



**Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2023
10:00 AM**

A general meeting of the Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention convened on March 15, 2023. Notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members:

Members Present (6)	Members Absent (1)
Denise Beagley, Chair (Proxy Nicole Valenzuela)	Raynee Schneider
Marina Lantsman-Waugh (Proxy Arcenio Garcia)	
Nicholas Stavros	
Michael Klinkner	
Chief Robert Martin	
Lori Robinson	
Staff and Guests Present (5)	
Tonya Hamilton, GOYFF, Director	Crystal Narcho
Kainoa Spenser, GOYFF	Susann Clinton

CALL TO ORDER

Nicole Valenzuela, Proxy for Denise Beagley, Chair, called the Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention meeting to order at **10:03 A.M.** with 6 members present and 1 member absent.

ROLL CALL

Nicole Valenzuela, welcomed members and guests, and took attendance via roll call at **10:03 A.M.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nicole Valenzuela, requested a review of the **January 18, 2023** meeting minutes. **Commissioner Stavros** motioned to accept the minutes. **Commissioner Martin** seconded the motion. The motion passed with no dissenting votes **10:05 A.M.**

MEETING PRESENTATIONS

Southern Arizona Children’s Advocacy Center, Parents Commission SFY23 Grantee
Ms. Crystal Narcho

Nicole Valenzuela, welcomed and introduced **Ms. Crystal Narcho** to the meeting. **Ms. Narcho** thanked the commission for the opportunity to present. **Ms. Narcho** shared a detailed overview of the organization and the programming funded through the Parents Commission Grant.

- **Ms. Narcho** stated that the mission of their advocacy center is to provide a safe, compassionate, healing environment for children who have been a victim of or have witnessed a crime.

- **Ms. Narcho** shared detailed information about the Children's Advocacy Center model, community partners in the multidisciplinary team, child abuse trends, and their programs.
- **Ms. Narcho** stated that some contributing factors to child abuse include isolation and lack of support; stress with finances, employment, or medically related; unrealistic expectations/low self-confidence; disability or mental illness; drug, alcohol or gambling problems; lack of parenting skills; and past childhood experiences.
- **Ms. Narcho** stated the trends in child abuse cases in the area they serve include child on child abuse; authority figures (coaches, teachers, etc.); witness to violence; and the increased intensity of the abuse.
- **Ms. Narcho** shared that the effects of child abuse can be present in the victim as impaired brain development, poor physical health, or psychological issues; relationship issues; substance abuse; behavioral issues; and abusive toward others.
- **Ms. Narcho** described risk factors for child abuse including parental stress, poverty, and substance abuse to name a few. **Ms. Narcho** stated that protective factors can shield individuals, families, and communities from experiencing and/or engaging in abuse to the child by providing tools and resources that increase knowledge about parental resilience, nurturing and attachment, and parenting and child development; concrete support in times of need; social connections; and social emotional competence of children.
- **Ms. Narcho** shared that their programs include the following:
 - Investigation Services for victims and partner investigations including forensic interviews, medical evaluations, and family advocacy.
 - Family Support and Primary and Secondary Prevention Programs including Stewards of Children, Protective Factor Training, Safe Sleep, Mandated Reporter Training, and public education events.
 - Survivor Empowerment Programs for youth and families.
 - Administrative Programs including human resources, finance, and organizational development.
- Southern Arizona Child Advocacy Center's presentation can be found on the Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention website at goyff.az.gov/PC.

Nicole Valenzuela thanked **Ms. Narcho** for her presentation and asked commission members if they had any questions.

- The commission did not have questions for **Ms. Narcho**.

Safe Child Center at Flagstaff Medical Center, Children's Justice Act (CJA) Subgrantee Ms. Susann Clinton

Nicole Valenzuela, welcomed **Ms. Clinton** to share the organization's presentation with the commission. The team thanked the commission for the opportunity to present.

- **Ms. Clinton** shared information about child advocacy centers, factors that put children at risk for child abuse, and the importance of organizations being child-centered and child-friendly.
- **Ms. Clinton** stated that the environment, staff, and outside partners focus on supporting the child and allowing them to lead the interview and examination process to ensure they are in comfortable and safe environments and interactions.
- **Ms. Clinton** discussed how they provide comforting items to the children during their visit, especially when the child's belongings must be kept for the investigation. She stated that the items kept can be meaningful to the child so they want to ensure the child has items to wear and take with them that are comforting to them as well.

- **Ms. Clinton** shared that the Safe Child Center provides medical forensic exams and interviews as well as services related to family advocacy and behavioral health.
- **Ms. Clinton** explained that the multidisciplinary team (MDT) includes law enforcement, prosecution, the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS), victims' services, and family advocates.
- **Ms. Clinton** stated the efficacy of children's advocacy centers include:
 - Higher rate of patient satisfaction
 - Dramatic increase in prosecutions
 - Faster criminal charging decisions
 - Investigations are 36% less expensive
 - Higher rates of coordinated investigations
 - Children served are more likely to receive medical services
- **Ms. Clinton** discussed the long term impact of abuse and exposure to violence can include:
 - Higher (36%) health care costs due to multiple health problems
 - Lower wages from employers
 - Suffer from difficulties with attachment, regressive behavior, anxiety and depression
 - Being more prone to dating violence
 - Higher incidence of delinquency and involvement in child welfare systems
 - Tendency to perpetuate the cycle of violence
- **Ms. Clinton** shared that the community they serve includes:
 - Children/families from Coconino County and surrounding counties, serving approximately 350 children a year
 - Residents from the tribal nations of Navajo, Hopi, Yavapai/Apache, and Havasupai, consisting of approximately 60% of their cases
- **Ms. Clinton** stated that poverty, caregiver drug and alcohol abuse, and high rates of community violence are top risk factors for child abuse.
- **Ms. Clinton** explained the increased risk factors on Tribal Nations due to higher rates of poverty, substance abuse, and prevalence of violence in the community.
- **Ms. Clinton** shared that parental protective factors to prevent child abuse include:
 - Caregivers who create safe, positive relationships with children
 - Caregivers who practice nurturing parenting skills and provide emotional support
 - Caregivers who can meet basic needs of food, shelter, education, and health services
 - Caregivers who have achieved post-secondary and/or higher education, and have steady employment
- **Ms. Clinton** shared detailed information about mandatory and discretionary reporters with contact information for agencies to call.
- The Safe Child Center's presentation can be found on the Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention website at goyff.az.gov/PC.

Nicole Valenzuela, thanked **Ms. Clinton** for her presentation and asked the commission if they had any questions.

- The commission did not have questions for **Ms. Clinton**.

PARENTS COMMISSION GRANTEE UPDATES

Arizona Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF)

Ms. Nicole Valenzuela

Nicole Valenzuela, Program Administrator at the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF), shared grantee updates with the commission. **Ms. Valenzuela** stated that the grantees are receiving frequent check-in's specific to program implementation and technical assistance. **Ms. Valenzuela** discussed that the Parents Commission Quarterly Engagement Meetings have increased opportunities for cross collaboration and partnerships amongst grantees and community partners. She shared that the Parents Commission Grant program has provided community-centered program development/engagement training for all Parents Commission Grant program grantees. **Ms. Valenzuela** stated that the Parents Commission members received documentation for reappointment and vacancies on the commission. **Ms. Valenzuela** stated that the Year 2 Grantee Renewal Applications will be sent out April 2023.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nicole Valenzuela, asked if any commissioners had announcements they would like to share.

- **Tonya Hamilton**, GOYFF Director stated that the Governor's Youth Commission (GYC) application is now open for the 2023-2024 school year. She stated that the commission is looking for youth representation from 10th-12th grade high school students in all 15 counties across the state. **Director Hamilton** shared that the applications are available on the [GOYFF website](#) and due on May 31, 2023, at 5 P.M.

FUTURE AGENDA/MEETING SCHEDULE

Nicole Valenzuela, stated the next scheduled meeting is set for **May 17, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.** at the Executive Tower in a hybrid format (in-person & virtual) for those unable to attend in-person.

ADJOURN

Nicole Valenzuela, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Robinson** moved to adjourn. **Commissioner Stavros** seconded the motion. The motion passed with no dissenting votes and adjourned at **11:01 A.M.**

15th Day of March 2023
Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention
Respectfully Submitted By:
Nicole Valenzuela
Program Administrator, GOYFF