



**Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment**  
**March 18, 2021, 10:00 AM**  
**Virtual Meeting**

1700 West Washington Street, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

A general meeting of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council was convened on March 18, 2021 virtually, 1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given.

<b>Members Present (18)</b>	<b>Members Absent (7)</b>
Mrs. Angela Ducey, Co-Chair	James D. Molina
Kathryn A. Pidgeon, Co-Chair	Jeffrey James Taylor
Berisha Black	Darlene G. Newsom
Brad Snyder	Katie J. O'Dell
Colleen A. McNally	Leslie Y. Repogle
Janet L. Garcia	Torrie Taj
Kate Brophy McGee	Warren H. Stewart
Kathrine Blades	
Lorrie G. Henderson	
Mark Upton	
Michael Faust	
Obed Escobar	
Paul S. Mulligan	
Rachel Mitchell	
Richard D. Yarbough	
Terry Crist	

Vicki Mayo	
Zora Manjencich	
<b>Staff and Guests Present (7)</b>	
Claire Louge	Becky Ruffner
Kim Brooks	Emily Unline-Olmsted
Andrea Videbeck	Cassie Breecher
Meghan Vasquez	

#### Call to Order

- **Ms. Kathryn Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, called the Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. with 18 members and 8 staff and guests present. **Ms. Pidgeon** reviewed the procedures of how the remote meeting would be facilitated and welcomed all those present.

#### Opening Remarks

- **Mrs. Angela Ducey, Co-Chair**, welcomed Councilmembers.

#### Roll Call

- **Ms. Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, conducted roll call of the Council and took note of Councilmember proxies.

#### Approval of Minutes

- **Ms. Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, requested a review of the **January 14, 2021** meeting minutes.
  - **Brad Snyder** moved to accept the **January 14, 2021** minutes.
  - **Vicki Mayo** seconded the motion.
    - o The motion passed with no dissenting votes at 10:11 a.m.

#### Special Recognition

- **Mrs. Ducey, Co-Chair**, recognized **Ms. Becky Ruffner**, on behalf of the Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment. Becky is the founder and - now former - Executive Director for Prevent Child Abuse Arizona. Becky has supported children in Arizona with an intense passion, working to ensure our children are raised in safe, stable, and nurturing homes. Under her leadership, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona worked tirelessly to support children and families, our child welfare workforce, and in advocating for needed improvements to our systems of care. Becky has always been driven with the goal of supporting families so that children can thrive in their families and communities.

Since its founding, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona has been a leader in bringing research-based prevention services to communities throughout the state. Each year, their prevention services reach more than 60,000 young children and families through parent education, home visits and child

welfare system improvements. Mrs. Ducey stated that she is proud to honor Becky with today's special recognition. While Becky retired in December 2019, her vision and determination continue to shape child welfare in Arizona. Becky's passion for ensuring all Arizona's children are raised in safe, stable and nurturing homes continues to leave a legacy of strength and determination throughout our state.

#### **Update from the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family**

- **Ms. Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, introduced **Director Maria Fuentes**, Director of the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family. **Director Fuentes** provided an overview of GOYFF, the trauma-informed services, and different grants within GOYFF and how the funding impacts families and children in Arizona.
  - GOYFF scopes of work:
    - Child well-being
    - Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention
    - Domestic & Sexual Violence
    - Substance Abuse Prevention
    - Youth Commission
    - Human Trafficking
    - Faith-based initiatives
    - Aging
    - Service & Volunteerism
  - Substance Abuse Prevention Grants: Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education & Prevention (Annual Investment: \$5,534,311), State Opioid Response Grant (Annual Investment: \$4,153,216), Substance Abuse Block Grant (Annual Investment: \$5.9 million), Partnership for Success Grant Annual Investment (Annual Investment: \$2,521,250)
  - Juvenile Justice and Child Safety Grants: Title II Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grant (Annual Investment: \$1,138,763) and Children's Justice Grant- The Children's Justice Act (Annual Investment: \$364,731)
  - Early Childhood and Mental Health Grants: Childcare and Development Funds (CCDF) (Annual Investment: \$245,000), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) STOP School Violence Grant Program (Annual Investment: \$334,000)
  - Child Abuse Prevention and Advocacy License Plate (Annual Investment \$375,000)
  - Sexual and Domestic Violence Grants: Sexual Assault Service Program Grant (Annual Investment: \$477,085), STOP Grant (Annual Investment \$3,700,000)
  - Community Engagement: Arizona's faith-based partners and church leaders have been instrumental in supporting children and families, and our children and families continue to benefit from their support. Arizona 1.27 is a church-based movement aimed at engaging the churches in supporting parents involved with the Arizona child welfare system.
- **Director Fuentes** thanked First Lady Ducey for her work not only within Arizona but with other states to promote and grow trauma-informed care. As a member of the First Spouses Workgroup that helps touch on work with other states, Mrs. Ducey has shared invaluable information with our State and this Council.
- **Kate Brophy McGee** asked if there is an intersect of the Federal funds coming to the state from the Covid Relief Act. **Director Fuentes** explained that the State is getting Covid relief funds, but GOYFF has not been in that mix and has not been a part of the CARES Act Fund distribution. **Kate Brophy McGee** followed by offering assistance to the office in any way she can.

- **Mrs. Ducey** thanked **Director Fuentes** and GOYFF for what they do and their contributions to the state, stating what GOYFF is doing in Arizona puts us in a strong spot compared to other states and GOYFF is a big reason why.

### Collective Impact for Child Safety and Well Being

● **Mrs. Ducey, Co-Chair**, introduced **Cassie Brecher** and **Dr. Meghan Vasquez**, Arizona Collective Impact Strategy for Child Safety and Well-Being. **Ms. Brecher** began by presenting a PowerPoint on the Collective Impact Initiative and the success of the work.

Entities and individuals at the leadership level decision making for this initiative:

- First Things First
  - GOYFF
  - Prevent Child Abuse
  - AZDHS
  - Casey Family Programs
  - AZDES
  - Jewish Family and Children Services
  - Pima County Superior Court
  - AZ Department of Child Safety
  - Virginia Piper Charitable Trust
- Collective Impact is a collaboration between public and private entities and cultured by Casey Family Programs and GOYFF.
    - **Goal:** Reduce the number of children entering the child welfare system with a primary prevention focus. Support families in Arizona before they come to the attention of the Department of Child Safety.
    - Our community in particular is ripe for collective impact work, specifically focused on child safety and well-being. No individual, organization or entity should be responsible for all of the prevention work around child well-being and safety. The group wants to define those individual contributions that make up the whole for what we can and should be doing with and for families in Arizona.
    - **Two focus areas-** Home visitation and Family Navigation- The group wants to identify and respond to community needs and decreasing children in the welfare system.
      - **Family Navigation-** Help families achieve their safety and self-sustainability goals by supporting self-advocacy, education, and access to needed supports.
        - Actions:
          - Strong Family Tool- Increase family protective factors by improving collaboration among resource providers and ensure families own their own support services, encouraging help-seeking behavior.
          - Chat Box- Develop a text and web-based digital tool that connects service providers and their resources to families that need them in plain accessible language.
        - **Home Visitation:** Works to increase the availability of and access to evidence-informed home visitation programs resulting in improved maternal, child, and family health and well-being. This is ongoing work and similar to Case Management work through state agency investments.
      - Lean On Me AZ- Normalize help-seeking behavior and wrapping support around families that need help.

- **Director Mike Faust** stated he is thankful for Collective Impact because of its respect for each individual to change the world and connect to this advancement. He encourages everyone to engage and connect with this when their work applies, it is meaningful for driving systemic change.
- **Director Fuentes** asked about funding, specifically what are the pieces that need or require funding to make that thought a reality. **Ms. Breecher** responded that they do have resources but the parents don't know how to get them and that the two biggest areas to bring the program from concept to reality is data infrastructure, and getting the tool to market and in front of people.
- The full presentation can be accessed at <https://goyff.az.gov/csfe>.

**Prevent Child Abuse Arizona**  
**Ms. Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, introduced **Claire Louge**, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Arizona (PCAA). **Ms. Louge** shared that PCAA is working to create robust prevention systems in Arizona and responding to what Arizona needs to harness the state's strengths.

- **Ms. Louge** shared a PowerPoint presentation on tiers of prevention.
  1. Primary- Strategies such as normalizing parents' stress, we should be able to ask for help. Every family is encouraged to access these strategies and this helps all parents.
  2. Secondary- Targeting higher risk populations due to conditions that lead to great stress and overwhelming feelings such as poverty, unemployment, single parenthood.
  3. Tertiary- Intervening after abuse and preventing future cases.
- **Triple P-** Positive Parenting Program that supports parent self-regulation and coping. Understanding their own emotions and reactions and be able to calm themselves as a strategy to manage troubled child behaviors.
- **Lean on Me AZ-** tips and ideas for creating a culture of parent support normalizing that parenting can be stressful, normalizes help-seeking behavior and expands the tools for agencies outside of the hotlines.
- **Director Mike Faust** stated when it comes to the commitment to Triple P, we should continue to invest in that space. We want to leverage that program for the many children in the children adoption subsidy pool. It's a great tool and we can utilize it to make sure the families have additional support.
- **Director Fuentes** also commended the tool and Casey Family Programs. It is true that growing the number of practitioners is important as well as making sure families have the access to them.
- The full presentation can be accessed at <https://goyff.az.gov/csfe>.

### DCS update

**Mrs. Ducey, Co-Chair**, introduced **Director Mike Faust**, Director of the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS), for an update from the department.

- **Director Faust** provided updates in three areas:
  - Migration from Child's Case Management system to the new Guardian System with the goal of making sure caregivers are supported as well as foster families and parents. As that improves, the department moves forward, making sure contracted service providers are being supportive. All service referrals are flowing again. Now DCS is working on the end-to-end business processes. DCS is committed to making

things work efficiently. DCS is the first in the nation to move to this style and there are challenges but DCS is working on them one at a time.

- Live with Behavioral Health Integration and Medicaid health plan. This is 6 years in the making. Last year DCS contracted with Mercy Care to present the department with a statewide presence for physical, dental and behavioral health services. Arizona is the only state in the nation that has a Child Welfare Specific Medicaid Plan that is managed by the Child Welfare entity.
- DCS's efforts and activities around the Families' First Prevention Act have been ongoing for several years.
  - Two major bodies of work:
    - Family Connections & Nurturing Parenting Program
    - The first six service providers have been accredited by national nonprofit organizations. DCS has identified the correct processes to move forward and working with the courts on legal systems with a goal of rolling this endeavor out in October, 2021.

### Workgroup updates

**Ms. Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, introduced **Rachel Mitchell**, Chair of the Children's Justice (CJ) Taskforce, for an update.

- **Ms. Mitchell** met with GOYFF staff member, Gaelyn Davis, to review the final analysis of the Taskforce survey. The overwhelming need is for training and how to provide the most effective training possible to the state. The question is how can we intersect the CJ Taskforce with one of the Bills that made it through the House of Representatives. That will require APAC to develop a state-wide curriculum for the mandatory reporting law.

**Ms. Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, introduced **Katie O'Dell**, Chair of the Outreach Workgroup, for an update. **Kim Brooks** informed the group that Katie was not able to join today.

**Ms. Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, introduced **Vicki Mayo**, Chair of the Prevention Workgroup for an update. It was noted that Vicki was no longer in attendance.

### Upcoming Meeting

- **Ms. Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, reminded the Council that the next meeting is set for May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10:00am.

### Adjournment

- **Ms. Pidgeon, Co-Chair**, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - **Kate Brophy McGee** moved to adjourn.
  - **Zora Manjencich** seconded the motion.
  - The motion passed with no dissenting votes and the meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.