



Commission
to Prevent Violence
Against Women

**Governor’s Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women
August 15, 2023, 10:00 AM
Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys’ Advisory Council
3838 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85012**

A general meeting of the Governor’s Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women convened on August 15, 2023, with notice duly given.

Members Present (8)	Members Absent (7)
Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair	Jon Eliason
Kirstin Flores	Patricia Klahr
Mary Egesa, Proxy for Sheila Sjolander	Tene Marion
Amanda Yoon, Proxy for Jenna Panas	Nicole Bidwell
Ed-Mercurio-Sakwa	Richard Jessup
Neil Websdale	Eve Scarff
Kay Radwanski	Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair
Jon Smith	
Staff and Guests Present (7)	
Emily Uline-Olmstead	Grant Belancik
Sandra Mucino	Greg Giangobbe
Shayne Johnson	Angela Rose
Amy Peep	

Call to Order

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, called the Governor’s Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women meeting to order at **10:02 AM** with eight members present. **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, mentioned that **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, could not attend.

Welcome/Introductions

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, welcomed everyone and conducted roll call.

Approval of Minutes

- A quorum was not reached. Approval of the May 9, 2023 meeting minutes will be moved to the November 2023 meeting.

Sexual Assault Kit Tracking

- **Grant Belancik** was introduced by **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, as the Supervising Forensic Scientist at the Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZDPS) Central Regional Crime Lab to give an overview of the Sexual Assault Kits (SAKs) Tracking System and the status of Arizona's program.
- **Grant Belancik** has been with the department for over 15 years and currently manages the DNA Casework Unit, focusing on sexual assaults. He is also a member of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS). Before becoming a supervisor, Mr. Belancik spent several years as a DNA and serology analyst working on various cases, including violent crimes, sexual assaults, and property crimes.
 - Since 2013, Mr. Belancik has been a member of the lab's Crime Scene Response Team, which assists law enforcement agencies in investigations across Arizona. Before beginning his career at the AZDPS Crime Lab, Mr. Belancik graduated from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA, with a bachelor's degree in Biology and a master's degree in Forensic Science and Law. Today, Mr. Belancik focuses on process improvements and employee development to meet the ever-growing demand for forensic DNA analysis and to better serve the community.
- **Grant Belancik** thanked the Commission for having him and began his presentation by providing a brief background of the [AZDPS Crime Lab](#).
 - In 2017, Arizona passed [House Bill \(HB\) 2268](#), requiring all SAKs that are collected be tested. However, SAKs collected under the [Violence Against Women's Act \(VAWA\)](#) are exempt from testing until the survivor consents. Additionally, if it is proven that no crime occurred or charges were unfounded, the kit is not required to be tested.
 - HB2268 additionally outlines that all law enforcement agencies must report the following to the AZDPS Crime Lab by August 30th of each year:
 - The number of SAKs the agency received.
 - The number of SAKs the agency submitted to the lab for testing.
 - The number of SAKs not submitted to the lab.
 - The reason(s) why the agency did not submit SAKs for testing.
 - For additional information about the Crime Labs Data and Reports, [click here](#).
- **Grant Belancik** explained a web-based software program was designed specifically for SAKs tracking. The platform provides, but is not limited to, data reports and personalized portals. Each stakeholder group has access to this information, including law enforcement, prosecutors, survivors, and medical personnel.
 - AZDPS funds the program's annual cost, so no fees exist for users.
 - To date, there are 44 medical facilities (200 users), 108 law enforcement agencies (807 users), four crime laboratories (82 users), and six Arizona county attorney's offices.
- **Grant Belancik** stated that the new prosecutor piece of the portal within the SAKs system created a complete loop between all stakeholders that handle cases of sexual assault. The portal allows law enforcement agencies, crime labs, and prosecutors easy access to all information. Previously and traditionally, the Prosecutor's Office received cases before DNA testing had been completed or even started. By using the portal, prosecutors can now be alerted when a case has completed testing.

- The crime lab can prioritize SAKs for scheduled trial cases. Other times, no charges are submitted, and no additional testing beyond the SAKs is needed.
- **Grant Belancik** explained the Crime Lab would like to educate and implement this system with prosecutor's offices across the state and continue identifying appropriate users (e.g., paralegals, smaller law enforcement agencies, and potentially Phoenix Crime Lab). Other goals presented to the Commission:
 - Increase awareness about VAWA, [Maricopa County Attorney's Office Sexual Assault Protocol](#), and the [Sexual Assault Kit Initiatives Grant](#).
 - Integration with the Crime Lab Information Management System (LIMS) at AZDPS to automate all statewide lab updates done manually by personnel.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, asked why there are currently no users in the prosecutor portal and if anyone at the respective agencies has the training to use the software.
 - **Grant Belancik** responded that the prosecutor portal is currently in the testing phase, and the Crime Lab has not identified the appropriate users to train.
- **Neil Websdale** asked if the Crime Lab has had conversations with the [State Bar of Arizona](#) and how much of the information from the software is disclosable.
 - **Grant Belancik** responded there had been no inquiries from the Bar. He added that [STACS DNA](#), the company that runs the software, is particular about recorded information due to its sensitive nature.
- To view **Grant Belancik's** presentation, [click here](#).

Arizona Intimate Partner Risk Assessment

- **Greg Giangobbe** was introduced by **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, as the Director of Law Enforcement Operations at the Arizona State University (ASU) School of Social Work's Family Violence Center.
- **Greg Giangobbe** has 34 years of public safety experience. He is responsible for a statewide project, the Arizona Intimate Partner Risk Assessment Instrument System (APRAIS), and other national/international risk assessment work. He coordinates and provides training/workshops and delivers keynote addresses on a local, state, and national level, discussing justice, due, community policing, and how to improve the patrol officer's interaction with victims. Mr. Giangobbe served 25 years with the Phoenix Police Department, and after his departure, Mr. Giangobbe served as a community college's Chief of College Security.
- **Greg Giangobbe** began his presentation by explaining the [Arizona Intimate Partner Risk Assessment Instrument System \(APRAIS\)](#) aims to create standardized, evidence-based risk assessment tools and protocols to inform criminal justice system decisions (e.g., bail, conditions of release, supervision, sanctions, and treatment), in addition to decisions as they relate to the civil arena (e.g., family court, custody, and divorce).
 - Additionally, APRAIS aims to increase education and public awareness of case handling on a broader scale (e.g., public health screenings).
- **Greg Giangobbe** discussed the current status of the tool and how many agencies have implemented the [APRAIS Form 4C](#), stating the total number of law enforcement agencies to use the tool is 73; the target is 127. He defined target agencies as agencies that routinely respond to domestic violence calls.
- **Greg Giangobbe** mentioned that when training agencies to use the tool, they teach it as a policing philosophy. The fundamentals of the APRAIS training are victim-centered, practicing active listening, being present with victims, and treating victims as one would

like their family members treated. The goal is for all APRAIS-trained officers to carry this behavior over to all the calls and citizens they encounter when serving their communities.

- **Greg Giangobbe** continued his presentation by explaining successes since implementing the APRAIS tool and providing examples to the Commission. Highlights shared:
 - The APRAIS tool has been adopted in other states, including Montana, Minnesota, Michigan, and Kansas.
 - In 2022, the APRAIS protocols and policing philosophy became part of the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (AZPOST)-mandated domestic violence training at Arizona police academies.
 - APRAIS is participating in developing the Community Informed Risk Assessment (CIRA) in El Salvador as part of a cooperative agreement awarded by the [U.S. Agency for International Development](#).
 - APRAIS online learning modules are accredited by the [International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training \(IADLEST\)](#).
- **Greg Giangobbe** mentioned that although there have been successes, there have also been challenges, such as some agencies have yet to implement the APRIAS tool.
- **Neil Websdale** asked what factors may contribute to law enforcement agencies not using the APRIAS tool.
 - **Greg Giangobbe** responded that he believes this is because law enforcement agencies value their independence, which might affect their willingness to adopt new procedures.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, asked what prosecutors can do to support, promote, and demonstrate the value of the APRAIS tool.
 - **Greg Giangobbe** answered that prosecutors should continue to engage with their law enforcement partners on the importance of the APRIAS tool to keep survivors and their families safe.
- To view **Greg Giangobbe's** presentation, click [here](#).

Sexual Assault Investigations Training

- **Angela Rose** was introduced by **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, as the Training Director at New Life Center.
- **Angela Rose** has worked in victim services for over 20 years, currently serving as the Director of Training for New Life Center. Before this position, Angela served 13 years as the Victim Services Division Manager for a municipal Prosecutor's Office, overseeing victim advocacy services for approximately 4,000 victims annually. Angela has also worked in numerous community-based human services capacities and previously served on the Arizona Coalition for Victim Services Executive Board.
- **Angela Rose** began her presentation by providing a brief overview of [New Life Center](#). Utilizing [Coordinated Community Response Guidelines](#), New Life Center provides adult Sexual Assault Investigation Training (SAIT) for law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals throughout Arizona. She added training is also available to other criminal justice professionals, including probation officers and sexual assault advocates, even though most participants are from law enforcement agencies. Training is free, offered in person, and led by subject matter experts. They currently offer 11 courses with AZPOST accreditation.

- **Angela Rose** highlighted that during State Fiscal Year 2023, New Life Center hosted 14 training events in four counties, training 377 individuals; training was also offered to other criminal justice professionals (e.g. probation officers).
 - 244 from law enforcement. Those individuals were from 44 agencies in nine counties.
 - 30 Prosecutors from six counties.
 - 38 Advocates.
- **Angela Rose** highlighted that since 2019, New Life Center trained 1,097 individuals and has hosted in-person training in eight counties. Of those, 75% are law enforcement.
- **Angela Rose** explained that the initial training curriculum began with ten topics, with changing topics to continue supporting the growing demands in the field and conversations with law enforcement agencies. The new topics in the training curriculum include:
 - Alcohol/Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault.
 - DNA and Sexual Assault.
 - Interviewing those with Developmental Disabilities.
 - Search Warrants in Sexual Assault Cases.
- **Angela Rose** stated that New Life Center has two upcoming training events: Interviewing Victims and Trauma Response on September 20, 2023, and Alcohol/Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault on October 26, 2023. She added they are working on registration for the events and will release them to the public within the coming weeks.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, asked, beyond this year, what the long-term goals are.
 - **Angela Rose** responded that this answer depends on whether funding is available to continue their work, as training is still a critical need in the community.
- To view **Angela Rose's** presentation, [click here](#).

Upcoming Meetings

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, asked commission members to reflect on the presentations shared and bring forward potential presenters who focus on furthering the work of the Commission.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, provided the upcoming meeting dates:
 - November 14, 2023
 - March 5, 2024 (*tentative*)
 - May 21, 2024 (*tentative*)

Adjourn

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, called for adjournment.
 - **Kirstin Flores** motioned to adjourn.
 - **Neil Websdale** seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at **10:57 AM**.

Dated the 16th of August 2023
Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women
Respectfully Submitted By:
Amy Peep
Program Administrator