



Arizona Coalition for Victim Services (ACVS)
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2024
 Virtual Meeting –via Zoom

I. Call to Order – Amy Bocks

a. Meeting was conducted virtually on March 20th via Zoom and called to order 10:02am.

Attendees

Ryan Clark, AGO OVS, State Victims' Rights Compliance Administrator	Jacqueline Lopez, Pinal County Attorney's Offices, Victim Services, ACVS Vice Chair
Amy Bocks, AGO OVS, Assistant Director and Advocate Program Manager, ACVS Chair	Erica Williams, LSCVA, Program Coordinator, ACVS Secretary
Renee Werner, MCSO, Victim Notification Unit	Antonio Coronado, Innovation for Justice (DVLA)
Carla Uyeda, DPS VOCA	Rachel Crisler, Innovation for Justice (HSLA)
Tracey Wilkinson, Scottsdale PD	Lindsey Kircher, Mesa City Prosecutor's Office
Stacy Rodriguez, Yavapai County Attorney's Office	Jamie Balson, LSCVA, Founding Attorney and Executive Director
Diana Gansle, Mesa City Prosecutor's Office, Victim Services	Kevin Mattingly, Phoenix Family Advocacy Center, Director
Ashtyn Buechler, NCVC, Program Manager	Andreah Gomez, ACESDV
Veronica Driz, AGO OVS, State Victims' Rights Education Administrator	Tina Ashelford, Mohave County Attorney, Victim Services
Connie Chapman, AVAA	Patricia Abayta-Young, Avondale PD
Eva Salazar, Yuma County Attorney's Office, Victim Services	Kendall Maier, AGO OVS, State Victims' Rights Funding Administrator
Patricia Abeyta-Young, Avondale PD	Kate McClary, DPS VOCA
Amy Palisano, La Frontera/EMPACT, Trauma Healing Services	Melissa Brickhouse Thomas, Glendale PD, Victim Assistance Unit Manager
Renee Gronski, City of Surprise, Victims Rights Supervisor	Jennifer Heisig, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, Victim Services Assistant Division Chief
Daniel Torrez, NCVC, Deputy Director of the Center for Victim Service Professionals	Colleen Clase, AVCV, Chief Counsel and Chief Executive Officer
Emily Caron, Gilbert PD, Victim Advocate	

II. Welcome and Introductions, 10:02am

III. Approval of January 2024 Meeting Minutes

a. No corrections, 1st motion to accept Tina Ashelford, 2nd by Jacqueline Lopez

IV. Presentation by Antonio Coronado and Rachel Crisler from Innovation for Justice (iJ4)

- a. Community Legal Education in Arizona
 - i. Domestic Violence Legal Advocates (DVLA)



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1. Upskilling trauma-informed lay legal advocates at a DV service provider with the ability to give limited-scope legal advice on protective orders and family law
 - a. Authorization by AZ Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2024-35
 - b. AZ Supreme Court Rule 31 on Unauthorized Practice of Law if modified to allow for this initiative
 - c. DVLA's are still lay legal advocates; their legal services are exempt from UPL enforcement
2. AZ Scope of Service:
 - a. Provide legal info and legal advice at Intake
 - b. Support completing court forms and other filings
 - c. Hearing and medication preparation
 - d. Support during court hearings
3. DVLA Application: bit.ly/dvlaexpansion
- ii. Housing Stability Legal Advocates (HSLA)
 1. Upskilling front line staff at community-based organizations to give limited-scope legal advice to community members experiencing housing instability
 - a. Authorization by the AZ Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2024-34
 - b. AZ Supreme Court Rule 31 on Unauthorized Practice of Law is modified to allow for this initiative
 - c. HSLA's are still community-based advocates; their legal services are exempt from UPL enforcement
 2. AZ Scope of Service:
 - a. Provide legal info and legal advice at Intake
 - b. Provide pre-eviction support
 - c. Provide pre-court support
 - d. Support during hearings
 - e. Post-eviction support
 3. HSLA Application: bit.ly/hslaexpansion
- iii. Qualifications for both programs:
 1. US Citizen
 2. 18+ years or older
 3. Moral Character Assessment
 4. High School Diploma/GED
 5. Employment or Volunteer Service with an Approved Organization
 6. Completion of iJ4 course
 7. Passing grade on AOC Certifying Exam
 8. In addition to above qualifications, for DVLA only must have 2,000 Hours of Lay Legal Advocacy experience
- iv. Questions:



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1. Amy Bocks – Is there a list of local agencies with legal advocates available?
 - a. They are revamping the website to have map of where attorney mentors and advocates are, list will also be available on the AOC's website, reach out to i4J in the meantime
 - b. Currently looking for mentors (licensed attorneys) and have 40 legal advocates launching this summer
 - c. Currently DV advocates are limited to Pimp County (Emerge)
2. Eva Salazar – what does the class look like?
 - a. Free, eight weeks, all online, asynchronous and self-paced, rigorous and flexible, scheduled online Friday Zoom call
- v. For questions and or to apply to a future cohort, contact Antonio at antonio@innovation4justice.org (DVLA) or Rachel at rachel@innovation4justice.org (HSLA). For other i4J questions contact Stacy Jane at stacy@innovation4justice.org

V. Legislative Priorities – Ryan Clark, AGO (ryan.clark@azag.gov)

- a. Updates to:
 - i. SB 1371 – Prioritizing police report requests from victims and their attorneys
 - ii. SB 1671 – Clarifies restitution
 - iii. SB 1436 – Add stalking, voyeurism, and strangulation to Lifetime Injunction eligible offenses

VI. ACESDV – Andrea Gomez

- a. If you did not register for Advocacy Day, you will not be able to get in

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

- a. Kendall Maier – AGO (kendall.maier@azag.gov)
 - i. VRP Agencies:
 1. All agencies have had their FY25 Performance Reviews approved. We are waiting on notification of the AGO's budget before moving forward on opening up agencies' budget proposals for FY2025
 - ii. Education:
 1. Basic and Advanced Victims Rights presentation dates listed through June have been posted on the AGO website for open registration
 - iii. Law Enforcement:
 1. All law enforcement agencies using the statewide multi-copy RW forms had been invited to two meeting early March, where the AGO discussed that they will no longer be providing printed versions of the form and has ADOT host a TraCS demonstration. The AGO will maintain annually updating the RW form and distributing it via email to LEAs and updating in TraCS system. This is the last year (FY2024) that the AGO will be



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providing printing services. FY24 RW form orders have been open and will remain open until March 29, 2024. The discontinuation of printing will begin Sept 2024. Any problems or questions can be directed to

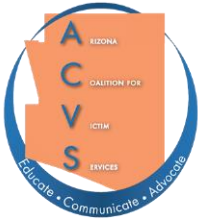
OVSVRP@azag.gov

- a. ACJC – Dorinda - djohns@azcjc.gov – not present
- b. DPS-VOCA – Carla Uyeda (cuyeda@azdps.gov)
 - i. DPS-VOCA distributed a Crime Victim Fund Discussion update on 01/23 which stated that the AZ Governor’s Executive Budget had been released and includes a recommendation of \$9.3M from the General Fund to backfill VOCA
 - ii. If approved, this would mean current DPS-VPCA subawards could be renewed in FY25 for an additional twelve-month period at approximately the same levels as FY24 subaward amounts
 - iii. Should the recommendation not be approved, current subawards could be renewed in FY25 for an additional twelve-month period at approximately 50% of the FY24 subaward amounts
 - iv. At this time, DPS is projecting a renewal award process for FY25, but it is unclear at precisely what amount or level
 - v. Invitation to apply for a renewal award will likely be send in Aril 2024
 - vi. Current subawards are approaching half-way mark of FY24. February expenditures should be near 42% and March expenditures should be near 50%. It is critical for subrecipients who are behind on spending address unutilized funds via an amendment to either reprogram or reduce the budget
 - vii. March financial report is due 04/15
 - viii. Site visits continuing, Civil Rights Compliance reviews continuing
 - ix. June 30 deadline, if you are realizing that you have currently have unutilized funds, make those changes now. You might hear from coordinator if you are behind on spending.
- c. GOYFF – not present
- d. DES – not present
- e. DHS – not present

VIII. Arizona Victim Assistance Academy (AVAA) – Connie Chapman

avaacademy@gmail.com; info@azcvcs.net

- a. Recently awarded 200K in ARPA funds from ACJC, which will fund 8 trainings by end of 2024 (2 Basics, 4 Advanced, 2 Leaderships with hopefully low to no cost around the state - \$25/day or free if they can find a no cost facility)
 - i. This will bring AVAA to 13 trainings in the next FY
 - ii. Since this is extra money they may not get again, they would like to travel to rural areas. Get a hold of Connie with any presentation and location suggestions, and please be willing to invite other agencies
 - iii. One Leadership in Tucson and Flagstaff
 - iv. Dates will be posting on website



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IX. Amy Bocks - Welcome new national partners, NCVC's Daniel Torrez (dtorrez@victimsofcrime.org) and Ashtyn Buechler (abuechler@victimsofcrime.org)

- a. Program offers training, technical support, and resources for victim services professionals
- b. Ashtyn currently working on grant on website that will offer 2-year grants to 10 subgrantees to build or enhance peer support programs: [Peer-to-Peer Program – The National Center for Victims of Crime](#)
- c. Tribal project – working with ASU School of Social Work to get interns to agencies that primarily serve indigenous communities, in AZ and possibly other states. Send agencies with interest in an intern to Ashtyn or Daniel
- d. Ashtyn currently working on conference on Mass Violence to take place in July, Will share info when registration becomes available
- e. National Training Institute (NTI) annual conference coming up in September in Portland, OR. Ashtyn and Amy Bocks will be presenting
- f. Sign up for NCVC newsletter on website

X. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Board Report – Chair Amy Bocks
 - i. Send presenter ideas to ex comm
 - ii. Karina taking reduced role in treasurer position, ex comm helping out in meantime, please include ex comm member or info@azcvcs.net related emails to Karina
- b. Treasurer's Report – Connie Chapman covering for Karina Aragon (not present)
 - i. Report as of December 31, 2023
 1. ACVS: \$2,234.06
 2. AVAA: - \$10,255.67 (expecting a \$13,000.00 reimbursement from VOCA)
 3. Relocation: \$782.67
 4. Bank Balance: \$12,170.00
- c. Relocation Committee – Tracey Wilkinson twilkinson@scottsdaleaz.gov or (480) 312-6306
 - i. Needs info on checks that have been picked up
 - ii. Please keep collecting phone, tablets
 - iii. Tracey to send Amy flyer and fillable receipts in case someone needs them, Amy will get them out
 - iv. They have safety concerns with Zelle and Venmo – they'll continue to give out credit/debit cards and paying vendors directly
 - v. Updated application including questions about safety planning, cleaning up and clarifying info on website
 - vi. Contact Tracey directly if questions re: collection
 - vii. Send drive info to ex comm or Tracey, we can pick up or send you a free label to send
- d. Jacqui Lopez – she is currently going through membership and sending out renewal letter to remind to renew and outreach to possible new members, send potential new members to Ex Comm (info@ACVS.net) so we can reach out



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XI. New Business/Open Forum

- a. Amy Palisano – Take Back the Night 2024 (amy.palmisano@lafrontera-empact.org)
 - i. Annual event to raise awareness about domestic and sexual violence hosted by LA Frontera/EMPACT and ASU's Sexual and Relationship Violence Program
 - ii. April 4th during day, 2:00pm – 5:00pm at ASU's Tempe Campus Student Services Lawn
 - iii. Contact Amy P. for tabling, attending, and additional information
 - iv. Flyer will be posted on AVCS website
- b. Amy Bocks – Statewide NCVRW Event
 - i. April 22 at the Orpheum Theater
 - ii. Event Registration Link: [National Crime Victims' Rights Week 2024 | Arizona Attorney General \(azag.gov\)](https://www.arizonaattorneygeneral.gov/national-crime-victims-rights-week-2024)
- c. Amy Bocks - Dany Levy's event this Saturday

XII. Next Meeting

- a. May 15th, 10:00am via Zoom.

XIII. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned by Amy Bocks at 11:19am.