has two Policy Coordinators – one focusing on Domestic Violence (Thea Walsh) and one focusing on Sexual Violence (Jason Vail Cruz). Jason's contact information is Jason@acesdv.org 602-279-2900 x413.
- The Annual Advocacy Day at the Capitol is being planned and additional information will be forthcoming.
- There have been no cuts to DV funding, but there has been a shift in focus. DV shelters are still receiving the most money, followed by community-based advocacy.
- More programs are receiving Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA).
- Domestic Violence Related Fatalities: Each year ACESDV tracks DV related deaths. So far it is estimated that since January 1, 2017 there have been at least 80 deaths throughout the state of Arizona. Historically, each year there are 100-135 deaths so this year is not looking any different.

VIII. Grant Sources Updates:

- a. VRP:** Kennesha Jackson reported the following:
 - The FY18 Victims' Rights Program second installment will be disbursed in January 2018.
 - The Attorney General's Office is currently preparing for the FY19 grant period. FY19 Performance reviews will be issued in January.
 - Agencies are encouraged to utilize all VRP funds awarded to them. However, if vacancy savings for FY18 is anticipated, agencies should submit a budget modification request form.
 - Please refer to the Victims' Rights Training schedule online for a list of dates. The next Basic and Advanced training will be held November 29, 2017 and November 30, 2017 in Tucson, AZ. To request training in your area please visit <https://www.azag.gov/victim-services/victims-rights-training-schedule>.

b. ACJC: Dorinda Johns reported the following:

- The ACJC Victim's Committee met on November 1st to discuss funding priorities for the FY19 Victim Assistance grant application process. No recommendations were made at that meeting, but they did request further exploration on the following areas: VOCA assistance ineligible activities, training, and options for covering those programs that have VOCA eligible projects but cannot apply until the next VOCA grant application period, which is expected to be over 2 years from now.
- The committee will meet again on January 9th to create their recommendation, which will then be presented to the full commission on January 18th.
- ACJC is expecting to open the grant application process at the end of January or beginning of February (It was later confirmed with Larry Grubbs that the tentative date for opening the grant application is February 2, 2018).
- The Victim Compensation and Victim Assistance proposed rules are drafted and currently open for public comment. The public comment period closes after a public meeting to be held on December 7th at 9:30 AM at 1110 W. Washington in suite 250. The rules are to be submitted to the Governor's Regulatory Review Committee (GRRC) for the next level of approval and it is anticipated that the new rules will be implemented sometime in the Spring.

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

- Human Trafficking Training was held November 6, 2017; 97% said the training exceeded their expectations, 94% said the training was relevant to their work with victims. The keynote speaker, Jessa Dillow-Crisp, was an inspiration to keep advocating and finding any and every way possible to help and support victims and survivors. She had very important and up-to-date information and was a very dynamic speaker. Detective Russo's presentation and knowledge was incredibly helpful in getting a peek into a pimp's work and life.
- Neurobiology of Trauma Training is scheduled for February 13-14, 2018 at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix. The cost for two days is \$50.00. Hotel rooms are available free of charge. Attendance will be limited to 100. Registration will be open soon.
- A Basic Academy will be held in August 2018 in Flagstaff and the cost will be \$125 for the week. Hotel rooms will be free of charge.
- Leadership Training is being planned for June 2018.

X. Committee Reports:

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

- Copies of the ACVS By-Laws and Operational Guidelines were provided and members were asked to review them before the January 17, 2018 meeting, when they will be voted upon. She pointed out that the Executive Committee has made some proposed changes (Section 2.E of the Operational Guidelines and Article IV paragraph B.2 of the By-Laws)

- Amy Bocks will serve two more years as Vice Chair.
- The meeting dates for 2018 have been set and a handout provided. Those dates are: January 17, March 21, May 23, July 18, September 19, and November 21. Please remember that parking in the Family Advocacy Center garage is prohibited. Parking is available in the lot at the end of the street.

b. Treasurer's Report: Debbie Olsen reported the following account balances:

- ACVS, \$17,156.94
- AVAA, \$37,558.95
- Relocation, \$456.53

ACVS fund increased due to membership drive and AVAA funds increased due to VOCA deposit.

c. Membership Committee: Amy Bocks reported:

- There are currently 42 members. Some longstanding member agencies have yet to renew.
- Let Amy know if your agency is waiting for VOCA funds to pay dues.

d. Relocation Committee: Tracy Wilkinson advised that one application was received from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office and is pending.

e. Website Committee: Amy Bocks let members know that the 2018 meeting dates are on the website, as are the handouts for today's meeting from the Southwest Family Advocacy Center.

XI. New Business/Open Forum:

- Vanessa Helms is now the head of Victim Services at the Pima County Attorney's Office.
- Tracy Wilkinson advised that the Scottsdale Family Advocacy Center is holding a Toy Drive, and are also looking for cell phones.
- Sylvia Conchos thanked everyone who assisted with the rescue operation for trafficking victims.
- Mimi Kaplan relayed that Sojourner Center and Jewish Family and Children's Service (JCFS) have entered in to an affiliative agreement that enhances both organizations. Sojourner Center is now a subsidiary of JFCS. This agreement ensures the future services of Sojourner Center, which decided to combine with a larger, stable organization with a shared vision, culture and long-term commitment to serving victims of domestic violence. Based on that shared vision, both organizations found it to be an easy decision. Sojourner Center maintains its 501 (c) 3 status and its identity in the community. Added to the community-based, comprehensive wrap around advocacy, case management and therapy services already provided by Shelter Without Walls since 1998, JFCS is now able to offer a full continuum of care to victims of domestic violence, including the excellent crisis shelter and transitional housing that Sojourner has become known for over their 40

years of service to the community. Both Sojourner and Shelter Without Walls are operating 'business as usual' and maintaining all of our programs and services under the JFCS umbrella!

XII. Next Meeting: January 17, 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 11:44 a.m.