



Arizona Coalition for Victim Services (ACVS)
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2023
 Virtual Meeting –via Zoom

I. Call to Order – Amy Bocks

- a. Meeting was conducted virtually on November 15th via Zoom and called to order 10:01am

Attendees

Ryan Clark, AZ AGO, Victim Services	Ashtyn Buechler, AGO OVS
Erica Williams, Victim Services Professional	Tina Ashelford, Mohave County Attorney, Victim Services
Karina Aragon, Mesa PD Victim Services	Jamie Balson, LSCVA
Dan Levy, Arizona Crime Victim Rights Law Group	Renee Werner, MCSO, Victim Assistance & Notification Unit
Jennifer Heisig, MCAO VSD	Gretchen M. Singh, AZBOEC
Samantha Weiss, AZ DES	Lindsey Kircher, Mesa City Prosecutor’s Office
Amy Bocks, AGO OVS	Laurie Kalivas, ALWAYS
Connie Chapman, AVAA	Veronica Driz, AGO OVS
Christina Wesnitzer YCAO	Lauren Barnes, AZ DES
Amy Palisano, La Frontera/EMPACT, Trauma Healing Services	Melissa Brickhouse Thomas, Glendale PD Victim Services
Colleen Clase, AVCV	Lindsay Ashworth, AZ DES
Nick Pawlowski, DCS Victim Services Unit	Bianca Harper, ACASI
Brooklyn, BACA	Kelly Jones, DA Victim Services
Grumpy, BACA	

II. Welcome

III. Approval of September 2023 Meeting Minutes

- a. Motion to approve by Tina Ashleford, 2nd by Ashtyn Buechler

IV. Presentation from Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) – Brooklyn, Brooklyn@mc-az.bacaworld.org, (602) 739-9602 and Grumpy

- a. All volunteers who pass an FBI background check and can have no history of DV or child abuse
- b. Empower children to not feel afraid of the world in which they live
- c. Mission to remove the fear
- d. 28 years, 46 states, 22 countries
- e. Presented video about process and ways in which they support children – showing up to court, supporting child when they testify, supporting until the child is no longer afraid
 - i. Remove from situation, if necessary, will not take if they are still living with the perp, not reported or child has said no, or if they are not living in fear
- f. One year eligibility to earn patch, patch allows to be a primary (contact) for a child



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- g. Referral process:
 - i. Statewide help line: (877) 235-7258 or (800) 371-9755, or go to bacaworld.org
 - ii. Ages 4-18
 - iii. Does not need an active court case for BACA to help

- V. Amy – annual elections for Treasurer and Vice Chair, terms being in Jan 2024**
 - a. Amy: 13 votes and 100% for each candidate
 - b. Shared info about Vice Chair Jacqueline Lopez
 - c. Karina Aragon reelected Treasurer

- VI. Arizona Victim Assistance Academy (AVAA) – Connie Chapman**
(avaaacademy@gmail.com; info@azcvcs.net)
 - a. Basic - Jan 15th
 - b. Advanced Dec 5th, low attendance, please register “pay later” know if you want to come (flyer: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/legal-services-for-crime-victims-acvs-advanced-academy-registration-730454036687?aff=oddtcreator>)
 - c. Leadership in Victim Services, June 11, 2024
 - i. Amy will send follow up email with links and info

- VII. Legislative Priorities**
 - a. Ryan Clark, AGO (ryan.clark@azag.gov)
 - b. Currently establishing legislative priorities
 - c. Please send legislative issues that you like the AGO to consider to Ryan
 - d. Dan Levy - SB 31-230, give judges discretion to order more than 20% of their DOC account, waiting to hear from MCAO whether they will support

- VIII. ACESDV – not present**

- IX. State Agency Coordinating Team (SACT) – Funders Reports**
 - a. VRP – Ashtyn Buechler (ashytn.buechler@azag.gov)
 - i. VRP Agencies
 - 1. We are in the process of approving budget proposals and uploading fully executed award agreements. If you have not submitted your proposal or uploaded your signed award agreement, please do so as soon as possible so we can disburse funds
 - 2. We are currently reviewing Annual Reports and will be reaching out if any amendments are necessary
 - ii. County Attorneys:
 - 1. Please be sure that the PCNR/PANRs you are sending out are the current versions that were provided to you earlier in the summer. We are receiving copies back from victims opting-in that are not current versions
 - iii. Education:
 - 1. Basic and Advanced Victims’ Rights presentations for FY24 began in late October
 - 2. FY24 Advanced Victims’ Rights topic is Restitution



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3. One weekend Basic presentation, as well as quarterly probation presentations will be held during FY24
4. Visit <https://www.azag.gov/criminal/victim-services/training> for presentation dates and more detail
- iv. Law Enforcement
 1. All law enforcement agencies using the statewide multi-copy forms should receive the most recent version of the form by the end of the month. Any problems with the order or questions can be directed to OVSVRP@azag.gov. Because of the cost of the forms and their availability via TraCS and PDF, we are planning on no longer printing the forms starting either in FY 25 or 26. More information to follow
- b. ACJC – not present
- c. DPS-VOCA – Carla Uyeda (cuyeda@azdps.gov) – not present, update sent to Ex Comm
 - i. VOCA FY23: Thank you to VOCA subrecipients for completing their year-end amendments and reports. If your agency has not submitted its final amendment, September financial report, Quarter 4 program report, or FY23 Annual report, please do so as soon as possible. Contact your DPS-VOCA Grant Coordinator with any questions.
 - ii. VOCA FY24 Subgrant Award Agreements became available for completion on October 5th. The Subgrant Award Agreement and certifications are available in SAGE. Please complete/sign the documents and upload in SAGE as soon as possible. Contact your DPS-VOCA Grant Coordinator with any questions.
 - iii. DPS-VOCA Program Administrator, Kate McClary, held four Crime Victim Fund Discussion meetings during the week of October 30. Thank you to those who attended. DPS-VOCA will continue to provide updates regarding the Crime Victim Fund via email blasts.
 - iv. DPS-VOCA will continue to monitor what is happening with the Federal budget in the coming months and what impact that may have on VOCA.
 - v. Victims' Rights Enforcement (VRE) grant: FY24 contracts have been finalized.
 - vi. Fund balance: <https://ovc.ojp.gov/about/crime-victims-fund>
- d. GOYFF – not present
- e. DES – Lindsay Ashworth, program manager, interpersonal violence, lashworth@azdes.gov
 - i. 3 programs
 1. DV program
 2. Sexual Violence Program
 3. OVW Program, focuses on abuse later in life
- f. DHS – not present

X. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Board Report – Chair Amy Bocks (amy.bocks@azag.gov)
- b. Treasurer's Report – Karina Aragon (karina.aragon@mesaaz.gov)
 - i. ACVS: \$24,108.85
 1. Minimal changes due to admin cost
 - ii. AVAA: - \$13,999.48



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1. Currently at a negative due to training cost
 - iii. Relocation: \$350
 - iv. TOTAL: \$10,459.37
 - v. ACVS had an increase of \$3,000 from the last report
 - vi. AVAA continues to be at a negative due to training costs
 - vii. Relocation: There was one application approved which left a balance of \$350
 - viii. Three full boxes filled with cell phones were sent for processing
 - ix. Karina will post flyer for Relocation Program
 - c. Relocation Committee – Tracey Wilkinson (twilkinson@scottsdaleaz.gov) – not present
- XI. New Business/Open Forum**
- a. Amy Bocks
 - i. Please send ideas for future presentations to Amy, looking for a tribal liaison/program connection
 - b. Jamie Balson
 - i. Kayleigh’s Law – right now, victims are supposed to let defendants (or their active attorneys) know that they are filing a petition, requires the victim to find the defendant
 - ii. Please reach out to Jamie if you have relevant experience with this issue – will update at Jan meeting
 - iii. Suggested a more suitable agency to do this would be the clerk’s office or the probation department, someone who has access to the defendant’s information
 - c. Erica Williams
 - i. New contact info: Erica.L.Williams602@gmail.com, (480) 274-4215
- XII. Next Meeting**
- a. Jan 17th, 10am via Zoom
- XIII. Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned by Amy Bocks at 11:26am