



Commission
to Prevent Violence
Against Women

Arizona Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women

August 19, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Virtual- Zoom meeting

A general meeting of the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women was convened on August 19, 2021 virtually via Zoom, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (15)
Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair
Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair (virtual)
Beth Hoel
Kirstin Flores
Neil Websdale (virtual)
Kay Radwanski (virtual)
Jacqueline Kurth (Proxy for Sheila Sjolander)
Ed Mercurio-Sakwa (virtual)
Richard Jessup (virtual)
Laura Guild
Jon Smith (Virtual)
Jon Eliason (virtual)
Susan Smith (virtual)
Patricia Klahr (virtual)
Jenna Panas (virtual)
Members Absent (3)
Eve Scarff
Monica Yelin
Nicole Bidwill

Call to Order

- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, called the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women meeting to order at 10:05 AM with **15** members present.

Welcome/Introductions

- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, welcomed everyone and asked all members to introduce themselves to conduct attendance.

Approval of Minutes

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, requested a review of the **May 18, 2021** meeting minutes.

- **Kate Brophy McGee** motioned to accept the **May 18, 2021** minutes. **Beth Hoel** seconded the motion. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

New Life Center Statewide Sexual Assault Training

- **Angela Rose** was introduced by **Elizabeth Ortiz** to discuss New Life Center's Domestic and Sexual Violence shelter and programs.
- **Angela Rose** gave an overview of the Sexual Assault Investigation Training Program that is funded by the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF). The training program started in July 2019 and focuses on investigation of adult sexual assault cases.
- **Angela Rose** reviewed training topics that have been provided since the start of the program. All trainings are AZPOST certified, incorporate a multidisciplinary approach and are victim-centered and trauma informed.
- **Angela Rose** informed the Commission that during calendar year 2020 the program transitioned to a webinar-based training model that condensed most curriculum from the original 4-hour training to 90 minutes. The program was transitioned back to in-person training in April 2021 with plans to offer the training program in a hybrid format in the future.
- **Angela Rose** reported that since July 2019, the program has trained 416 people, including law enforcement officers, prosecutors, probation officers, and advocates. Future plans for the program include resuming in-person basic interviewing training around the state and continuing to expand the training catalog.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz** praised the hard work that has gone into creating and implementing the training program. **Angela Rose** thanked the community for their support and GOYFF.
- **Kate Brophy McGee** asked if there are similar training models in the state. **Angela Rose** stated that the training is not the only training that exists, but the other training is specific to other areas of investigation, such as child abuse. **Kate Brophy McGee** stated that the training seems very comprehensive which benefits the victim and asked about funding for the program. **Angela Rose** stated that GOYFF funding was renewed for another year extending the program until July 2022.
- **Kirstin Flores** asked how signing up for training worked. **Angela Rose** informed the Commission that New Life Center works to identify agencies and can provide training upon request. Training opportunities are also disseminated through New Life Center's constant contact communications.
- **Laura Guild** asked for further details on the adaptations that were made to shorten the training. **Angela Rose** stated that only some trainings were able to be modified and are given with the understanding that the training is an introduction that is applicable to the specific field that trainees work in instead of longer, more detailed training.

Arizona's Child and Family Advocacy Network (ACFAN)

- **Trevor Umphress** was introduced by **Elizabeth Ortiz** to provide an overview of Arizona's Child and Family Advocacy Network (ACFAN).
- **Trevor Umphress** informed the Commission that ACFAN works to support the establishment, sustainability and improvement of child and family advocacy centers (CAC/FACs) throughout Arizona. Currently, there are 24 advocacy centers in Arizona that operate uniquely.

- **Trevor Umphress** stated that a crucial component of all advocacy centers is the utilization of multidisciplinary teams that includes prosecution, family advocacy, mental health service providers, medical and forensic interviews, law enforcement and protective services.
- **Trevor Umphress** reviewed what an advocacy center is and the services that are provided. **Trevor Umphress** stated that family advocacy centers (FACs) focus on best practices and what works best for the area they work in. Victims served by advocacy centers include domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking. All services are provided at no charge to the victims.
- **Trevor Umphress** reviewed the data from 2020 and compared this data to 2019 which showed an increase in reported crimes in 2020. In addition to this increase in victims, centers have reported an increase in burnout and turnover of service providers. It was reported that there is a specific need for more Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) and pediatric doctors that are trained in child abuse cases.
- **Laura Guild** questioned if the need for SANE nurses was discussed in nursing schools and in communities to make people aware of the issue. **Trevor Umphress** responded that even with incentives and knowledge of the need, many do not want to enter the profession. **Kate Brophy McGee** suggested finding private donors who could fund a speciality scholarship to address any shortage.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz** commented on the growth of ACFAN and the positive impact on communities in seeking justice.

Arizona Child and Adolescent Survivor Initiative (ACASI)

- **Bianca Harper** gave an introduction to the Arizona Child and Adolescent Survivor Initiative (ACASI) which focuses on fostering the healing of intimate partner homicide survivors statewide. ACASI provides free services to children and adolescents who have lost a parent or primary caregiver to intimate partner homicide (IPH).
- **Bianca Harper** told the Commission that ACASI is the first program of its kind which provides services that are not time limited and regardless of when IPH occurred. **Bianca Harper** highlighted that 3,000 children per year lose a parent to IPH and this trauma has lasting impacts on child survivors and caregivers.
- The ACASI program provides intensive case management that gives critical support to families including justice system assistance, therapeutic services, emotional support, advocacy, mentoring, and support groups. Training is also provided to trauma commissions that train providers on IPH to better support clients.
- Referrals for the program can be provided from any organization in the community, including crisis responders, community organizations, schools, law enforcement or state agencies.
- **Bianca Harper** informed the Commission that collaborative community opportunities include a quarterly community forum, monthly IPH case consultations and IPH training.
- **Kate Brophy McGee** asked about the capacity that the program currently has. **Bianca Harper** stated that capacity depends on the complexity of caseloads. Currently, 180 clients are being served through the program with room for more. **Bianca Harper** spoke about outreach efforts that are being done to spread awareness of the program and welcomed assistance from the Commission to promote the program.
- **Neil Websdale** brought up the research that shows infants as young as 10 months can experience memories and adverse effects of trauma caused by IPH. **Bianca Harper** stated

that services do not typically start until the age of three but that training is given to the providers on best practices for treatment in trauma work with children and adolescents of all ages.

- **Kate Brophy McGee** notified **Bianca Harper** that Donna Bartos offered to connect BLOOM365's Peer Advocates who have experience with the population to help ACASI with support in their efforts to meet the needs of children who have lost a parent.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz** encouraged Commission members to listen to the "Across Arizona" podcast **Bianca Harper** was recently on which goes into even more detail on IPH and the ACASI program.

Lighting Arizona Purple Update

- **Gaelyn Davis** provided an update to the Commission on plans for the 2021 Lighting Arizona Purple campaign. **Gaelyn Davis** encouraged the Commission to review the itcanstop.az.gov website for resources and updated information regarding Domestic Violence and the awareness campaign.

Workgroup Reports

- **Gaelyn Davis** reported that the Outreach and Awareness workgroup has been planning for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and strategically working to make the workgroup participation more inclusive of all Arizona's counties.
- **Jenna Panas** informed the Commission that the Victim Services workgroup has been working in three priority areas: increasing community knowledge about the availability of services, increasing law enforcement knowledge of services available, and supporting sexual and domestic violence programs with accessing resources.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz** provided an update on behalf of **Jon Eliason** stating that the Training and Prevention workgroup had a conversation with Superior Court Commissioner Nothwehr discussing AZ Point implementation, challenges, and training needs.

Future Meeting Dates

- **Elizabeth Ortiz** announced the following meeting dates:
 - Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Adjourn

- **Kate Brophy McGee** provided an update on behalf of Susan Smith that the Statewide Safe and Healthy Infants and Family Thrive Core Team is piloting the only evidenced based, validated tool for universal screening of pregnant women: the 4 P's Plus. This tool screens for family violence, mental health and is Medicaid reimbursable. The training with Dr. Ira Chasnoff is September 10th for the 4 P's Plus to be rolled out in Yavapai County and Banner University Health Clinic in Phoenix. If anyone is interested in more information or the training please contact susan.smith@azdcs.gov.
- **Kate Brophy McGee** called for adjournment at 11:45 AM.
 - **Kirstin Flores** motioned to adjourn. **Beth Hoel** seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Dated the 20th of August 2021
Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women
Respectfully Submitted By:
Gaelyn Davis
Program Administrator, GOYFF