



Arizona Coalition for Victim Services (ACVS)
Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2023
 Virtual Meeting –via Zoom

I. Call to Order – Amy Bocks

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

Attendees

April Mogush, FAC Phoenix	Ashtyn Buechler, AGO OVS
Erica Williams, Maricopa County Attorney, Victim Services	Virginia Rodriguez, Pima County Attorney, Victim Services
Karina Aragon, Mesa PD Victim Services	Jamie Balson, LSCVA
Dan Levy, Arizona Crime Victim Rights Law Group	Heather Bohnet, ACJC, Crime Victim Services Program
Russell Stearns, Angel Flight West	Gretchen M. Singh, AZBOEC
Lexi Arce, El Mirage PD Victim Services	Kevin Mattingly, City of Phoenix
Amy Bocks, AGO OVS	Laurie Kalivas, ALWAYS
Connie Chapman, AVAA	Veronica Driz, AGO OVS
Tracey Wilkinson, Scottsdale Police	Lizette Roeder, ACESDV
Amy Palisano, La Frontera/EMPACT, Trauma Healing Services	Melissa Brickhouse Thomas, Glendale PD Victim Services
Carla Uyeda, DPS-VOCA	Bianca Harper, ACASI
Tina Ashelford, Mohave County Attorney, Victim Services	Jamie Balson, Legal Services for Crime Victim in Arizona
Dorinda Johns, ACJC, Crime Victim Services Program	Veronica Garay, Southwest Family Advocacy Center
Ryan Clark, AZ AGO, Victim Services	Laura Mandt, Prescott Valley PD Victim Services

II. Welcome

III. Approval of May 2023 Meeting Minutes

- a. Motion to approve by Virginia Rodriguez, 2nd by Tina Ashelford

IV. Presentation from Angel Flight West - Russell Sterns, Director of Outreach (russells@angelflightwest.org)

- a. In business for 40yrs. Based out of CA, private and commercial flights to 12 Southwest states including AZ
- b. Flights at no cost to the passenger or referral organizations, service is completely grant funded. Private planes are operated by volunteers.
- c. Flights for medical treatment, taking kids to out of state camps, and relocating victims of DV, SV, and sex trafficking
- d. Capacity is 4-6seats, companion(s) welcome (two or more children accompanying may need an additional aircraft). Advocate can come with a victim, and they will fly them back. 40lb limit on luggage



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- e. Passengers must be residing in a shelter or other safe place with family, etc. and the request must come from the advocate, not the passenger. If staying in a shelter, the shelter has to confirm the person has a place to go when they land, and they must get a medical release
 - f. One week notice is preferred, but they will consider the urgency of situation if one week is not feasible
 - g. In a DV situation, AFW will need assurance that the passenger no longer has contact with their abuser and that the abuser does not know anything about the flight
 - h. Confidentiality – only AFW has access to their records and they use an alias for passenger information
 - i. Must have financial need or other consideration – very vague info needed, just that there is a need
 - j. There is no limit how many times the same person can fly
 - k. Online course (1.5 CLE) for social workers, etc.
 - l. They also consider “compassionate flights” which would include transporting someone to another state to appear in court
 - m. General contact information: angelflightwest.org, (310) 390-2958, info@angelflightwest.org
 - i. Also on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter
- V. Amy – discussion of open Vice Chair seat and Nov election for Vice Chair and Treasurer**
- a. Please let others know to reach out to any member of the Ex Comm if interested in running
- VI. Arizona Victim Assistance Academy (AVAA) – Connie Chapman (avaacademy@gmail.com)**
- a. Advanced - in the planning stages, aiming for Nov or early Dec –
 - i. Topic is, legal remedies outside of CJS (family law, juvenile, etc.)
 - 1. Please send topic ideas to Connie
 - b. Basic - tentative date is Jan 15th, will be on website when details are confirmed
 - c. info@azcvcs.net
- VII. Legislative Priorities**
- a. Ryan Clark, AGO (ryan.clark@azag.gov)
 - b. Victims’ Rights Brief will be sent out in the next couple of days
 - c. Please send legislative issues that you like the AGO to consider to Ryan
- VIII. ACESDV - Lizette Roeder, Sexual Assault Coordinator (lizette@acesdv.org)**
- a. We are discussing these bills with Members and seeking bill sponsors.
 - i. We will continue to look to the state to fund Victim Services. With cuts in federal VOCA funding victim service providers will lose approximately 42% of funding starting October of 2023. We are working at the federal level, advocating for a fix, but consistent funding at the state level is needed to continue essential services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. We are asking for a backfill of federal dollars starting in October (\$22 million), but also a permanent fix for the problem



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- ii. Increased funding for Domestic Violence Services. With inflation, increasing labor costs and an increase in service demand due to our growing population, in order to maintain services, increased funding is needed. We are asking for \$5.2 million to be allocated to the Domestic Violence Services fund
- iii. Funding to the Sexual Violence Service Fund. In order to maintain services built with ARPA dollars, providers need \$2 million annually. The state currently does not allocate funding to sexual violence services
- iv. We are looking to mandate the use of the statewide tracking system for rape kits. While Arizona has a statewide tracking system called Track-Kit, not all law enforcement agencies participate, allowing for delays in processing kits and a growth of the backlog. To improve services to sexual assault victims, we seek a mandate
- v. We are looking to close gaps in firearm possession of domestic violence offenders, including misdemeanants and felons
- vi. We are seeking to allow domestic violence survivors to terminate their lease in order to access safety based on certifications from medical providers or domestic violence advocates
- vii. We are seeking to prohibit evictions of domestic violence victims based on nuisance laws

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

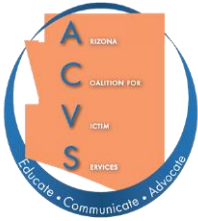
- a. VRP – Ashtyn Buechler (ashytn.buechler@azag.gov)
 - i. VRP Agencies
 1. We are in the process of approving budget proposals and uploading fully executed award agreements. If you have not submitted your proposal or uploaded your signed award agreement, please do so as soon as possible so we can disburse 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 will begin in late October.
 2. FY24 Advanced Victims' Rights topic is Restitution.
 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



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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 – Heather Bohnet (hbohnet@azcjc.gov)
 - i. A reminder was given for all ACJC FY24 grantees to complete grant requirements, such as the subawardee questionnaire
 - 1. Any questions regarding requirements can be sent to Dorinda Johns
 - ii. ACJC continues to look at the Victim Compensation and Victim Assistance funding issues
 - iii. Victim Compensation program brochures and wallet cards are being updated, and once they are completed, agencies can contact ACJC if they would like copies sent by mail
- c. DPS-VOCA – Carla Uyeda (cuyeda@azdps.gov)
 - i. VOCA subrecipients were notified that DPS is processing reimbursements on 9/21 and will then be on hold until 10/2 due to close of Federal FY
 - ii. DPS is also paying close attention to see if a continuing resolution budget passed in the coming days and what impact that may have on VOCA
 - iii. VOCA subrecipients were also notified of the FY23 year-end close out procedures:
 - 1. Final amendment must be completed prior to September financial report
 - 2. September financial report due 10/15
 - 3. Q4 program reports due 10/30 (six annually reported outcomes in PMT)
 - 4. Annual report due 10/30
 - 5. A checklist with additional information/guidance was attached to the email to subrecipients that may be useful when completing these tasks
 - iv. VOCA FY24 contract process:
 - 1. Subrecipients received award amounts in renewal invitation emails
 - 2. Contract documents expected to go out before 10/6
 - v. Victims Rights' Enforcement (VRE) FY24:
 - 1. Contracts are being finalized and will be sent out soon
 - vi. Future planning
 - 1. OVC Director Rose's monthly call stated that August 2023 deposits in to the Crime Victim Fund (CVF) were \$30.8M
 - 2. This brings the current balance of the CVF to \$879M (and there are still obligations that need to be removed from that number)
 - 3. The balance of the CVF is the lowest it has been since 2006
 - 4. Currently, \$400M in deposits is needed to meet the \$1.2B cap set for next year
 - 5. Once the VOCA and VRE contracts are out, DPS will resume its messaging regarding the health of the CVF
 - vii. DPS site visits and civil rights compliance reviews are still continuing as normal
 - viii. Fund balance: <https://ovc.ojp.gov/about/crime-victims-fund>
- d. GOYFF – not present
- e. DES – not present
- f. DHS – not present



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X. Committee Reports

- b. Executive Board Report – Chair Amy Bocks (amy.bocks@azag.gov)
- i. Treasurer and Vice Chair recruitments upcoming
 - ii. Cell phone drive details on website
 - iii. FEMA wireless alert update, Oct 4th (backup testing date Oct 11th) at 2:20pm et (11:20am AZ time) - national update, is unavoidable
<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/integrated-public-alert-warning-system/national-test-2023#:~:text=The%20test%20will%20reach%20millions,testing%20date%20is%20Oct.%202011>
 - iv. Membership is currently low
 1. Frequent partners have not renewed - Standard is 83 participants, only 32 have renewed
 2. If you did not receive email, you are not renewed. Reach out to Ex Comm member for confirmation and invoice if needed
- c. Treasurer's Report – Karina Aragon (karina.aragon@mesaaz.gov)
- i. ACVS: \$21,465.23
 1. Minimal changes due to admin cost
 - ii. AVAA: -\$12,812.38
 1. Currently at a negative due to training cost
 - iii. Relocation: \$755.37
 1. There are currently four client applications under review for the relocation project
 - iv. TOTAL: \$9,408.22
- d. Relocation Committee – Tracey Wilkinson (twilkinson@scottsdaleaz.gov)
- i. Updating application to make it more user friendly and are hoping to share with the group for review before the next meeting
 - ii. Are also working on small updates to procedures and will send before next meeting
 - iii. 4-6 applications were received in August
 - iv. Ask Tracey if you need a donation form
 - v. Cell phone drive
 1. Do not need chargers, cases, etc.
 2. Do perform a reset and delete info before donating phone
 3. Tablets and other smart communication devices are accepted

XI. New Business/Open Forum

- e. Yavapai County - Take Back the Night event on Oct 3rd, 5:30pm-7:30pm at Theater on the Green, Prescott Valley (more info on Facebook and Instagram)
- f. Deadline to submit DV Awareness Month picture, September 29th

XII. Next Meeting

- a. Nov 15th via Zoom

XIII. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned by Amy Bocks at 11:03am