



Governor's Commission
to Prevent Intimate Partner
and Gender-Based Violence

Governor's Commission to Prevent Intimate Partner and Gender Based Violence
May 21, 2024, 10:00 AM
Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council (APAAC)
3838 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85012

A general meeting of the Governor's Commission to Prevent Intimate Partner and Gender-Based Violence convened on May 21, 2024, with notice duly given.

Members Present (10)	Members Absent (2)
Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair	Nicole Bidwill
Kirstin Flores	Beth Hoel
Maritza Valenzuela, Proxy for Sheila Sjolander	
Jenna Panas	
Ed-Mercurio-Sakwa	
Mark Perkovich, Proxy for Neil Websdale	
Jon Eliason	
Muna Haddad, Proxy for Tene'D Marion	
Jon Smith	
Patricia Klahr	
Staff and Guests Present (5)	
Emily Uline-Olmstead, Staff	Tori Bourguignon, Presenter
Sandra Mucino, Staff	Cody Hartt, Presenter
Chantel Hutchinson, Staff	

Call to Order

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, called the Governor's Commission to Prevent Intimate Partner and Gender-Based Violence meeting to order at **10:08 AM** with **ten** members and **five** staff/guests present.

Welcome/Introductions

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

Approval of Minutes

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, requested a review of the March 5, 2024 meeting minutes.
- **Kirstin Flores** requested corrections on the spelling of her name.
- **Maritza Valenzuela, Proxy for Sheila Sjolander**, requested corrections to her presentation regarding the data the surveillance report will provide.
 - **Kirstin Flores** moved to accept the March 5, 2024, minutes with corrections.

- **Jon Eliason** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program at Gila River Health Care

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, introduced **Lori Baker, Jennifer Drewel, and Coco Slaughter** from [Gila River Health Care](#) to provide an overview of their established Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program in a Tribal Community.
- **Lori Baker** started the presentation by giving a geographical history of the Gila River Indian Community. She mentioned that Congress established the community in 1939, and it is the home to the Akimel O'otham (Pima) and Pee-Posh (Maricopa) tribes. The community runs its own Tribal Government, Healthcare System, Utility Authority, and other activities to preserve Tribal culture and sovereignty.
- **Jennifer Drewels** discussed the establishment of the SANE Forensic Nursing Department. The Gila River Indian Community Tribal Council approved the initiative in 2019, which was developed by Gila River Health Care to provide a SANE program for the community. Before the program, survivors of sexual violence had to leave the reservation for care, often having to travel long distances, which was retraumatizing. Initially, the program served adult survivors, but it quickly expanded to include sexual assault exams for pediatric patients under 12 years old. The program has grown over the years to include exams for strangulation, elder abuse, child abuse, trafficked persons, and domestic violence cases.
- **Jennifer Drewels** emphasized the importance of fostering trust with the Tribal Community they serve, including holding regular stakeholder meetings and updates to the Tribal Council as needed. She also expanded on the membership of their Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) to help survivors consisting of:
 - Gila River Health Care - Behavioral Health, Emergency Department, Clinics, SANE
 - Gila River Police Department - Sex Crimes Unit, Violent Crimes Unit, Domestic Violence Unit
 - Gila River Crime Victim Services - Community Advocates
 - Gila River Office of the Prosecutor - Community Advocates
 - Gila River Domestic Violence Shelter - Provides support for up to 120 days.
- **Coco Slaughter** shared details about the Forensic Nursing Team at Gila River Health Care. The team offers round-the-clock coverage to ensure that a nurse can always assist patients needing SANE services. Additionally, unlike most SANE services, Gila River Health Care can provide follow-up care following the SANE forensic exam.
- **Coco Slaughter** explained that a SANE medical forensic exam is a thorough head-to-toe assessment to collect evidence. However, the main priority for the SANE nurse is to ensure that the patient feels emotionally and physically safe. At Gila River Health Care, they can spend time with the patient until they are comfortable proceeding with the exams. Providing trauma-informed care is their primary focus. As a result, they have established follow-up exams that focus on discovering new injuries, medical needs, and medications and assessing safety concerns and emotional healing.
- **Coco Slaughter** concluded the presentation by stating that the keys to a successful SANE program in Tribal Communities include fostering trust, education for community partners, establishing patient follow-ups, and support from leaders.
- **Jon Eliason** thanked the presenters and asked how busy the program was.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz** echoed **Jon Eliason's** question and added that their program offers 24/7 services. She is curious about the program's level of activity.

- **Coco Slaughter** stated that the majority of their caseload involves child abuse examinations and an average of about four adult sexual violence cases per month.
- **Jennifer Drewel** expanded by stating that the program's growth has been exponential, and while they do not have the data ready, they do know insufficient reporting is happening.
- **Jon Eliason** asked if they had conducted strangulation exams.
 - **Coco Slaughter** responded that they do, along with other exams covering elder abuse, sextortion, sex trafficking, and other related exams.
- **Jon Eliason** inquired if services are available to anyone within Tribal jurisdiction, including those who may have experienced assault on the reservation.
 - **Jennifer Drewel** responded that they can provide them with services.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, asked if the organization had learned any lessons from fostering trust.
 - **Jennifer Drewel** emphasized the importance of having tribal nurse practitioners with extensive experience working in the hospital. Having been a part of the emergency room staff for 23 years, she has gained the trust of the tribal community through her care and familiarity with them.
 - **Coco Slaughter** mentioned that her previous career experience at a long-term care facility on the reservation taught her how to establish trust with the Tribal community and the importance of trust in getting survivors to report.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, thanked **Lori Baker, Jennifer Drewel**, and **Coco Slaughter** for their presentation.
- To view the **Gila River Health Care's** presentation, [click here](#).

Tribal Partnerships and Jurisdictions in Yuma, Arizona

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, introduced the executive director of Amberly's Place, **Tori Bourguignon**, Indian Country Legal Services Consultant **Cody Hartt**, and Tribal Survivor **Rebecca DeCorse**.
- **Cody Hartt** started the presentation by discussing the role of Indian Country Legal Services in the Tribal Communities around Yuma. He explained that Public Law 280 creates jurisdiction conflicts between the boundaries of Arizona and California. Understanding tribal communities and their governance is important to navigate these complexities.
- **Cody Hartt** introduced the Cocopah Indian Tribe by explaining its government structure, geographical footprint, and facilities. He emphasized that the newest hospital is still miles away from the Cocopah Indian Tribe, but his goal is to work with the tribes to secure grants and bring programs to their communities. A common setback is a change in governing leaders, which requires repeatedly establishing trust.
- **Cody Hartt** explained that the Quechan Indian Tribe is small on the Arizona border but the third largest tribe on the California border. Their port of entry goes through the reservation.
- **Jon Eliason** asked if any tribal communities mentioned reside along the Mexican border.
 - **Cody Hartt** responded that they do, but the doorway is only open to members of the communities, and there is communication between the United States and Mexico to allow such activity.
- **Cody Hartt** discussed the partnership with Amberly's Place and their crucial role in helping survivors across California, Arizona, and Mexico jurisdictions receive advocacy services, preventing victims from getting lost in the complexities of the legal system. He explained that while Tribal Healthcare is reserved for tribal members only, it becomes a complex issue when victims are non-tribal family members residing in Tribal countries with tribal families.

- **Cody Hartt** pointed out another disparity in the legal system: prosecuting crimes. Tribal members do not receive representation, whereas non-tribal members in urban areas receive representation by the county. Additional funding is needed to improve the legal system and ensure equal and fair trials. The population data used for the financing needs to be updated, and the aim is to gather new data to represent the community more accurately.
- **Cody Hartt** emphasized the importance of Amberly's Place in supporting the Tribal Access Program (TAP), designed to facilitate the exchange of essential data among Tribal communities, the Department of Justice (DOJ)'s Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) and other national crime information systems. TAP aims to improve the ability of participating tribes to register sex offenders, enforce orders of protection off-reservation, safeguard children, prevent the wrong individuals from accessing firearms, enhance the safety of public housing, and enable tribes to link tribal arrests and convictions to their tribe. He emphasized the importance of upholding TAP as, more often than not, individuals ignore Tribal court-issued protection orders because of how valid it is.
- **Cody Hartt** and **Tori Bourguignon** pointed out the jurisdiction issues affecting emergency operators' response time. They must decide where to direct the call based on the caller's tribal or non-tribal membership and location within the state's borders or reservations.
- **Rebecca DeCorse** shared her survivor anecdote about the recent prosecution of her attacker. Due to complications across different states' jurisdictions, the courts recognized her restraining order in Arizona but not in California, where the attacker stalked and assaulted her. After being released from jail in Arizona, he was extradited to California. She mentioned never receiving a notification about court hearings, leading to the dismissal of the case.
- **Tori Bourguignon** expanded on Rebecca's story by explaining that courts in different jurisdictions often cannot access the offender's criminal history, creating a barrier to justice for the survivors.
- **Tori Bourguignon** highlighted the services offered at Amberly's Place, emphasizing that they are the only advocacy center with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mexico due to the high number of survivors crossing the border. The various jurisdictions surrounding Yuma, Arizona, have expanded their Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) and strengthened partnerships between multiple stakeholders who provide direct services to survivors.
- **Tori Bourguignon** emphasized the importance of empowering survivors by helping them meet their and their children's basic needs as the first step. Considering the situation's cultural sensitivity, she also stressed the significance of allowing adults to make their own reporting decisions. As a result, cultural awareness training from Tribal partners has become a key objective for their STOP grant.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, asked **Tori Bourguignon** and **Cody Hartt** about the biggest challenge of their work.
 - **Cody Hartt** stated building trust and finding the resources to offer wrap-around services.
 - **Tori Bourguignon** expanded on this by building trust within those communities and championing and advocating the system as it was supposed to work for victims.
- **Kirstin Flores** expressed her gratitude to the presenters and inquired about the existence of a Victims' Rights Code for the Tribes.
 - **Cody Hartt** and **Tori Bourguignon** explained that they are currently working to expand that as most Tribal communities have adopted and modified state ones but have none of their own.
- **Kirstin Flores** asked **Cody Hartt** how many attorneys work for Indian Country Legal Services.
 - **Cody Hartt** explained he is currently a sole provider and is seeking to recruit more attorneys.

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, thanked **Tori Bourguignon, Cody Hartt**, and **Rebecca DeCorse** for their presentation.
- To view **Tori Bourguignon, Cody Hartt**, and **Rebecca DeCorse's** presentation, [click here](#).

Upcoming Meetings

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, provided the upcoming meeting dates:
 - August 27, 2024
 - November 12, 2024

Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family & Commissioners Updates

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, asked members if they had any updates related to their respective agencies to share.
- **Jenna Panas** stated that the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV) continues to advocate at a legislative level to secure funding for victim services and crime.
- **Muna Haddad, proxy for Tene D' Marion**, shared that the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) Cabinet Executive Officer is securing prevention programming and including those in their upcoming strategic plan.
- **Jon Smith** stated he didn't have any updates, but he wanted to highlight Amberly's Place's unique ability to unite all stakeholders in the county. The case review has been crucial in child cases that haven't been entered into the system yet. This analysis helps plan for services the victim can receive before or after the judicial process.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, shared that the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council (APAAC) is partnering with the Pinal County Attorney's Office for an anti-sex trafficking grant to offer virtual MDT across Arizona and is extending an invitation to anyone who may benefit from participating.
- **Sandra Mucino**, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) Program Administrator, instructed members to complete the Conflict of Interest training to comply with Open Meeting Law.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Awareness Month

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, introduced **Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya**, the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Coordinator.
- **Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya** began her presentation by providing a brief overview of the history of the grassroots movement that established MMIP awareness. The movement started in Canada but was quickly expanded to the United States when finding dismembered indigenous female bodies along highways. Survivors also reported working in man camps where they were required to serve as cooks and sex slaves after being kidnapped from their Tribal communities.
- **Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya** shared 2016 data from the Urban Indian Health Institute, indicating that Tucson ranked fourth highest for missing or murdered Tribal individuals, and the state of Arizona ranked third. As a result of these statistics, House Bill 2570 was drafted and introduced into the legislature in 2019 to establish a study committee on missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.
- **Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya** emphasized one of the main goals of the study committee, which was to conduct research through Arizona State University (ASU). ASU was responsible for gathering survivor interviews about lived experiences. She mentioned that the federal government typically attributes native victimization to non-natives. However, in her experience, she finds that Native people also make up a significant portion of the offender pool in MMIP-related crimes.

- **Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya** shifted the discussion to focus on the relationships between victims and perpetrators, sharing an example from an interview where a survivor misunderstood the definition of an intimate partner due to cultural family dynamics, where close family members are intimate family groups. She emphasized educating interviewees about interpreting relationship dynamics in Tribal communities to ensure accurate data collection.
- **Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya** shared that she learned through interviews that individuals who are missing are often lured off-reservation through grooming, which leads the victims to labor or sex trafficking. She mentioned that families can enter their loved ones into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NaMus), providing families with a sense of action to find their person.
- **Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya** shifted to speak about the MMIP Task Force, which focuses on trauma-informed and culturally sensitive discussions on creating action plans and workgroups. They meet six times a year and have four reports due yearly. She concluded her presentation by stating that this issue will remain and that working together through all areas and departments to provide resources for healing families and survivors is necessary.
- **Jon Eliason** thanked **Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya** and said he works for the homicide unit. He wonders if the MMIP Task Force is state and federal.
 - **Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya** responded that this is from the Urban Indian Health Institute.
- **Jon Eliason** believes most victims will be at the county level. His office has yet to be involved, so they still need a tremendous partner.
 - **Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya** agreed and shared that their previous county partner stopped participating. She, however, continues to advocate for this.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, shared that APACC has members from all 15 counties and invited **Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya** to participate in those council meetings if she wants to begin any county partnerships.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, thanked **Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya** for her presentation.
- To view **Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya's** presentation, [click here](#).

Adjourn

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, adjourned the meeting past the scheduled time at **12:09 PM**.

Dated the 22nd of May 2024

Governor's Commission to Prevent Intimate Partner and Gender-Based Violence

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sandra M. Mucino

Program Administrator