



Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment
March 9, 2023, 10:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting

1700 West Washington Street, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007
 A general meeting of the Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment
 was convened on **March 9, 2023**, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (17)	Members Absent (6)
Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair	Dr. Lorrie Henderson
Colleen McNally, Co-Chair	Kate Brophy McGee
Berisha Black	Leslie Reprogle
Pastor Terry Crist	Warren Stewart
Obed Escobar	Torrie Taj
Claire Louge	Ryan Young
Rachel Mitchell	
James Molina	
Paul Mulligan	
Darlene Newsom	
Katie O'Dell	
Kathryn Blades Ptak	
Brad Snyder	
Jeffrey James Taylor	
Mark Upton	
Ginger Ward	
Richard Yarbough	
Staff and Guests Present (5)	
Amy Peep, GOYFF	Dr. Angela Salomon, StreetLightUSA
	Sarah Chung, Safal Partners
	Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, ASU STIR
	Joanna Jauregui, McCain Institute

Call to Order

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, called the Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment (CSFE) meeting to order at 10:06 AM with **17** members and **6** staff/guests present. She reviewed the Council meeting procedures, welcomed all those joining via Zoom, and thanked them for their flexibility.

Approval of Minutes

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, with quorum met, requested a review of the **November 10, 2022** meeting minutes.
 - **Richard Yarbough** moved to accept the **November 10, 2022** minutes.
 - **James Molina** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes at **10:09 AM**.

Child Sexual Exploitation

- **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, introduced **Dr. Angela Salomon** to speak to the Council.
- **Dr. Angela Salomon** is the Director of Programs & Quality Assurance at [StreetLightUSA](#). She has worked with underserved, refugee, and trafficked populations since 2007. Her background is in the assessment and treatment of trauma and its emotional, physical, and cognitive impact. This experience has allowed her to create holistic and trauma responsive programs and services, as well as train community partners throughout the U.S. and Internationally. She is the Co-Chair of the Victims Services Workgroup for the Arizona Human Trafficking Council. Her time and dedication to this mission is based on the belief that survivors of trafficking can begin healing and moving toward a better life through the support from individuals and organizations that understand their unique needs.
- **Dr. Angela Salomon** explained that StreetLightUSA is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)/Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) specialized services since 2011. StreetLightUSA offers two levels of care: the Group Home and the Behavioral Health Residential Facility. The services they offer are trauma-responsive. Some examples of the services offered are, but are not limited to: screening/referral, assessment for CSE or CSEC/trauma, online education, life skills groups, culturally responsive recreational activities, in-house optional Pastoral support services, pediatric and medical care, etc.
 - *Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)* is a form of sexual abuse that can include contact and non-contact sexual activities and/or exposure to sexually inappropriate content. It can occur online and/or in person. It occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate, or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18.
 - *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)* includes a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value (including monetary and nonmonetary benefits) given or received by any person.
- **Dr. Angela Salomon** continued to explain that both levels of care (mentioned above) have admission criteria:
 - Participants must be adolescent females at birth (no current gender identity restrictions).
 - Within the 13-17 chronological age range (versus developmental).
 - Confirmed or highly suspected history of CSE/CSEC.
 - No active use of illegal and/or unprescribed substances and/or alcohol by the time of admission.
 - To include being medically cleared for alcohol detoxification.
 - Preferred minimum length of time since last use: two weeks as withdrawal symptoms can affect the treatment process.
 - Mental status examination shows intact reality testing, with no indication of current dissociation and/or actively untreated psychosis and delusions (not directly related to trauma).
 - If the prospective resident lacks full orientation, it is directly related to recent exploitation/trafficking and/or trauma factors.
 - No indications for danger to other residents and staff.
 - Danger-to-self factors are limited to ongoing and/or pervasive intrusive thoughts and active management of para-suicide/self-harming behaviors secondary to trauma.
 - Active plans accompanied with high risk of acting on thoughts and high lethality are considered indicators for referral to higher level of care in order to safeguard child's safety.
 - Referent and legal guardian(s) agrees to all policies and procedures, to include all integrative services and academics that comprise The Sanctuary's holistic trauma treatment model.

- Prospective resident is willing to actively engage in treatment and all services that comprise StreetLightUSA's holistic model of care, as well as agrees to follow the program's community expectations and behavior support incentive program.
- **Dr. Angela Salomon** mentioned that the most frequent age of an individual in their program is 16, with an average adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) score of 6-7. The primary method of exploitation is the boyfriend/romeo pimp archetype followed by the online sexual luring/exploitation method, the average sexual orientation reported is bisexual (50% identified as that or 'other'), and 70% identified as latinx.
- **Dr. Angela Salomon** also noted that the StreetLightUSA leadership holds extensive experience in working with refugee, underserved/minority, and exploited/trafficked populations both within the United States and internationally. They emphasize the importance of cultural responsiveness and how that positively impacts outcomes.
- To view Dr. Angela Saloman's presentation, click [here](#).

Unhoused Youth: LGBTQIA+

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, introduced **Sarah Chung** to speak to the Council.
- **Sarah Chung** is a Senior Facilitator for the U.S. Department of Labor and the National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center that reintegrates those experiencing homelessness back into the workforce. She has served those experiencing homelessness in a range of roles at the non-profit, regional, state and national government levels. Sarah is committed to addressing racial disparities and intersectionalities such as LGBTQ+, and those who are being exploited due to human trafficking. Sarah has advocated for and worked with LGBTQ+ youth as a homeless outreach worker, victims advocate, case manager and shelter staff, among other roles. Sarah has served on the Arizona Human Trafficking Council for the Governor's Office since 2019.
- **Sarah Chung** explained that the definition of homelessness varies across state/federal agencies and leading national organizations: [The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#) defines homelessness as those who are under 25 years of age, within a family unit and don't meet other categories under the federal statute. [The National Alliance to End Homelessness](#) defines homeless youth as those unaccompanied between the ages of 12 to 24. [The National Coalition for the Homeless](#) defines homeless youth as those under 18. [Chapin Hall](#) at the University of Chicago aligns with the [Runaway and Homeless Youth Act](#) which defines homelessness as individuals under 18 or between 16 and 22. **Sarah Chung** emphasized that the definition varies between organizations and institutions which can be difficult when providing services to homeless youth and when gathering data.
- **Sarah Chung** mentioned that the national data is very reflective of the data in the State of Arizona. Across the nation, it is estimated that over 4 million youth and young adults are experiencing homelessness in any year. Of which, 700,000 are unaccompanied minors. On any given night, approximately 41,000 unaccompanied youth, ages 13-25, are experiencing homelessness. She noted that this data is quite alarming.
- **Sarah Chung** referenced the Chapin Hall data. She stated that they have compiled the most comprehensive examination of homeless youth to date.
 - One-half of youth experiencing homelessness in 12 months experienced it for the first time.
 - LGBTQIA+ youth are 120% times more likely to experience homelessness than their straight, non-LBGTQ counterparts.
 - There is a disproportionate rate of youth experiencing homelessness that are among the Black/African American populations. They are 83% higher risk of reporting homelessness. This mirrors racial disparities documented elsewhere, school suspension, incarceration rates, foster care placement, etc.
 - Latinx, or non-white youth, are found to be at a 33% higher risk of reporting homelessness.
 - Youth are at 162% higher risk of reporting homelessness if the annual household income is less than \$24,000.
 - There is a 200% higher risk for youth who come from unmarried parenting households.
 - Youth are at a 346% higher risk of reporting homeless if they have less than a high-school diploma.
 - Of youth experiencing homelessness, 26% of them have been in foster care.

- **Sarah Chung** explained that all of the data (mentioned previously) are examples of intersectionality. It is estimated that 7% of the general youth population identifies as LGBTQ+ and 40% of the homeless youth population identifies as LGBTQ+. Family conflict is seen to be the most common cause for LGBTQ+ youth homelessness. Usually due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. Other factors are aging out of foster care, poverty, and conflicts in the home (abuse).
- **Sarah Chung** referenced the [Annual Homelessness Assessment Report \(AHAR\)](#). The AHAR includes a point-in-time count every year in every single state. In 2022, youth homelessness has increased in Arizona. Arizona increased by 284 youth from last year. She mentioned the estimated number of youth in Arizona is 917.
- **Sarah Chung** referenced the [2021 Youth Experiences Survey \(Y.E.S.\)](#) Study stating that 49.4% identified as LGBTQ+. This study and this data is important because it demonstrates the disproportionate rate of LGBTQ+ in the homeless youth population.
- **Sarah Chung** explained that once you have defined the problem, identified causes, risk, and protective factors, that you can develop interventions and coordinated entry points. Examples of entry points are shelters, transitional housing, temporary housing assistance, and permanent stable housing.
- **Sarah Chung** stressed the importance of lived experience and using that to inform programs and government policy.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, asked if there is national or Arizona data about serious mental illness (SMI), behavioral health, or developmental disabilities within the youth experiencing homelessness population (specifically within demographics: race, ethnicity, gender identity).
 - **Sarah Chung** mentioned that this is an area of opportunity for our state. There are privacy limitations (i.e. HIPAA) that restrict this data from being known.
- **Claire Louge** asked what is the biggest misconception about unhoused youth.
 - **Sarah Chung** answered that the biggest misconception is that youth are not as traumatic of a situation that they are in. People make this assumption because youth are particularly smart at finding solutions and they might not “look” like they are in need. **Sarah Chung** also mentioned that another common misconception is that youth choose to be homeless and that they are “fine”.
- **Katie O'Dell** asked for clarification about the 917 individuals counted for Arizona (slide 17). She asked what, for Arizona, is the age range. She also asked if youth in transitional housing/overnight shelter are included in the point-in-time count. She also asked if there is an estimation of the number of kids we don't have enough shelter for.
 - **Sarah Chung** explained that 917 was gathered using the HUD definition of homelessness. That is defined as unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age.
 - **Sarah Chung** explained that HUD defines homelessness as those who are staying in shelter, on the street, or in transitional housing. ‘Couch surfing’ is not included.
 - **Sarah Chung** answered that she would need to get back to Katie for that number.
- **Berisha Black** asked if she has partnered with [Homeless Youth Connection](#).
 - **Sarah Chung** answered that she is familiar with what they do but does not partner with them directly.
- **Jeffrey James Taylor** asked what percentage of the LGBTQ+ homeless youth are as a result of their family kicking them out of the house?
 - **Sarah Chung** answered that approximately 80% of youth report being forced out of their homes as the cause for their homelessness. This data was gathered by [True Colors United](#).
- **Darlene Newsom** commented that the Arizona Department of Education would be a good resource to inform the number of homeless youth in the state. School is likely the only stable factor in their lives.
- To view Sarah Chung's presentation, click [here](#).

Unhoused Youth: Youth in Foster Care

- **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, introduced **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** to speak to the Council.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** is a social scientist focused on developing innovative and impactful research on emerging social issues, especially those affecting girls and women. She is an Associate Professor at the Arizona State University (ASU) School of Social Work and the founder and director of the [ASU Office of Sex](#)

[Trafficking Intervention Research \(ASU STIR\)](#). She leads numerous initiatives working with community partners including law enforcement, social service providers, and survivor support organizations in multiple states. She is also an appointed member of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council and the City of Phoenix Human Trafficking Task Force.

- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** explained that the Y.E.S. Study began in 2014. It is a 6 page survey and the purpose of it is to give individuals/organizations data to apply for grants that help their community.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** mentioned that with the year the survey is implemented, they try to limit the barriers that restrict people from participating. In 2022, 92% of participants completed the survey via paper-and-pencil and 8% completed then online. In total, they had 107 individuals complete the survey. The sample consisted of homeless youth in Phoenix, Tucson, and Flagstaff, Arizona.
 - The average age was 20, ranging from 18 to 25; 56.1% were female, 32.7% male, 5.6% transgender.
 - People of color were overrepresented in their sample (compared to the population of Arizona); 35.5% were Hispanic, 20.5% were Caucasian, 19.6% were African American.
 - The majority of homeless youth in Arizona (in this study) were LGBTIA+; 36% were heterosexual, 64% were not.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** explained the findings from the study.
 - The age of first homelessness was 16.5 with a range from 2 to 25. More than half (51.4%) first experienced homelessness under the age of 18.
 - The participants were sheltered via couch surfing. However, they are not only couch surfing, it might vary day-to-day due what is available to them at that time.
 - Over half were raised in Arizona and stayed for a long period of time. Overall, kids are not coming to Arizona to be unsheltered.
 - Only 52% successfully graduated from high school. Less than half (41%) reported having dropped out of school at one point in time during their educational journey.
 - Participants reporting haven dropped out of school due to moving around a lot, being homeless, academic difficulty, supporting themselves (job/money), bullying, pregnancy, expulsion, and substance use.
 - More than half (53.3%) of participants reported drug use.
 - The average age of first drug use was 14.8 from a range of 5 to 22. Of the 53.3%, 87.7% reported their first drug use before the age of 18.
 - Participants reported having used fentanyl (9.3%), marijuana (32.7%), and even having an addiction to alcohol (8.4%). Of that, 22.2% became addicted after becoming homeless.
 - A little over half (54.2%) reported engaging in some form of self-harming behavior (cutting, burning, risk taking, having sex with strangers); 44.9% reported attempting suicide.
 - More than half (61.8%) reported having *diagnosed* mental health issues and 52.3% reported having a current medical issue.
 - Three participants reported being pregnant while homeless, 25 participants had children, and 13 had their children in their care.
 - Half of respondents reported that they were kicked out of their home before the age of 18 with an average age being 16.6 years old.
 - Less than half (38.3%) reported having witnessed domestic violence in their household as a child.
 - Almost half (49.5%) reported having a steady job and 22.4% reported having side jobs for cash.
 - Participants were 12x more likely to experience four or more (ACEs).
 - The average number being 5.1 ACEs.
 - Less than half (40.2%) reported experiencing at least one form of exploitation with 17.8% reported experiencing both sex and labor trafficking.
 - 36.4% reported experiencing sex trafficking. The age of first experience was 16.9, ranging from 3 to 25. Of those who experienced a sex trafficking situation, 23.1% were under 18 at their first experience.
 - 61.5% of females were trafficked. 25.6% were males.
 - 43.6% of those who identify as LGBTQIA+ were trafficked.

- Participants reported needing a place to stay, money, food, drugs, clothing, and protection as reasons for their sex trafficking experiences.
- 30.8% of participants reported their friend as their sex trafficker; 25.6% reported their boyfriend.
- 46.2% reported that technology was used to facilitate their exploitation.
- Sex trafficked youth are seen to be more likely to engage in drug use, less likely to eat, more likely to report one mental health diagnosis, dental problems, vision problems, etc. They were also significantly more likely to report all of the ACEs.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** explained that youth are plastic and intervening early represents an opportunity to disrupt a lifetime of homelessness.
- To view Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz's presentation, click [here](#). To view the second part of the presentation, click [here](#).

Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) Welcome Center Human Trafficking Training

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, introduced **Joanna Jauregui** to speak to the Council.
- **Joanna Jauregui** serves as the Arizona Combating Human Trafficking Senior Program Coordinator with the [McCain Institute for International Leadership](#). In this role, she supports the Senior Director of Arizona Initiatives and the anti-trafficking community to increase capacity, statewide collaboration, and sustainable solutions to combat labor and sex trafficking in Arizona.
- **Joanna Jauregui** began her presentation by explaining the McCain Institute is committed to driving systemic change and implementing comprehensive action-based solutions to prevent and end all forms of modern slavery.
 - Outreach to Vulnerable Populations: The Combating Human Trafficking program is pioneering new approaches to best address and inform vulnerable populations about the risks of human trafficking they may face, including through our [R.E.A.L. Friends Don't](#) online safety campaign.
 - Building Capacity Through Training and Technical Assistance: The McCain Institute offers high quality, scenario based human trafficking and prevention training for a full range of stakeholders including investigators, prosecutors, service providers and mental health professionals in Arizona and across the country. They also offer accredited online training for youth-facing service providers through their [Certificate on Human Trafficking](#).
 - Bringing Changemakers Together: The Global Consortium on Prosecuting Human Trafficking, established in 2021 in partnership with Justice and Care, brings together expert prosecutors and advisors from around the world to build a vibrant practitioners' network, align on best practices, and develop specific, targeted policy recommendations.
 - Advocating for Long-Lasting Solutions: Their team regularly shares data and provides technical expertise to help shape national and international laws and policies.
- **Joanna Jauregui** gave an overview of the Collaborative.
 - The Collaborative began as a public-private partnership with [Mercy Care](#), Phoenix Police Department, and behavioral health providers.
 - The reason why the Collaborative began was because youth had experienced exploitation and/or were running away from foster care/DCS placement centers.
 - Youth who had experienced child sexual exploitation had an AWOL rate of 90%.
 - Circumstances of youth being referred to the Collaborative:
 - Youth disclosure to a forensic interviewer, law enforcement, therapist or specialist.
 - Law enforcement investigation or operation.
 - DCS identifies warning signs among youth or circumstances related to youth running away.
 - DCS investigation and/or home removal.
 - Screening from juvenile probation or other service providers.
 - Findings from the 2020 Evaluation:
 - There were 92 children who were sex trafficking victims who were Black/African American and 83 White/Caucasian children.

- The average age was 16 years old.
 - For the kids who had a history of running away, 1 in 5 had a history of child sexual abuse.
 - Approximately 70% of children were in DCS's custody.
 - There has been an increase of interstate connections/interstate trafficking.
- **Joanna Jauregui** explained that due to the unique position DCS has in connection with these vulnerable children, the McCain Institute and ASU STIR designed training programs for DCS staff. The training curriculum included:
 - Legal definitions
 - Dynamics of child sex trafficking
 - Recruitment locations and tactics
 - Grooming and trauma bonding
 - Means of control
 - Experiences in the life
 - Typology of traffickers
 - Impact of abuse
 - Warning signs
 - Supporting victims
 - Reporting
 - Arizona-based resources
- **Joanna Jauregui** noted that time and travel is one the biggest barriers for staff not to participate. As a result, the DCS Coordinated Response for Survivors of Trafficking (CReST) Coordinator (Denise Chen) travels to the more rural parts of the state. The new hotline has also proven to be a catalyst to provide training to agencies, organizations, and partners in southern/northern Arizona that wouldn't ordinarily be able to.
- **Joanna Jauregui** mentioned that the DCS Welcome Center is the first introduction for most kids into the child safety system. Training the staff prepares them to be the kids first impression of safety and protection. As these training progresses, they are able to modify it so that gaps are filled, material is refined, etc., with the overall goal to prevent further harm and exploitation of vulnerable youth.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, mentioned that there is a very notable difference in support/awareness of human trafficking in the state, particularly with DCS.
- To view Joanna Jauregui's presentation, click [here](#).

Workgroup Updates

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, introduced the Prevention Workgroup Chair, **Claire Louge**, to share any updates with the Council.
- **Claire Louge** explained the Prevention Workgroup meets every month and that there are two things that they are working on:
 - Connecting the state's existing family resource centers (hubs of support for families) to one another and creating a way for parents and professionals to know where their most local hub of resources is.
 - Focusing on the Foster Collaborative developed by [Foster Arizona](#). It is an online platform where parents and professionals can visit to connect with one another and share resource with one another.

Upcoming Meeting

- **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, reminded Council Members that the next meeting will be on **May 11, 2023, at 10:00 AM** in the Executive Tower. The meeting will be offered in a hybrid format and Council members are welcome to attend in person or virtually.

Adjournment

- **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn.
 - **Berisha Black** moved to adjourn.
 - **Claire Louge** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes. The meeting adjourned at **11:53 AM**.

Dated 9 of March 2023
Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment
Respectfully Submitted By:
Amy Peep
GOYFF

DRAFT