



Governor's Council
to Combat Human
Trafficking in Arizona

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ARIZONA
Hybrid Meeting
February 15, 2024, 9:00 AM

1700 W Washington Street, Suite 200, Phoenix, Arizona 85007
A general meeting of the Governor's Council to Combat Human Trafficking in Arizona
convened on **February 15, 2024**, notice duly given.

Members Present (14)	Members Absent (7)
Claire Sechler Merkel, Co-Chair	Lt. Nick Alamshaw
*Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair	Nathaniel Brown
Dr. Sarah Beaumont	Sarah Chung
Doug Coleman	Joseph Kelroy
Erin Garcia	David Lujan
Major Jennifer Borquez (Proxy for Col. Jeff Glover)	Senator T.J. Shope
*Tonya Hamilton	Jim Waring
*Lois Lucas	
*Sara Micflikier (Proxy for Rachel Mitchell)	
Major Andrew Orozco	
Sophia Philis-Ortiz	
*Jill Rable	
Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz	
Brian Steele	
Staff & Guests Present (5)	
Amy Peep, GOYFF	Dreamlyn Williams, Presenter
Chantel Hutchinson, GOYFF	Tonya Allen, Guest
Emily Uline-Olmstead, GOYFF	

**Indicates Virtual Attendance*

Call to Order

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, called the Governor's Council to Combat Human Trafficking in Arizona meeting to order at **09:07 AM** with **14 members** and five staff/guests present. She reviewed meeting procedures, welcomed all those joining via Zoom, and thanked them for their flexibility.

Approval of Minutes

- With the quorum met, **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, requested a review of the **November 29, 2023** meeting minutes.
 - **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** moved to accept the **November 29, 2023** minutes.
 - **Sara Micflikier** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes at **09:10 AM**.

American Airlines Human Trafficking Prevention Month Events

- **Claire Sechler Merkel, Co-Chair**, introduced **Sophia Phillis-Ortiz** to give a presentation about [American Airlines'](#) anti-human trafficking efforts and events.
 - **Sophia Phillis-Ortiz** is the vice president of Phoenix Hub Operations, responsible for the safe and reliable day-to-day operation of America's most prominent West Coast hub. Her career at American Airlines began as a Customer Care Agent, where her passion for aviation and serving customers led her to pursue leadership opportunities throughout the network.

- As a seasoned leader in Customer Care and Customer Operations, Sophia is most well known for her ability to collaborate with stakeholder groups across the airline to achieve operational excellence and live out American Airlines' purpose of caring for people on life's journey. Most recently, since venturing across the country to lead the world-class team in Phoenix, the teams under Sophia's leadership have produced some of the best local operational performance in the airline's history.
- Sophia's more than two-and-a-half-decade career in aviation includes leadership roles with increasing levels of responsibility across America's domestic operation – having served at all three New York-area airports, both airports in Washington, DC., and Philadelphia – and has separately held a leadership role at the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).
- **Sophia Philis-Ortiz** began her presentation by thanking the council for allowing her to present. She explained that American Airlines has several Employee Business Resource Groups (EBRG) that serve as networks for team members to connect, foster professional and personal development, learn through cultural engagement activities, serve communities, and help support American Airlines' business objectives.
- **Sophia Philis-Ortiz** stated the Professional Women in Aviation (PWA) Phoenix Valley of the Sun Chapter includes several American Airlines departments, flight service, and frontline employees. PWA is very active in the community and promotes anti-trafficking awareness.
 - During January 2024, PWA partnered with several agencies to host multiple events.
 - 1/11 - Washington DC; More than 100 people attended.
 - 1/18 - Dallas.
 - 1/23 - Phoenix; 129 people attended, 60 in person and 69 virtually.
 - 1/24 - London.
 - 1/29 - Boston.
 - **Sophia Philis-Ortiz** stated that American Airlines, which transports 1,000 passengers daily, knows that it has a role to play and sets an example when combating human trafficking.
- **Sophia Philis-Ortiz** mentioned that American Airlines is proud to be involved with the [US Department of Homeland Security's \(DHS\) Blue Campaign](#), a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement, and other industry partners to identify the indicators of human trafficking and respond appropriately to possible cases.
 - Collaboration with government agencies, industry partners, and non-government organizations is key to their human trafficking prevention program. In January 2018, American Airlines signed [PACT-USA's Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct](#), a voluntary set of business principles to prevent child sex tourism and trafficking of children. They also support [It's a Penalty](#) and aired their Las Vegas Super Bowl campaign video inflight.
- **Sophia Philis-Ortiz** discussed how American Airlines partnered with the DHS to provide training sessions for airport employees, empower team members to recognize red flags, and increase signage in terminals. In total, American Airlines annually trains over 70,000 team members.
 - The [Federal Aviation Administration \(FAA\) Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016](#) requires air carriers to provide initial and annual flight attendant training regarding recognizing and responding to potential human trafficking victims. The [FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018](#) expands the requirement to include "ticket counter agents, gate agents, and other air carrier workers."
 - Training is required for new employees and is part of recurrent training.
 - Training for employees provides more resources for identifying and reporting.
 - American Airlines has a reporting process through security operations (part of the corporate security department), which handles reporting to law enforcement.
- **Doug Coleman** asked how many trafficking reports they received in 2023.
 - **Sophia Philis-Ortiz** answered that she does not know the official number of reports made but can provide that information following the council meeting; during the week of the Phoenix event (1/23), they received two reports.
- **Dr. Sarah Beaumont** asked what percentage of the reports made included minors.
 - **Sophia Philis-Ortiz** answered that a large percentage of the reports included minors. She mentioned that American Airlines currently partners with the City of Phoenix and is interested in partnering with the other major airlines.

- **Claire Sechler Merkel, Co-Chair**, commented on her support for using the DHS' Blue Campaign materials, emphasizing the importance of consistent messaging nationwide.
- To view **Sophia Philis-Ortiz's** presentation, [click here](#).

ASU STIR Human Trafficking Prevention Month Events

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, introduced **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** to give a presentation about [Arizona State University Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research's](#) (ASU STIR) training and events throughout Human Trafficking Prevention Month.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** began her presentation by explaining that ASU STIR hosted two events in January, supported by the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF).
 - Phoenix College Prep Academy had 250 high school students and 43 staff attend.
 - In partnership with [Fulfillment in Training](#), the event increased awareness of sex trafficking among parents, youth, and their educators, and additional attendees to know how to respond if they suspect sex trafficking in their community.
 - Edison Park Community Engagement Fair had 430 community members attend and 126 volunteers from 52 social service agencies.
 - The urban housing-focused targeted single-parent homes and youth who are at high risk for delinquency to increase sex trafficking awareness.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** continued her presentation by explaining that ASU STIR held 12 training sessions, training approximately 1,000 people.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** discussed that through the GOYFF's [STOP \(Services • Training • Officers • Prosecutors\) Violence Against Women Grant](#), ASU STIR will provide training to Adult Probation Officers, Juvenile Probation experts, Human Trafficking Task Forces, Human Trafficking Summits, and Court staff around Arizona. Additionally, ASU STIR is partnering with the [Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry](#) (ADCRR) to train incarcerated persons.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** mentioned that from January 2021 to December 2023, ASU STIR served 392 clients while conducting nonarrest alternative STOP outreach events with law enforcement. They have a 92% 'Yes' rate, meaning the clients will at least talk with the advocates and receive materials.
 - **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** provided a list of future events for the council to be aware of:
 - 2/21 - Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network (AATN) Breakfast in Tucson.
 - 3/15 and 3/22 - Spring Break Outreach in Mohave County.
 - 4/26 - Human Trafficking Summit in Page.
 - 4/30 and 5/1 - Rocky Mountain Information Network (RIMN) Conference in Chandler.
 - 5/18 - 1st STOP Drop-In Center in Phoenix.
 - 6/10-12 - Jail Con in Chandler.
 - 9/29 - Sex Trafficking Awareness 5K with the Coalition Against Trafficking and Exploitation (CATE).
 - 9/30-10/2 - Sex Trafficking Summit hosted by the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office (YCSO).
 - 10/22-23 - Juvenile Sex Trafficking (JuST) Conference in Phoenix.
- To **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz's** presentation, [click here](#).

DPS Anti-Human Trafficking Grant Program

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, introduced **Dreamlyn Williams** to present about the [Arizona Department of Public Safety's](#) (DPS) [Anti-Human Trafficking Grant Program](#).
 - **Dreamlyn Williams** began working with the DPS in July 2023. She has successfully worked in public service for more than 15 years, working specifically in law enforcement as the Budget Manager for the Tempe Police Department in May of 2020. Before joining the City of Tempe in 2017, Dreamlyn worked in operations and budgeting for Maricopa County, ASU, and the nonprofit sector. She is a career public servant and proud Sun Devil, having received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Sociology and Master of Public Administration from ASU.
- **Dreamlyn Williams** began her presentation by providing an overview of the grant program and its objectives.
 - The Anti-Human Trafficking Grant was established through [SB 1724](#):
 - Consists of monies consistently appropriated by the legislature.

- The [Arizona Department of Homeland Security \(AZDOHS\)](#) shall administer the fund.
- In the state fiscal year (SFY) 2023-2024, the department shall distribute monies from the fund to programs to reduce human trafficking in this state. An anti-human trafficking program eligible for grant monies must do either of the following:
 - Work to reduce human trafficking by providing assistance and analytical services to law enforcement agencies.
 - Provide services to victims and training to law enforcement agencies, prosecutorial agencies, and the public on preventing and identifying human trafficking.
- **Dreamlyn Williams** mentioned that DPS hosted two well-attended information sessions (in December 2023 and January 2024). Multiple agencies have expressed interest in applying and have identified creative ways to spend the budget within the performance period (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024).
- **Dreamlyn Williams** stated that DPS communicated with the [Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs](#) (DEMA) regarding the similar anti-human trafficking grant program DEMA administered during SFY2023. As a result, the application process is similar, but there are differences in the grant program due to how the Arizona Legislature wrote them.
- The legislature appropriated \$10 million to the AZDOHS and entered into an Interagency Service Agreement (ISA) with the DPS to administer the grant.
 - \$2 million was allocated to the [Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center](#) (ACTIC).
 - \$8 million in grant awards to City, Town, and County Law Enforcement agencies for not more than \$500,000 per agency.
- **Dreamlyn Williams** provided a list of allowable use of funds:
 - Provide training to law enforcement agencies, prosecutorial agencies, and the public on preventing and identifying human trafficking or provide personnel financial resources to attend locally or nationally accredited training.
 - Allow for full or partial funding of new or existing staff positions that would allow for the investigation, prosecution, program coordination, or direct services provision for identified victims.
 - Purchase new equipment, software, or program licenses to aid in the investigation, prosecution, service provision, or data collection and analysis of human trafficking.
 - Provide services to victims of human trafficking to include but not limited to
 - Increasing support for forensic interviewing.
 - Developing victim-centered, trauma-informed supports for victims and victim advocates.
 - Develop a multi-disciplinary victim-centered approach.
 - Develop programs to enhance the ability to respond and impact trafficking regionally or state-wide.
 - Programs can also focus on:
 - Victim/survivor services;
 - Victim advocates;
 - Detective/forensic interviews; and
 - Data and research gathering and development.
 - Personnel and fringe benefit costs.
 - Travel.
 - Equipment (cost equal or greater than \$5,000.00).
 - Supplies (tangibles that cost less than \$5,000.00).
 - Contractual/Consultant Services.
 - Other costs, including ongoing maintenance, vehicle, and phone services.
 - Training and exercise (except costs for consultation or contractual).
 - Outreach/Education/Awareness.
- **Dreamlyn Williams** stated that DPS will review applications until May 1, 2024. An initial panel of individuals from DPS, the GOYFF, and the Governor's Council to Combat Human Trafficking in Arizona will review the applications. DPS and DEMA will make the final decision regarding awards.
- **Dreamlyn Williams** explained that to be eligible for the grant and to receive reimbursement, all expenditures must occur within the performance period (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024).
 - Any expenses made during the performance period would allow retroactive reimbursement.

- Application templates are available on the DPS website for interested applicants.
- Reporting requirements:
 - Quarterly program activity and financial reimbursements; final reimbursement requests are due 30 days following the performance period (June 30, 2024).
- **Claire Sechler Merkel, Co-Chair**, thanked **Dreamlyn Williams** for her presentation and efforts to release grant funds. She shared her concerns that only equipment and technology purchases will be eligible for reimbursement due to the likelihood of receiving funds before May 1, 2024, and the need to spend down funds by June 30, 2024.
- **Claire Sechler Merkel, Co-Chair**, asked if applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis or after May 1, 2024.
 - **Dreamlyn Williams** responded that application reviews are rolling, emphasizing that funds will impact the community and that the DPS Finance Team is working diligently to ensure funds are released.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** asked if subscriptions longer than the performance period are eligible for reimbursement. For example, a three-year subscription paid in its entirety before June 30, 2024. **Claire Sechler Merkel, Co-Chair**, similarly asked whether or not agencies would be able to pay forward personnel using these funds.
 - **Dreamlyn Williams** responded that if agencies currently have personnel hired for anti-trafficking efforts, that would be eligible for reimbursement. If agencies plan to hire personnel for SFY2025, that would not be an eligible expense because those would not hit the agency's general ledger until SFY2025.
 - **Major Jennifer Borquez** added that to comply with Arizona's procurement procedures, the DPS cannot pay for something outside of the performance period, including advance paying a subscription if its use goes beyond June 30, 2024. She added that she plans to reallocate the SFY2024 funds to use now to reserve funds for grants that aren't sunseting at the end of the fiscal year.
- **Brian Steele** commented that he had interpreted this grant as reimbursement rather than capacity-building; agencies should be worried about double-dipping funds.
 - **Dreamlyn Williams** confirmed agencies cannot supplant these funds.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** commented that the community is happy these funds are available; it is better than having zero dollars dedicated to anti-human trafficking efforts.
- **Major Jennifer Borquez** stated that the ACTIC is partnering with LAVIDGE on a statewide anti-human trafficking media campaign starting March 1, 2024, scheduled to run through June 30, 2024. She added that if anyone is interested in partnering in this campaign, to let her know.
- **Tonya Hamilton** expressed gratitude toward **Dreamlyn Williams** for her presentation, acknowledging the process of disbursing funds has not been easy, and appreciated her and **Major Jennifer Borquez** sharing this information.
- **Claire Sechler Merkle, Co-Chair**, seconded that DPS was not given an easy task and thanked **Dreamlyn Williams** for her efforts on behalf of the council.
- To view **Dreamlyn Williams'** presentation, [click here](#).

STOP Grant Human Trafficking Contracts

- **Claire Sechler Merkel, Co-Chair**, introduced **Amy Peep** to give an update regarding GOYFF's human trafficking special projects funded through the [STOP Violence Against Women Grant](#).
 - **Amy Peep** is the Human Trafficking Specialist at the GOYFF. In this role, she facilitates the Governor's [Council to Combat Human Trafficking in Arizona](#) and the [Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment](#). She also supports the STOP Violence Against Women Grant and is the program administrator for the [Arizona Child Abuse and Advocacy Grant Program](#).
- **Amy Peep** began her presentation by discussing how Emily Uline-Olmstead, the GOYFF's Justice Program Manager, presented to the council a few years prior and would provide an update on the information presented. She explained that the most recent grant cycle ended on December 31, 2023, and the new cohort of subgrantees' programming began on January 1, 2024.
- **Amy Peep** provided an overview of the federal [STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program](#). Authorized through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and administered by the US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), this grant aims to enhance local communities' capacity, develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies, and develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women.
 - The dollars are allocated to the following categories per OVW's requirements:

- Law enforcement - 25%
- Prosecutors - 25%
- Victim Services (at least 10 percent distributed to culturally specific community-based organizations) - 30%
- State and Local Courts - 5%
- Discretionary Distribution - 15%
- The GOYFF STOP Violence Against Women Request For Grant Application (RFGA) operates on a three-year grant cycle.
- **Amy Peep** discussed that during the previous grant cycle (January 2021 to December 2023), the GOYFF contracted with four organizations for anti-trafficking efforts in Arizona. The first two years (2021 and 2022) resulted in 3,700 individuals receiving training on recognizing the signs of trafficking and 40 victims served. In 2023, approximately 7,300 individuals received training, and 250 victims served.
 - 2021 to 2023 Special Projects:
 - [Arizona Department of Child Safety \(DCS\)](#)
 - [The McCain Institute for International Leadership](#)
 - [ASU STIR](#)
 - [Arizona Superior Court in Maricopa County](#)
 - The GOYFF worked with the DCS, the McCain Institute for International Leadership, and ASU STIR to train critical sectors across the state on prevention and education, specifically on sex trafficking and sexual assault. These trainings have included social service organizations, medical providers, government agency staff, law enforcement, and education staff to increase victim identification and provide opportunities for immediate referrals to service providers.
 - The GOYFF worked with the Arizona Superior Court in Maricopa County to support the Strength Through Resilience – Empower New Growth Through Hope (STRENGTH) Calendar Collaborative to ensure the participants receive the most effective services to meet their needs. The STRENGTH Calendar and Collaborative understands the trauma endured by victims of sex trafficking and strives to provide trauma-informed and trauma-responsive services and interactions.
- **Amy Peep** stated that the GOYFF awarded approximately [\\$3.3 million](#) following the 2023 STOP Violence Against Women RFGA to 23 programs and four special projects across Arizona to support victim-serving organizations, courts, law enforcement, and prosecution to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
 - Programs are also able to address human, sex, and labor trafficking in which there is an intersection with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
 - Subgrantees began January 1, 2024, and will be renewable for three years.
 - The next RFGA will be released in the fall of 2026.
- **Amy Peep** discussed the 2024 special projects funded by the STOP Violence Against Women Grant:
 - **DCS**
 - Hired two full-time Clinical Research Support Team (CRest) Coordinators.
 - Program objectives:
 - Determine and maintain mechanisms for the department to identify children as confirmed, suspected, and at risk of trafficking and to formalize a statewide screening method.
 - Develop and maintain an updated directory of contacts, resources, and service providers suited for survivors of trafficking and youth at high risk of being trafficked.
 - Develop, coordinate, and facilitate training and education materials to enhance the DCS staff and caregivers' knowledge and actions to engage appropriate services to support the recovery of survivors and to incorporate any local sex trafficking collaborative protocols.
 - **ASU STIR**
 - Provide statewide sex trafficking to build capacity by identifying and providing services in urban and rural communities.
 - Program objectives:
 - Training Maricopa County Juvenile and Adult Probation Officers.
 - Regional Human Trafficking Task Force Training.
 - Regional Service Provider Summits.

- Training Court Staff and other Legal Providers.
- Curriculum development and training with the ADCRR.
- **Arizona Superior Court in Maricopa County**
 - Through the competitive process, the Arizona Superior Court in Maricopa County applied for the 2023 STOP RFGA and received funds to continue the Reach for Resiliency program dedicated to focusing on the needs of juveniles in delinquency and dependency cases who are victims of sexual assault through sex trafficking.
 - Program objectives:
 - Support the STRENGTH Calendar Collaborative.
 - Advocate and support domestic violence and intimate partner violence victims.
- **Amy Peep** concluded her presentation by stating that the GOYFF will release four RFGAs in 2024; two are currently open and accepting applications, and to direct all questions to the Governor's Finance and Accounting Office at procurement@az.gov.
 - [AmeriCorps Formula Grant](#) - Open, accepting applications.
 - [Arizona Child Abuse and Prevention License Plate Grant](#) - Open, accepting applications.
 - [Sexual Assault Services Program \(SASP\)](#) - Releasing in the Spring of 2024.
 - [Title II Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Formula Grant](#) - Releasing in the Summer of 2024.
- **Tonya Hamilton** and **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, thanked **Amy Peep** for her presentation and added that they are proud of the anti-trafficking efforts the GOYFF is engaged in.
- To view **Amy Peep's** presentation, [click here](#).

Workgroup Updates

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, introduced the Victim Services Workgroup Co-Chairs, **Dr. Sarah Beaumont**, and **Dr. Angela Saloman**, to share any updates with the council.
 - **Dr. Sarah Beaumont** stated that the Victim Services Workgroup will meet on March 26, 2024, and they have scheduled all 2024 meetings. They are also actively looking for new workgroup members, and if council members are interested or know anyone interested, to reach out for more information.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair**, introduced the Data and Research Workgroup Chair, **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz**, to share any updates with the council.
 - **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** discussed how ASU STIR responds to training requests submitted through the GOYFF's website. She stated she was ensuring the data collected through the STOP special project was available for others looking to apply for grants in the community.
 - **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** discussed the upcoming publishing of two reports and looks forward to presenting this information at future council meetings.
 - The Mercy Care report includes information on 309 children who were identified as trafficking victims between January 2021 and May 2023, representing instances from 11 counties in Arizona.
 - The 2023 Youth Experiences Survey (YES) regarding unsheltered trafficked youth.

Upcoming Meeting

- **Claire Sechler Merkel, Co-Chair**, reminded members of the next meeting on **April 17, 2024, at 09:00 AM**. The meeting will be held in a hybrid format at the Executive Tower for council members and the public to join virtually.

Adjournment

- **Claire Sechler Merkel, Co-Chair**, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn.
 - **Doug Coleman** moved to accept the motion.
 - **Dr. Sarah Beaumont** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes at **10:27 AM**.

Dated 16 of February 2024
Governor's Council to Combat Human Trafficking in Arizona
Respectfully Submitted By:
Amy Peep
GOYFF