



Arizona Coalition for Victim Services (ACVS)

Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2018

2120 N Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

- I. **Call to Order:** Debbie Olsen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.
- II. **Welcome and Introductions:** Debbie Olsen welcomed everyone and reminded them to please sign the sign-in sheet.

Alex Palactos, AZ Dept. of Corrections	Jan Upchurch, AZ Dept. of Corrections
Amy Bocks, AZ Attorney General	Jaquel Moody, AZ Dept. of Corrections
Amy Palmisano, EMPACT	Katie Osselaer, Phoenix FAC
Ana Rodriguez, Mesa City Prosecutor	Kennesha Jackson, AZ Attorney General
Ashleigh Canfield, EMPACT	Kiley Schneider, MADD
Beckie Miller, POMC	Lois Rees, Yavapai County Attorney
Bob Steward, Prescott Valley Police Dept.	Marc Tetzlaff, HIS Phoenix
Carla Uyeda, AZ Dept. of Public Safety	Marcy Morales, AZ DCS
Carolee Holbrook, POMC	Melissa Brickhouse-Thomas, Glendale Police
Connie Chapman, AVAA	Mimi Kaplan, JCFS Shelter
Dan Levey, AZ Crime Victims Rights Law Grp	Natalie Gruner, Phoenix City Prosecutor
Daniel Torrez, AZ Dept. of Corrections	Ruby Barraza, ACESDV
Danielle Langel, ACASI	Stephanie Smith, Peoria Police Dept.
Debbie Olsen, Yavapai County Attorney	Tony Bidonde, Maricopa Adult Probation
Denise Lundin, AZ Supreme Court	Vanessa Helms, Pima County Attorney
Gina Winn, Glendale Police Dept.	

III. **Approval of September Minutes:** Kennesha Jackson made a Motion to approve the September 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Beckie Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. **Voting on ACVS Secretary & Chair:** Debbie Olsen advised that Amy Bocks from the Attorney General's Office, who is currently the ACVS Vice Chair, is interested in the Chair position. Debbie asked if anyone present was also interested; no one responded. Amy informed the group about her professional career and community involvement.

Debbie Olsen announced that Lois Rees, Yavapai County Victim Services Division Chief, is interested in the Secretary position. She asked if there was anyone else

present who was also interested; no one responded. Lois informed the group about her professional career.

Voting was done by ballot and Amy Bocks was unanimously selected as Chair and Lois Rees was unanimously selected as Secretary. Their terms are for two years beginning in January 2019.

Debbie Olsen advised that now that the Vice Chair position will be open, anyone interested is encouraged to contact Amy Bocks to gain more information and discuss the required duties.

V. Arizona Department of Corrections Victim Offender Dialogue Program. Daniel Torrez provided the following information regarding the new Victim Offender Dialogue Program (VOD):

- The Program provides an opportunity for eligible victim/survivors to meet with an offender face-to-face in a safe and secure environment, with the assistance of a trained facilitator.
- The Program is strictly victim-initiated, victim-driven and victim-sensitive.
- The Program is a way for victims of violent crime to be empowered and move forward in their healing journey. Other crimes may be included in the future, but the Program is initially focusing on violent crimes.
- Each VOD is individualized and requires extensive preparation, sometimes taking between 6 months to one year before the face-to-face meeting.
- Inmates do not receive any benefit for participating in the VOD Program and must be at least five years post-conviction.
- Offenders must take accountability for their actions. However, if they do not, the victim can still choose to engage in a VOD.
- Any victims interested in participating in the VOD Program should contact the Arizona Department of Corrections at azvictims@azcorrections.gov or Daniel at dtorrez@azadc.gov.

VI. Legislative Priorities

a. Arizona Attorney General's Office: Kennesha Jackson announced that anyone having legislation they would like reviewed and supported by the Attorney General's Office should contact Kennesha Jackson (Kennesha.jackson@azag.gov) or Kirstin Flores (Kirsten.flores@azag.gov).

b. Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence: Ruby Barraza highlighted the following:

- The Policy Team is gearing up for the legislative session and has been working on issues surrounding Title IX, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) reauthorization, public charge, and asylum seekers.
- A survey will be distributed soon regarding legislative agenda topics.

VII. Updates from ACESDV: Ruby Barraza provided the following update:

- The Sharing Experience: From Violence in our Lives to Peace in Our Community is being held November 26 – 30, 2018. This is scheduled again for February and April 2019.

- Four Sexual Violence Core Advocacy Trainings are scheduled for 2019.
- The Domestic Violence Department is working with the ASU School of Social Work on creating an online Domestic Violence Certificate course for Spring 2019.
- The Department of Public Safety has established a new tracking system for sexual assault kits which allows victims to track the status of the testing of the sample.
- ACESDV hired a Helpline Manager, Danielle Wright, and a bilingual Victim Services Specialist, Nora Espino.
- ACESDV received a BARC grant which assists victims with their healing journey through the use of pets.
- Advocacy Day at the Capitol is February 25, 2019.
- The Thrive Gala will be held at the Scottsdale Resort at McCormick Ranch May 11, 2019.
- Jackson's Car Wash is sponsoring a Gift of Peace campaign now through December 25, 2018. You can purchase a dove and the owner of Jackson's will match the donation.

VIII. Grant Sources Updates:

- a. **VRP:** Kennesha Jackson reported the following:
 - The FY2019 VRP second installment will be distributed in January 2019.
 - The Attorney General's Office is currently preparing for FY2020. Performance Reviews will be issued in January.
 - Agencies anticipating vacancy savings in FY2019 should submit a budget modification request form.
 - Review of the FY2018 Annual Reports has been completed. In FY 2018 the VRP served 457,432 victims and provided 3,844,345 victim rights' services.
 - The Attorney General's Office is soliciting nominations for the 2019 Distinguished Service Awards. Nominations are due January 18, 2019 and winners will be recognized during National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 7-13, 2019. Kennesha provided a Nomination Form.
 - Kennesha advised that the Victims' Rights Training schedule is available online at <https://www.azag.gov/victim-services/victims-rights-training-schedule>. A new trainer has been hired for Tucson. Additionally, victims' rights trainings will be held monthly in Maricopa County at the Attorney General's Office.
- b. **ACJC:** No one from the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission was present.
- c. **DPS VOCA:** Carla Uyeda advised that the federal EEO system is not yet available for sub-grantees.

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

- Leadership/Management Training is being considered for June 2019 at the Desert Willow Conference Center. A limited number of hotel rooms will be available. Ideas for content should be provided to Connie at avaaacademy@gmail.com.
- The Basic Academy in January 2019 is being held at the Black Canyon Conference Center is full. There are several people on the waiting list and they will be given preference for the next Basic Academy, which will be held in July/August 2019.

- Dr. Wilson's Neurobiology of Trauma training will be held February 28, 2019 at the Desert Willow Conference Center. There are 137 registered participants with a capacity of 175. Cost is \$75.00 and a limited number of hotel rooms are available free of charge.
- NOVA is holding a conference in Phoenix in July 2019 and is interested in partnering with ACVS.

X. Committee Reports:

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

- The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family is looking for five ACVS members to attend the Arizona Human Trafficking Symposium January 18, 2019 from 9am – 4pm at the Burton Barr Central Phoenix Library. They would also like one of those individuals to be on a panel. The following members expressed an interest in attending: Marcy Morales, Jaquel Moody, Kennesha Jackson, Bob Steward and Amy Bocks. They wanted more information, however, before deciding about becoming a panel member. Debbie said she would get more information and let them know.
- Debbie thanked the membership for allowing her to be the Chair for the past 3½ years.

b. Treasurer's Report: Gina Winn reported the following account balances:

- ACVS, \$17,582.40 (increased due to member dues)
- AVAA, -\$12,120.70 (awaiting VOCA funding)
- Relocation, \$1,421.83

c. Membership Committee: Amy Bocks reported that 45 membership renewals have been received.

d. Relocation Committee: Gina Winn advised that there have been no new requests since the last meeting. Work is being done to the application form to include the ACVS email address so that applications can be received more timely.

e. Website Committee: Amy Bocks reported that the website is up-to-date. She noted that information regarding the availability of designating ACVS as a recipient through Amazon Smile has been posted on the website.

XI. New Business/Open Forum:

- Dan Levey announced that he has been consulting with the National Center for Victims of Crime concerning the National Compassion Fund. This fund provides financial resources to victims of national mass violence. One hundred percent of the funds raised goes directly to victims and are considered gifts to them. The financial assistance is not considered a collateral source as it pertains to the Victim Compensation Program.

- Amy Palmisano reported that La Frontera EMPACT will be holding their Take Back the Night event April 5, 2019. Contact Amy if you are interested in being on the planning committee, which is meeting November 30, 2018.
- Marc Tetzlaff announced that four new offices are opening across the country. Anyone interested should go to USAjobs.gov and search for Social Service Program Specialist.
- Jan Upchurch advised that the Department of Corrections now has four Victim Advocates and a Victim Advocate Assistant. One of these Advocates is working specifically with victims whose offender is on Community Supervision. Current staffing will allow them to better serve victims.
- Beckie Miller asked if anyone could assist with an issue she is experiencing with Excel. Jaquel Moody volunteered to help.
- Stephanie Smith reported that the Peoria Police Department has hired three victim assistance positions through VOCA. This will allow them to further develop and expand the unit. It will also enable them to ride in the Crisis Response Victim Assistance Van.

XII. Next Meeting: January 16, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at the Phoenix Family Advocacy Center, 2120 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ. A handout listing of all 2019 meeting dates was provided.

XIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.