



Commission
to Prevent Violence
Against Women

Arizona Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women

August 16, 2022

10:00 a.m.

**Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council Conference Room
3838 North Central Avenue, Suite 850, Phoenix, AZ 85012**

A general meeting of the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women was convened on August 16, 2022, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (15)	Members Absent (3)
Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair	Nicole Bidwill
Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair	Jon Eliason
Kirstin Flores	Eve Scarff
Sheila Sjolander	
Tene Marion	
Margaret Trulson	
Kay Radwanski	
Jenna Panas	
Ed Mercurio-Sakwa	
Beth Hoel	
Jon Smith	
Richard Jessup	
Mark Perkovich Proxy for Neil Websdale	
Monica Yelin	
Patricia Klahr	
Staff and Guests Present (8)	
Ariana Abbarello	Brad Carlyon
Emily Uline-Olmstead	Rachel Mitchell
Amy Peep	Myriah Mhoon
Liesl Lang	Amy Scanlon

Call to Order

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, called the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women meeting to order at 10:00 AM with 15 members present, and quorum met.

Welcome/Introductions

- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, welcomed everyone and asked the members to introduce themselves.
- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, conducted the roll call.

Approval of Minutes

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, requested a review of the **May 17, 2022**, meeting minutes.
 - **Kirstin Flores** noted the spelling of her name was incorrect in the minutes and asked for those to be corrected. This revision was accepted.
 - **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair** motioned to accept the **May 17, 2022**, minutes as amended. **Kirstin Flores** seconded the motion. **Jenna Panas** abstained due to not being present at the meeting. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Navajo County Attorney's Office: Victim Services

- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, introduced **Brad Carlyon** to present on Navajo County Attorney's Office Victim Services. **Mr. Carlyon** has served as Navajo County Attorney since 2008 and is an advocate and leader in addressing effective treatment and prevention of substance abuse and mental health issues.
- **Brad Carlyon** thanked the commission and presented on the STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Grant funding actions of Navajo County Victims Services. **Mr. Carlyon** stated that the data included in the annual reports do not tell the full story of the impact that the funding has had on Navajo County. The Navajo County District Attorney's Office hired a full-time Sexual Assault Team Coordinator, Becky Cole, a long-term victim advocate. **Brad Carlyon** discussed that the full-time coordinator is able to contribute to things as usually expected, such as updating protocols and ensuring multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings are held. However, **Mr. Carlyon** stressed that being a full-time employee has also allowed Becky the opportunity to do things they could never have done before, such as outreach.
- **Mr. Carlyon** explained that in the last session, the United States Supreme Court made a decision on tribal jurisdiction, [Oklahoma V. Castro-Huerta](#), known as the Castro decision. **Mr. Carlyon** continued with the history of the case and judicial precedent, in which tribal member and non-tribal member cases are handled on tribal land. The new decision under the Castro decision allows Navajo County the jurisdiction to handle cases involving non-tribal perpetrators of crimes that occur on tribal land regardless of the victim's tribal status. **Brad Carlyon** stated this change closes a gap and helps support the needs of the tribes. The Navajo County Attorney's Office works in partnership with the three tribes to honor their sovereignty and help establish support for these tribal communities.
- **Brad Carlyon** continued to address the work that Becky has been able to accomplish with the STOP Grant funding. Due to Becky's employment, the MDT meetings have been revitalized and continue to seek out new participants. One of these new participants was Little Colorado Medical Center. Through the partnership built by the Sexual Assault Team Coordinator, the Trauma Nurse Coordinator now engages in the MDT meetings.
- **Brad Carlyon** stated without STOP Grant funding, Little Colorado Medical Center would not have to know the County's Sexual Assault Response Multidisciplinary Team protocols or policies; they would still be an outlier.
- **Mr. Carlyon** shared that without the STOP Grant funding, Becky would not have been able to attend the Annual Balloon Festival at Pinetop-Lakeside. At this festival, Becky was able to connect with an elder Apache woman who needed guidance and insight on how to address the needs of the younger women in her tribal community. This woman was devastated because the young women were coming to her unable to go to their tribal police and knowing that the FBI is unlikely to investigate sexual assaults, and she was

unable to assist them. Although the County Attorney does not have jurisdiction over the tribal land, they do have resources to assist with emotional and physical healing. **Brad Carlyon** was able to share that the woman was invited to take their training on sexual assault, and she will be completing the next scheduled training course. **Mr. Carlyon** stressed that with two-thirds of the county being tribal lands, these connections and replication of these resources in other tribal communities can impact a lot of people.

- **Mr. Carlyon** explained the impact of having the STOP Grant funding by providing an example from Snowflake's Annual Pioneer Day celebration, which Becky tabled. A woman who fled California from an abusive husband approached Becky for assistance, stating she was not comfortable reporting to local police, or hospital, due to her husband's position in the military. Becky immediately connected her with the appropriate legal services, a resource that was established through the MDT meetings Becky coordinated. With these connections, Becky was able to provide the necessary information and resources.
- **Brad Carlyon** went on to explain that prior to staffing a full-time employee, the STOP Grant funded training that ensured advocates and prosecutors were educated on strangulation and recognizing the signs of those experiencing strangulation. **Mr. Carlyon** stated that Becky was trained in this area in her previous position as a Crisis Advocate. With this training, she was able to recognize when a five-year-old child in Joseph City was displaying physical signs of strangulation.
- **Brad Carlyon** stated the foster mother and children were taken to the local hospital where all three completed strangulation exams. While away from her husband, the woman was able to speak about the events that occurred in the household, one of which included wrapping plastic bags around their necks. **Mr. Carlyon** closed his presentation with stating that the STOP Grant provides a lot to rural Arizona, especially Navajo County. Statistics and data show how the money is being spent, however, he explained that each statistic is a story, every person has a story, and the Navajo County Attorney's Office has made a difference with the use of the STOP Grant.
- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, opened the question and answer portion of the presentation.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, commended Brad on the amazing work he is completing at the Navajo County Attorney's Office. She also stated that Brad's ability to take something and make the absolute most of it, maximizing its impact, is inspiring.
- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, asked how long the STOP Grant fund is awarded for. **Brad Carlyon** answered that the grant is a three-year grant cycle. **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, followed up by asking how soon the county will be able to apply again for the funding. **Brad Carlyon**, stated that next year is when the application opens, and they will be applying again for funding.
- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, questioned if **Brad Carlyon** had any intersection with the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Workgroup. **Mr. Carlyon** stated he did not work with them in a formal setting. **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, asked if there was anything the commission could be doing to assist.
- **Brad Carlyon** stated that Navajo County is very resourceful. One of the first things he did at the beginning of his career fourteen years ago was start a Family Advocacy Center, primarily for children who were sexually abused. Because of this initiative, the county now has a Forensic Interviewer to standardize the process. Additionally, they have created partnerships with the hospital, which assisted in developing an examination room

in their facility, as well as providing nurses to the facility to avoid sending victims to Flagstaff. **Mr. Carlyon** went on to discuss that with the money raised at their annual golf tournament, they have been able to incorporate counseling and art therapy into their programs. **Mr. Carlyon** stated how they wish to expand to group sessions as needed, however, due to uncertainty with future funding, the programs are unable to start new projects, but will continue to do what they can with the funds they have now.

- **Kirstin Flores** commended Brad as a leader and stated the passion and compassion he has for the clients and victims he serves is highly impactful for all to hear. **Kirstin Flores** asked what year the Castro decision come out.
- **Brad Carlyon** answered it was in 2022, and that the decision has serious implications on criminal justice, as well as tribal laws. **Brad Carlyon** continued to thank **Neil Websdale** for partnering with Navajo County to ensure changes and actions have empirical studies behind them.
- **Mark Perkovich, proxy for Neil Websdale**, thanked Brad and added that one of the divisions within the family violence center is the Arizona Child and Adolescent Survivor Initiative (ACASI) program, a statewide service for children and adolescents involved in intimate partner violence. **Mark Perkovich, proxy for Neil Websdale**, stated to **Mr. Carlyon** that they could refer individuals from the tribes or rural county to their program for wraparound services.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, requested confirmation from **Mark Perkovich, proxy for Neil Websdale**, that the head of the ACASI program was Bianca Harper, which **Mr. Perkovich** did affirm.
- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, praised the connection and collaborative efforts made in the meeting. **Brad Carlyon** returned the praise stating that all County Attorney's Offices work diligently and with each other under the insightful leadership of **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**.
- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, and **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, thanked **Mr. Carlyon** and his office for their critical work.

New Life Center Sunshine Healing Services

- **Myriah Mhoon and Amy Scanlon** were introduced by **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, to highlight the work being done at New Life Center and the recently opened sexual violence and rape crisis center. **Myriah Mhoon** is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Arizona's largest domestic violence shelter, New Life Center. For the past 14 years, **Ms. Mhoon** has dedicated her professional life to working with Arizona's most vulnerable populations. **Amy Scanlon** is currently the Outreach Director at New Life Center. Amy earned a master's degree in Counseling Psychology from City University in Bellevue, Washington. She has been working in the field of child abuse and family violence since 1998.
- **Myriah Mhoon** thanked the commission for providing the opportunity to build partnerships and friendships with many of its members, and for the opportunity to grow a community movement. **Ms. Mhoon** provided the history of New Life Center, explaining that in 1991, New Life Center started as a small dormitory at the Wigwam Resorts with seven beds, which reached capacity and increased to thirty beds. At this point, it was decided that New Life Center needed its own campus, which they built from the ground up in Goodyear, Arizona. Today, New Life Center is the largest Domestic Violence Shelter in Arizona, and one of the largest in the country with 104 beds.

- **Ms. Mhoon** described the population and the style of housing for the Goodyear campus. She stated that casita-style housing allows for autonomy for families to shelter, with 70% of the population including children. The center was the first to allow teenage boys and has recently begun welcoming animals into the shelter, ensuring all members of the family are able to escape domestic violence.
- **Myriah Mhoon** discussed how in 2019 she championed herself and the board to change the mission and the vision of New Life Center. These changes resulted in the most recent mission and vision statement along with new logos for the organization's programs.
- **Ms. Mhoon** continued to briefly discuss the organization's programs, including the residential shelter and the training department, both of which are supported by the commission and the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF). To date, the training department has trained over 750 law enforcement and prosecutors across the state. **Ms. Mhoon** also described Kaity's Way, a 13-year-old nonprofit that was acquired by New Life Center at the beginning of 2022. The last program discussed was Hope's Closet, New Life Center's thrift store, where survivors receive goods and needs at no cost, including transportation of furniture and other items.
- **Myriah Mhoon** continued by discussing the impact in terms of individuals assisted, meals served, advocacy hours provided, and safe bed nights. **Ms. Mhoon** stated that these numbers were a little different due to the pandemic and not having full capacity, but are expected to return to their anticipated number of services this year.
- The presentation continued with **Amy Scanlon** discussing the opening of the rape crisis center, stating that the Sunshine Healing Center was the second to open by a couple of weeks, but that meeting the needs of the community is a partnership, and New Life Center is excited for all agencies willing to fill a gap in the sector of healing from sexual violence.
- The presentation played a [video](#) with photos and information regarding the Sunshine Healing Center. **Ms. Scanlon** continued to explain the hard work and dedication that brought forth the beautiful space to serve survivors of sexual violence. Since they are community-based, the center uses a broad definition for sexual violence, allowing them the privilege to serve more individuals impacted by sexual violence.
- **Ms. Scanlon** explained that the average age for someone to disclose child sexual abuse at the center is 52 years old. Because of this, the new crisis center sets a point of entry for individuals seeking healing services. **Ms. Scanlon** stated that every 60 seconds someone is sexually assaulted in the U.S., and often victims face barriers to reporting. Due to these barriers, out of every 1,000 sexual assaults, 310 are reported. The Sunshine Healing Center provides entry to services for those hundreds of people who did not or are not ready to report.
- **Amy Scanlon** reported that of individuals involved with sex trafficking, 90% of them were victimized as children. The rape crisis center, by definition, is a community-based agency that works with victims of sexual violence, including sex trafficking. The Sunshine Healing Center offers advocacy, a crisis hotline, outreach, and education.
- The Sunshine Healing Center wants to expand the language around rape crisis centers to be beyond crisis and to include individuals who waited years to tell their stories. **Ms. Scanlon** stated the Sunshine Healing Center is a sexual violence and rape crisis center, one that works with individuals who experienced sexual violence 6 hours ago, or 60 years ago.

- **Ms. Scanlon** explained that to seek services from Sunshine Healing Center, participants must be over the age of 18, a primary or secondary victim, and have experienced sexual violence under the broad definition of sexual violence. Participants can receive services regardless of when the experience happened and their desire to report it. They are also welcome to pause and resume services as they see fit.
- **Amy Scanlon** stated that the program works with first responders and law enforcement. This partnership ensures victims are supported in the process with the use of case management and advocates.
- **Ms. Scanlon** continued to address the services provided, including group sessions on Thursdays with three group types: sexual violence with intimate partners, sexual violence with non-intimate partners, and Spanish group sessions. The Sunshine Healing Center has expanded its groups to a survivor lead group for individuals who have experienced human trafficking. The program has found that those individuals respond best when working with others who have also experienced trafficking. **Ms. Scanlon** explained that the program currently offers yoga and is working on art therapy, sound healing, acupuncture, and other services beyond one-on-one therapy. **Ms. Scanlon** presented the photos of the spaces within the healing center.
- **Amy Scanlon** discussed her role as the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Coordinator for the West Valley, and that investigation training is completed in the center. She stated that all individuals involved in the multidisciplinary response have a role in working together to best serve the survivors.
- **Ms. Scanlon** wrapped up her discussion on the Sunshine Healing Center and **Myriah Mhoon** discussed the call to action within the community. She also acknowledged the budget, making note of the monies provided by the state that has assisted with programs, and is championing those continued supports. The New Life Center also calls to educate individuals not only about the services offered, but the collaboration of rape crisis centers, family advocacy centers, and law enforcement, and how to use the healing centers as portals into the systems based on needs.
- **Ms. Mhoon** shared that a private donor was moved by the Sunshine Healing Center when a family member disclosed in the parking lot their experiences, which prompted the swift action to provide the needed funds for furniture. **Myriah Mhoon** invited those who were interested to visit the center to reach out to either herself or **Amy Scanlon** for assistance, or use the website for additional information.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, thanked **Myriah Mhoon** and **Amy Scanlon** for the presentation. She stated she had been to the center, and **Ms. Mhoon** had previously helped train prosecutors and how they would benefit from continued training opportunities. She also stated that the services offered would be a great topic for discussion on their Podcast for the general public to hear. **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, then opened up the discussion for questions from the commissioners.
- **Monica Yelin** thanked the presenters for all they do for the community, stating she would like to take a tour of the facilities and would reach out. **Ms. Yelin** asked if individuals who are seeking services could use the phone number on the website. **Ms. Mhoon** responded that individuals can call the number on the website at any time. They have a 24-hour crisis response team, a safe location, and partners that are able to triage and respond to the right service.
- **Jenna Panas** commented on the budget that **Ms. Mhoon** had previously discussed, stating that the funding is from the Sexual Violence Services Fund (SVSF) through the

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV). **Ms. Panas** explained that the funding is a limited-time fund, and stressed the importance of continuously allocating funding to continue great services like the Sunshine Healing Center.

- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, questioned why individuals may seek services at a rape crisis center over a family advocacy center. **Ms. Scanlon** responded that individuals seek services for different reasons, and often think of family advocacy centers for assisting with reporting, or getting medical exams. However, the Sunshine Healing Center has experienced individuals who have sought their services years after the abuse because they finally feel safe to disclose. Since they are not seeking legal outcomes or going to court, they do not think to go to a family advocacy center. The Sunshine Healing Center provides a route for many who are not seeking prosecution or legal accountability.
- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, clarified that family advocacy centers do allow Jane Doe's and individuals to refuse exams. **Amy Scanlon** confirmed that these are both valid options in family advocacy centers, however, having both services as an option empowers victims to enter healing.
- **Myriah Mhoon** added that New Life Center is an entry point into systems and that they work collaboratively with family advocacy centers, as well as with Arizona Family And Child Advocacy Network (ACFAN) as a whole. Most recently, they provided presentations to law enforcement. **Ms. Mhoon** stated that she does not believe they are duplicating work, but rather providing triage of protocol on how to get that person into a system if they choose to. Sunshine Healing Center provides a soft place to land and an entry point. **Ms. Mhoon** continued by stating that they provide overnight crisis assistance for Phoenix Family Advocacy Center and that each agency is supporting one another.
- **Rachel Mitchell** asked if New Life Center trained their staff on the statute of limitation for issues regarding sexual assault and domestic violence. **Ms. Scanlon** responded that they are trained, however, their operating procedure is to reach out to someone in **Ms. Mitchell's** office for assistance since issues vary from state to state.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, shared that if they need assistance or support, to reach out to her as a resource and she can assist with working with other states. She thanked **Ms. Mhoon** and **Ms. Scanlon**.

Maricopa County Attorney's Office: Domestic Violence Diversion Program

- **Rachel Mitchell** was introduced by **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, to provide a description of the Domestic Violence Diversion Program at the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, discussed Rachel Mitchell's expertise and experience in the field of protecting families, prosecuting crimes against children, ensuring integrity in our legal system, and leading prosecutors to hold criminals accountable.
- **Rachel Mitchell**, started her presentation by thanking the commission and introducing one of the diversion programs that the Maricopa County Attorney's Office offers. **Ms. Mitchell** explained that while overseeing family violence and sex crimes, cases often posed a challenge; there were often cases where the individual had been the traditional victim in the relationship, but when acted in self-defense legally the act was unjustifiable.
- **Ms. Mitchell** continued that in these cases where individuals' actions were deemed legally unjustifiable, it did not seem fit to charge them with a felony or misdemeanor. **Rachel Mitchell** discussed it left her questioning how these individuals were going to get

away from their abuse, get employment, and/or housing when they had been charged and convicted of a felony. She stated she felt this only tethered the individual to the abusive situation more.

- **Rachel Mitchell** continued that in March 2021, they launched an evidence-based diversion program that strives to provide resources to these individuals so they can leave. The program does not look at an individual as someone who solely committed aggravated assault, but also educates them on the cycle of violence. The program partners with SAGE Counseling, Inc. to deliver Living Safely Without Violence, an evidence-based curriculum delivered by clinicians about the underlying issues that lead the person into an abusive relationship.
- **Ms. Mitchell** explained that the program is for women who have been charged with violent crimes or report a history of aggressive behavior. It integrates cognitive behavioral therapy, strength-based, and trauma-informed approaches, and provides necessary resources to leave their abusive situations. The program does not have a set number of counseling sessions but rather bases the need on the level of risk with low-risk individuals having approximately 12 sessions and moderate to high-risk having 20 sessions.
- **Rachel Mitchell** highlighted the outcomes of the program so far. The Maricopa County Attorney's Office had to ensure that the SAGE therapists were trained specifically in this program curriculum, and were on-site to complete the program. The program has had 12 enrollments with a 92% successful discharge rate. This means only one individual was unable to complete the program.
- **Ms. Mitchell** continued by stating that her office is looking into other domestic violence diversion programs. Since the Maricopa County Attorney's Office is the prosecutor for Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Maricopa County Sheriff's Office misdemeanor domestic violence cases, they have started a diversion program for domestic violence misdemeanor cases. The program is being closely monitored for success and areas for improvement, ensuring they are tracking the demographics and individuals being placed in the program. **Ms. Mitchell** discussed that the program defines recidivism as a re-arrest within Arizona and for the diversion programs, recidivism after a three-year period is 18%.
- **Rachel Mitchell** discussed another program that her family violence attorney's brought to her attention and they are looking into implementing. This program will work with families who have addictions, primarily fentanyl, and who have completed the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) process and the child has been placed back in the home and the case is closed. The program will provide additional diversion services to families who are still in the legal process and may need additional treatment. **Ms. Mitchell** then requested questions.
- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, asked if **Ms. Mitchell** has identified any barriers to entry into diversion programs. **Ms. Mitchell** responded yes, and that with the addiction programs, one of the requirements is Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). This could be a liability to require this. She explained another barrier for addiction and drug charge diversion programs is they are post-charging. In drug cases, the individuals are arrested and released from jail in order to enact a diversion program. **Ms. Mitchell** explained that this would be pre-charging and requires the courts.

- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, requested additional questions from the commissioners, and none were asked. **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, thanked **Rachel Mitchell** for her presentation.

La Frontera - EMPACT Program Update

- **Leisl Lang** was introduced by **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, explaining she is an independently Licensed Professional Counselor and Approved Clinical Supervisor with the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners. She has provided evidence-based trauma therapy to victims of crime, as well as trained advocates, therapists, and supervisors working with victims of crime at La Frontera EMPACT-SPC since 2010.
- **Liesl Lang** started her presentation with an introduction to EMPACT. She stated that EMPACT has been around since 1987 and the Trauma Healing Services has been around for about 20 years. **Ms. Lang** stated the mission of EMPACT has always been to provide compassionate, trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, LGBTQ-affirming, age-appropriate, gender-responsive services to anyone whose life has been impacted by sexual or domestic violence or other crimes, regardless of their financial or immigration status.
- **Ms. Lang** informed the commission that the program has benefitted from Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) funding, which has allowed for a partnership with Arizona State University (ASU) and the sexual violence workgroups for students at their campuses, Spanish-speaking services, and now the co-location with New Life Center.
- **Liesl Lang** continued by discussing the approach that they take to working with clients and the comments they have received about the office. She explained that the approach used ensures that clients feel like they are in a partnership with the office on their journey, how their clients stated they feel like the office is a special place for them, and they know they inspire the staff every day. **Ms. Lang** described the types of victimization that they assist with as well as their locations, including co-locations with Phoenix Family Center and New Life Center.
- **Ms. Lang** discussed the services offered by the EMPACT program. She explained that they have a 24-hour hotline, which answers the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) phone calls for Arizona. This allows EMPACT to provide local resources and a place to seek services to Arizonans who call the national line. Since EMPACT does crisis intervention, they can dispatch crisis teams as necessary.
- It was explained that when individuals enter the program they are taught immediate coping skills to help during their crisis. The advocates and staff also work on coordinating immediate needs such as filing an Order of Protection. **Liesl Lang** continued to explain the process after the crisis which includes assessing needs and client placement in individual and group therapy, and sometimes family therapy. The coordinators and advocates work with other centers like Phoenix Family Center to partner and meet the needs of individuals. The therapies offered by this program are not general counseling, but instead, trauma-focused.
- **Liesl Lang** stated that if clients are ready to work with them, they offer up to 20 sessions, which lasts about five months if attending weekly. The services are offered in English and Spanish with the Spanish waitlist being up to one year long. However, when clients first seek services they are assisted with safety and stabilization. **Ms. Lang** explained that this includes helping them feel safer in their body and their relationships, working on coping

skills, and reducing risk. Once this is completed, clients can continue their next phase of treatment to process their trauma.

- **Ms. Lang** addressed that clients need to be able to sit in their emotions, and those who are not ready do not progress in the treatments until they are. Once their processing of trauma is completed and the heaviness is lifted, individuals are taught how to reconnect and integrate without it. **Ms. Lang** stressed that compatibility with their therapist is instrumental in the success of the client, thus therapists are authentic and the personalities of every therapist are taken into consideration when pairing with clients.
- **Liesl Lang** continued by explaining the evidence-based treatment options that are available to clients to address their trauma and work through their needs. The treatment is always controlled by the client meaning they have the ability to agree or disagree with any modality of treatment, empowering clients to make the best decisions for themselves.
- **Ms. Lang** provided a list and description of the types of group therapies available. She stated that without SASP funding, the Crisis Survival Skills group would only be available in English, adding that funding helps maintain Dialectical Behavioral Therapy for both adults and adolescents. **Liesl Lang** explained that the Trauma-Informed Parenting group assists guardians and children and is based on the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.
- **Liesl Lang** addressed the last group, highlighting again that the SASP funding allowed ASU to have its own support group. **Ms. Lang** stated prior to this funding that ASU did not have a sexual violence department on campus and students were often hesitant to seek counseling on campus. She also stated that they are starting to work on adding an LGBTQ-focused trauma support group that will also use SASP funding.
- **Ms. Lang** continued by discussing the STAR group for adult survivors of sex trafficking developed in partnership with Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz from the ASU's Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention and Research, With the use of group therapies, survivors are able to cope better, leading to a reduction in substance abuse, self-harm, and psychiatric hospitalizations. The goal of this group is to help them learn how to build healthy relationships, return to school or work, and find ways to create meaning in their lives.
- **Liesl Lang** explained that the program has always intended to be collaborative, discussing how they complete community presentations and meetings, get involved in outreach events and have fostered a strong internship program with ASU for bachelor and graduate students. They developed and host annually Take Back the Night on ASU's campuses for students and the community. **Ms. Lang** provided referral hotline numbers and then solicited questions from the commission members.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, thanked **Ms. Lang** for the presentation and asked since EMPACT is tied to suicide prevention, the various programs that she works with help people address their trauma and therefore lower the risk of suicide, correct? **Ms. Lang** affirmed, stating the program started in 1987 with one crisis team and one crisis line and has grown tremendously since then. **Ms. Lang** stated she believed that there are over 700 employees answering 16 different hotlines and that this program is just one part of the bigger organization.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, asked if **Ms. Lang** had a date for the next Take Back the Night event. **Ms. Lang** stated that at this point they do not have a date as they are still in the planning process and will possibly know by October when in April the event will take place, and on which ASU campus.

- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, asked if the individuals seeking services had to be manifesting suicidal tendencies or symptoms. **Ms. Lang** responded no, stating that in 2002, EMPACT reached out to Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to assist with answering the RAINN hotline, which gave inception to the Trauma Healing Service Program. The program answered the calls and provided the services.
- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, asked if the program had enough therapists. **Ms. Lang** responded that they did not, adding this need is significant with Spanish-speaking clients. **Ms. Lang** stated the program's fund-seeking activities and internship opportunities as ways to address the need.
- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, asked if the program is providing behavioral health services in schools to children who need them. **Ms. Lang** stated that they are not on-site at schools, however, they can and do seek services at their locations.
- **Kirstin Flores** asked about the agency's mission statement, which states they work with victims of sexual or domestic violence and also victims of other crimes. She asked what are some of the other crimes. **Ms. Lang** answered that those crimes are included under VOCA-funded categories, which include witnessing homicide, being a victim of a hit and run, being a driving while intoxicated (DWI) victim, or being a victim of any violent crime. The individual can be a primary or secondary victim of 35 different categories.
- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair, and Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, thanked **Ms. Lang** again for the presentation and the work they are doing in the community.

Request for Future Presentation Topic

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, asked the commissioners to provide feedback on future presentation topics. No topics were discussed, and commission members were encouraged to reach out to GOYFF staff with any topics for the upcoming meeting.

Future Meeting Dates

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, announced the following meeting dates:
 - Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Adjourn

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, called for adjournment at 11:43 AM.
 - **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, motioned to adjourn. **Beth Hoel** seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Dated the 17th of August 2022
Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women
Respectfully Submitted By:
Ariana Abbarello
Program Administrator, GOYFF