



# Arizona Coalition for Victim Services (ACVS)

## Meeting Minutes

**September 21, 2016**

2120 N Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

- I. **Call to Order:** Debbie Olsen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 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.

### Members Present

Amy Bocks, AZ Attorney General	Erin Yabu, City of Phoenix
Amy Palmisano, EMPACT	Jaquel Moody, AZ Dept. of Corrections
Angela Rose, City of Scottsdale	Jennifer Suftko, Glendale Police Dept.
Beckie Miller, POMC	Julie Williams, Maricopa County Attorney
Candice Hewitt, Phoenix FAC	Kennesha Jackson, AZ Attorney General
Carolee Holbrook, POMC	Larry Grubs, ACJC
Connie Chapman, AVAA	Melissa Rhodes, ACASI/NAU
Debbie Olsen, Yavapai County Attorney	Patty Abeyta-Young, MADD
Connie Clase, AZ Voice for Crime Victims	Stephanie Smith, Peoria Police Dept.
Denise Lundin, AZ Supreme Court	Tony Bidone, Maricopa Adult Probation

- III. **Approval of July Minutes:** The July meeting minutes were approved as drafted with no requested edits/corrections.
- IV. **Presentation on the Arizona Voice for Crime Victims, Colleen Clase:** Colleen Clase, Senior Attorney with Arizona Voice for Crime Victims (AVCV) advised that they are a non-profit organization with the vision to establish a compassionate justice system in which crime victims are informed of their rights, fully understand those rights, know how to assert their rights, have a meaningful way to enforce those rights, and know how to seek immediate crisis intervention when they become victims of crime. The organization is comprised of three Attorneys, two Advocates, a Legal Assistant, and a Grant/Operations Manager. They represent victims across the State of Arizona in City, County, State and Federal Court. They seek out cases where Victim Rights' issues are present (e.g., speedy trial, fairness, dignity, etc.) and can be litigated. Cases must be staffed and upon acceptance, AVCV staff will file a Notice of Appearance in the case and attend court hearings and speak on behalf of the victim. They also assist with victim compensation program applications, victim impact statements and restitution.  
[www.voiceforvictims.org](http://www.voiceforvictims.org) Office: 480-600-2661  
 Mary Wallace – Victim Advocate  
 Brett Peterson – Victim Advocate

Collen Clase – Attorney  
Eric Aiken – Attorney  
Jessica Gattuso - Attorney

**V. 2016 Legislation Priorities:**

- a. Kennesha Jackson** reported that there are no legislative updates. Kennesha advised that anyone having legislative proposals they want the Attorney General's Office to review or assist with should contact Kirstin Flores or Kennesha.
- b. Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence.** No one was present from the Coalition to provide an update

**VI. Updates from ACESDV.** No one from the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence was present to provide an update.

**VII. Grant Sources Updates:**

- a. ACJC:** Larry Grubbs advised that the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission is still working through the Victim Assistance Grant; there are some changes due to new guidelines. Priorities for FY 2018 will be set by the Commission at their January 2017 meeting. Larry reported that the State Agency Coordinating Team is looking into how they fit into the victim funding stream. Beginning in January, they will solicit feedback from victim service agencies regarding gaps in service and will be trying to make grant administration a little easier.
- b. VRP:** Kennesha Jackson reported the following:
- FY 2017 Award agreements are being issued and funding will be distributed upon receipt of signed award agreements. Funding will be distributed in two payments throughout the fiscal year. They are also in the process of reviewing annual reports and any modifications that are required will be requested at the beginning of October.
  - Contact Kennesha if you have any legislation for the upcoming legislative session that you would like supported by the Attorney General's Office.
  - Victim Request/Waiver forms have been distributed to all law enforcement agencies. It is recommend that law enforcement agencies use the new forms as there have been multiple changes to the information and resource sheet.
  - Refer to the Attorney General's Office website for a list of upcoming trainings at [www.azag.gov](http://www.azag.gov). The next basic and advance training will be held on September 20th and 21st in Flagstaff and September 29th and 30th in Phoenix.
- c. DPS/VOCA:** The Department of Public Safety was unable to send a representative to the meeting as they are busy working on getting the awards finalized and announcements out.

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

- The Basic Academy held in Flagstaff in August went very well. There were 23 attendees and the overall evaluations were excellent. All of the attendees stated the Academy provided needed foundational knowledge of victim advocacy and

95% indicated the Academy met or exceeded their expectations. One attendee stated that "This has been one of the most valuable training I have attended during my career! I wish I would have attended this years ago. I appreciate the diversity in topics and the credibility of the presenters." Connie thanked all of the volunteer presenters for their continued willingness to share their knowledge.

- The joint conference between ACVS and ACESDV was attended by 170 individuals. The evaluations have not been released yet, but anecdotally it seemed to be very well received.
- Still waiting on the outcome of the VOCA training Grant application.
- Later today the group will be meeting to discuss the topics for the Arizona Prosecuting Attorney's Advisory Council (APAAC) training scheduled for March 10, 2017 in Phoenix.

#### **IX. Committee Reports:**

- a. Executive Board Report.** Debbie Olsen reported that ACVS Membership Renewals are coming in slowly. She encouraged members to check with those within their agency who are responsible for membership renewals to ensure the application for FY2017 is submitted. Debbie advised that the Executive Committee is seeking ideas for future guest speakers at ACVS meetings; anyone with a suggestion should contact an Executive Committee member.
- b. Treasurer's Report.** Angela Rose reported the following account balances: ACVS, \$16,909.05. AVAA, \$37,329.67. Relocation, \$437.53. She also noted that there are still some outstanding costs associated with the joint conference with ACESDV.
- c. Relocation Committee.** There was no new information to report.
- d. Website Committee.** Amy Bocks reported that she will be meeting with former Vice-Chair Tiffany Copp to receive training on and access to email/websites/etc. Amy will then be making updates to the ACVS website. Let Amy know if you have any suggestions for updates to the website.

#### **X. New Business/Open Forum:**

- Parents of Murdered Children will hold their National Day of Remembrance September 24, 2016 at Encanto Park beginning at 5:00pm.
- The Governor's Office is sponsoring the Light the Capital Purple event October 3, 2016.
- The Governor's Office and the APAAC will be sponsoring training on Trauma Informed Care October 3, 2016.

**XIII. Next Meeting:** will be held November 16, 2016 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.