



Commission  
to Prevent Violence  
Against Women

**Arizona Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women**

**May 18, 2021**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Virtual- Zoom meeting**

A general meeting of the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women was convened on May 18, 2021 virtually via Zoom, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (13)	
Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair	
Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair	
Beth Hoel	
Kristin Flores	
Neil Websdale	
Kay Radwanski	
Sheila Sjolander	
Ed Mercurio-Sakwa	
Richard Jessup	
Laura Guild	
Monica Yelin	
Patricia Klahr	
Jenna Panas	
Members Absent (5)	
Eve Scarff	
Susan Smith	
Jon Smith	
Jon Eliason	
Nicole Bidwill	

**Call to Order**

- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, called the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women meeting to order at 10:01 AM with **13** members present.

**Welcome/Introductions**

- **Kate Brophy McGee** welcomed everyone and asked all members to introduce themselves to conduct attendance. **Kate Brophy McGee** introduced new Co-chair **Elizabeth Ortiz**.

**Approval of Minutes**

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, requested a review of the **February 18, 2021** meeting minutes.
  - **Kate Brophy McGee** motioned to accept the **February 18, 2021** minutes. **Patricia Klahr** seconded the motion. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

### **Special Recognition**

- **Elizabeth Ortiz** gave a special recognition on behalf of the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women to Keli Luther, an Arizona Crime Victims litigator who advocated and worked with victims and survivors. **Elizabeth Ortiz** allowed Steve Twist and Kurt Luther to share kind words about Keli and her accomplishments.

### **Justice for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse Task Force Update**

- **Rachel Mitchell** was introduced by **Elizabeth Ortiz** to discuss the Justice for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse Task Force.
- **Rachel Mitchell** gave an overview of the recommendations that were given in SB 1660.
- **Rachel Mitchell** reported on key areas of the bill including that orders of juvenile court take precedence except when a criminal court has ordered that a defendant should not contact the victim or family. The bill also recommends that children placed in out of home care receive age/developmentally appropriate materials about sexual abuse and exploitation, including methods for reporting abuse.
- **Rachel Mitchell** informed the Commission that Bill 1660 takes away the statute of limitations for child sex trafficking and expands the definition of a person in a position of trust to include grandparents, aunts, uncles, any school employee or volunteer at the minor's school, coach or instructor, clergy or church staff, and people engaged in a sexual or romantic relationship with a minor's extended family.
- **Rachel Mitchell** also informed the Commission of the bill's stance on the limit when pro se defendants question child victims and best practice regarding social media and cell phone use between students and school personnel.
- SB 1660 also proposes the need for consistent mandatory reporting law training and places the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council (APAAC) in charge of developing a statewide training curriculum for public school personnel.
- **Kate Brophy McGee** praised the work that Rachel Mitchell has done in her career. **Kate Brophy McGee** asked for clarification on further considerations for adults in positions of power and expressed the desire to protect vulnerable children as well as adults in fear of being falsely accused because of their position of power. **Rachel Mitchell** highlighted how the current definitions aim to capture a large range of areas and stated that there must be responsible investigation and prosecution to protect both sides.

### **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women**

- **Representative Jennifer Jermaine** was introduced by **Elizabeth Ortiz** to provide an update on the research of missing and murdered indigenous people in Arizona.
- **Representative Jennifer Jermaine** informed the Commission that the report covers all state, local and tribal jurisdictions in Arizona. The reviewed problem was that indigenous women and girls are missing and murdered at significantly higher rates. The aim of the study was to approach this problem from a victim-centered and culturally competent way that would not cause further harm to survivors and family members or infringe on

Sovereignty. It was reported that all 22 Tribal Nations are involved in the study with full support.

- **Representative Jennifer Jermaine** reviewed the unique barriers to tracking violence against indigenous people including barriers in urban, rural and remote areas, infrastructure challenges, and racial misclassification in law enforcement databases.
- **Representative Jennifer Jermaine** stated that the field study revealed that families' and survivors' experiences with law enforcement are inconsistent. **Representative Jennifer Jermaine** notified the Commission that recommendations were created regarding policy, protocols and systems. The recommendations include: Establish and enforce clear database protocols; Create a standardized protocol for investigative response for missing persons cases across all law enforcement agencies at all levels; Implement state, regional and local Tribal Liaison Office(s); and recruit and train more Native American victim advocates for all levels of law enforcement. Two of the eight recommended legislation have passed to date.
- Two reported bills still being reviewed are proposed HB 2099 which would extend the study committee for 2 years and expand the scope to include all genders of indigenous people and HB 2494 that would focus on workforce development for the Native Health system and serve 22 tribal nations.
- **Kate Brophy McGee** asked **Representative Jennifer Jermaine** if the membership of the committee has any gaps. **Representative Jennifer Jermaine** stated that the committee works closely with state and local agencies to maintain a committee of experts and partnerships have allowed expertise to be leveraged at many levels with no current need for additional members.
- **Representative Jennifer Jermaine** reported that next steps include focusing on the challenges that the study showed. The East Valley Crisis team has started a pilot program and the committee continues to work with other communities to create special prosecution divisions and get accurate aggregate data

### Workgroup Reports

- **Gaelyn Davis** reported that the Outreach and Awareness workgroup had named Donna Bartos as the new workgroup chair and will begin planning for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- **Jenna Panas** informed the Commission that the Victim Services workgroup will be working to meet soon as victim service representatives have opportunities to meet.
- **Gaelyn Davis** updated the Commission that the Training and Prevention workgroup is committed to working on how the workgroup can continue to triage and help with training throughout the state, specifically in the areas of elder abuse, using the APRAIS model, and Family Court training.

### Request for Future Presentation Topics

- **Elizabeth Ortiz** stated that the Commission will now be accepting public comment via written submission through the GOYFF website and all Commission members could email Gaelyn Davis for any suggestions on future meeting presentation topics.

### Future Meeting Dates

- **Elizabeth Ortiz** announced the following meeting dates:
  - Thursday, August 19, 2021

- Tuesday, November 16, 2021

### **Adjourn**

- **Kate Brophy McGee** called for adjournment at 11:24 AM.
  - **Elizabeth Ortiz** motioned to adjourn. **Richard Jessup** seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Dated the 19th of May 2021  
Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Gaelyn Davis  
Program Administrator, GOYFF