



Arizona Coalition for Victim Services (ACVS)
 Meeting Minutes
September 15, 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	Kennesha Jackson, VRP AGO
Amy Bocks, Attorney General's Office	Latisha Joseph, Pinal County Attorney's Office
Amy Palmisano, EMPACT	Laura Lopez, Maricopa County Attorney's Office
Antony Bidonde, Maricopa County Adult Probation	Lindsey Kircher, City of Mesa Prosecutor
Ashtyn Buechler, Attorney General's Office	Lois Rees, Yavapai County Attorney's Office
Becca White, Honor Health	Melissa Brickhouse Thomas, Glendale PD
Diana Imperial, Scottsdale PD	Nancy Larsen, Pinal County Attorney's Office
Dorinda Johns, ACJC	Sylvia Conchos, FBI
Gretchen McClellan-Singh, ADCRR	Tina Ashelford, Mohave County Attorney Victim Services
Heather Harpest, Defenders of Children	Tracy Wilkinson, Scottsdale PD
Holly Stokes, LSCVA	Virginia Rodriguez, Pima County Attorney Victim Services
Isela Devora, Mesa City Prosecutor	Yaritza Aguilar, Pima County Attorney's Office
Jamie Balson, LSCVA	

II. Welcome and Introductions

III. Approval of March Meeting Minutes

- a. No comments or corrections.
- b. Motion to approve by Kennesha Jackson, 2nd by Adam Gendreau
- c. Minutes were approved via hand raise reaction function – 11 yes votes out of 18 voting members.

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

V. Updates from ACESDV, Jamie Aragon - Not Present



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

- a. VRP – Kennesha Jackson, Arizona Attorney General's Office:
 - i. FY 2022 Funding Update: Award agreements have been issued and funding will be disbursed upon receipt of signed award agreements. We anticipate that Funding will be distributed in two payments throughout the fiscal year. We are also currently in the process of reviewing FY21 annual reports and any modifications that are required will be requested in October.
 - ii. Victim Request/Waiver forms: Updated 2021/2022 R/W Forms (paper and electronic versions) have been distributed to all law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement agencies should use the new updated forms as there have been multiple changes to the information and resource sheet. We also highly recommend law enforcement agencies begin using an electronic version of the R/W form, if you are able to implement the electronic form into your system.
 - iii. Victims' Rights Education: Outreach and education presentations will continue to be conducted via webinar. Please note that the new Advanced training curriculum and updated Basic will be available starting October 2021. For more information on the schedule, to register, or to request a private presentation for your office please contact OVSTraining@azag.gov. The Advanced training will focus on Capital crimes.
- b. .ACJC – Dorinda Johns:
 - i. ACJC is continuing to address revenue decline to funds.
 - ii. The Victim Assistance Grant solicitation period will be in late January or early February.
 - iii. An announcement came out today that the Governor's Office awarded ACJC and additional \$1.2 million in American Rescue Plan funds to support the Crime Victim Compensation Program.
- c. VOCA – Not Present
- d. DES – Not Present
- e. DHS – Not Present

VII. Membership Discussion on ACVS Relocation Committee

- a. Amy Bocks shared that the Relocation fund is now in a negative balance due to several approved relocations recently. Amy opened the discussion to how to move forward with funding and with a possible restructuring of the committee and/or process.
- b. Funding comes from the cell phone donation program and Amazon Smile. The rules allow for \$50 of an agency membership to be allocated to Relocation but with membership renewals down that action would not be fiscally responsible at this time.
- c. Tracy Wilkinson shared the history of the Relocation program for attendees. It came under ACVS in 2007; the program has received several grants from various sources in the past.
- d. City of Scottsdale has 4 boxes of cell phones for donation and they will do a drive during DV Awareness Month in October.



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- e. The Relocation Committee welcomes any new members and Tracy shared that it is not a labor intensive position. Tracy reviewed the staffing process in general. Several people have been contacted regarding their interest to join the committee.
- f. Amy Bocks shared that she has heard it can be difficult for some members/advocates to reach two committee members in a timely manner to staff cases. The application form was made fillable to help expedite that part of the process.
- g. Becca White shared that she has worked with a victim who received funds and it was a blessing to that victim to be able to move away from her offender. Becca felt the process was very easy for her and the victim.
- h. Tracy Wilkinson described the process for the cell phone donations – there are FedEx labels that you use to send any phone, iPad or tablet. The amount received will depend on the type of device and the funds are received by ACVS within a few weeks along with an inventory. Tracy recommends that people review the website for directions on how to remove their data and that everyone is responsible for their own data security. <https://smartphonerecycling.com/>
- i. Isela Devora suggests that there is more structure in the process to be able to respond more timely. She had to overnight funds recently that resulted in the negative Relocation Fund balance.
- j. Lindsey Kircher shared that she felt the form was too simple and led to a number of back and forth questions that might be better included on the form and answered up front to expedite the process.
 - i. Diana Imperial shared in the chat: *Maybe in the form, have two questions/space that indicates a response for agency & position and if they are unable to answer to enter information into that field they cannot continue with the form/request?*
- k. Sylvia Conchos shared that she has been on the Relocation Committee for a number of years. She finds that it is successful and for the most part decisions are made timely.
- l. Amy Bocks shared that the guidelines need to be reviewed and the website needs to be updated and there should be a review of the application and other forms.
- m. Isela Devora mentioned that there could be an email set up specifically for Relocation requests that would go to all members to ensure a timely response to avoid paying extra fees to overnight funds. Sylvia shared that her agency would cover the fees for overnight shipping but Isela and Lindsey feel those charges should come out of ACVS Relocation funds and not put agencies or advocates in that position.
- n. Tracy Wilkinson shared that in some cases she worked with Emerge who made the payment up front and ACVS reimbursed them.
- o. Gretchen McClellan-Singh inquired about whether Venmo or Zelle could be used in some way. Tracy shared that they did not want funds to do directly to the victim for various reasons.
- p. Jamie Balson shared that her agency can help by hosting a form online to allow for easier applications. Amy said they could look into that but didn't want just anyone from the public to be able to submit a form online.
- q. Kennesha Jackson shared that the Red Cross has an on-call process where the staff have set prepaid cards to distribute.



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- r. Amy Palmissano shared that she has utilized the Relocation funds in the past and it is a small but mighty program that is very important. The funding issue seems to be a bigger issue. Amy Bocks indicated they could look into possible grant funds, SECC, promoting Amazon Smile, Giving Tuesday, etc.
 - i. Ashtyn Buechler shared in the chat: *I'm not sure how this works, but is there any way to get tax donations directed that way, similar to how you can give to certain schools/classrooms/etc.?*
- s. Heather Harpest shared that her organization, Defenders of Children, may have limited prepaid cards (Walmart, Fry's, etc.) that might be able to be used to help support the Relocation Program.
- t. Tracy and Amy discussed putting out a message to members to create a workgroup to discuss all of these ideas and options and how to move forward with funding and the process.

VIII. Arizona Victim Assistance Academy (AVAA) – Report by Isela Devora

- a. Basic Academy was held in August in Flagstaff, 38 people attended and it went well. Another Basic Academy will be set in January but there are no dates yet.
- b. An Advanced Academy is being discussed for November but no dates yet.
- c. Four MAP trainings were held in July and August and an average of 25 people attended each. Another MAP training is set for October 21st for the Yavapai County Attorney's Office.
- d. If you want to request a MAP training go to the ACVS website and fill out the form to email to Connie Chapman.

IX. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Board Report – Amy Bocks
 - i. Elections for the Vice Chair and Treasurer positions will be held at the November meeting. If you are interested or have questions reach out to Amy, Isela, or Gretchen.
- b. Treasurer's Report – Isela Devora as of August 31st, 2021
 - i. ACVS: \$21,195.87
 1. ACVS had an increase due to grant funds being dispersed
 - ii. AVAA: \$2,904.81
 1. AVAA had a decrease due to recent academy costs in August.
 - iii. Relocation: -\$39.34
 1. Relocation has decreased. 4 applications were recently approved. Negative balance is due to expedited mailing costs used due to the timely nature of the requests.
 - iv. TOTAL: \$24,061.34
- c. Membership Committee – Amy Bocks
 - i. Membership is down so please renew if interested. If your finance department is submitting payment please have them indicate which specific department the payment is for to allow for easier tracking.



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- ii. If you have questions about whether or not your agency has paid you can check with Amy.
- iii. If your agency needs an invoice please contact Amy.
- d. Relocation Committee – Tracy Wilkinson - Discussed under VII.
- e. Website Committee – Amy Bocks
 - i. If anyone has events or announcements for website contact a member of the Executive Committee.

X. New Business/Open Forum

- i. Amy Bocks reminded attendees that Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month are coming up. There was an announcement sent last week for the Human Trafficking event in Pima County in October.
- ii. Tony Bidonde shared that his department is working on implementation of a new process resulting from SB1412, Kayleigh’s Law, where a victim can request that an offender be served with an OOP prior to the end of their probation term.
- iii. Tracy Wilkinson shared that there are two ARS updates taking effect this month, ARS §13-2916 and ARS §13-4434. See the expanded definitions to 13-2916 Use of Electronic Communication and 13-4434 Victims Right to Privacy.
- iv. Gretchen McClellan-Singh shared that SB 1067 goes into effect on October 1st. This makes inmates with domestic violence, aggravated assault and/or robbery charges eligible for up to 90 days early release to a transition program. Victims have the option to request that the ADCRR Director deny the early release but that may put victims in a difficult position.

XI. Next Meeting

- a. November 17, 2021 at 10:00 am, likely on Zoom but possibly in person at the FAC with a virtual option.

XII. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned by Amy Bocks at 11:41 a.m.