



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

**Governor's Commission to Prevent Intimate Partner and Gender Based Violence**  
**August 27, 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 August 27, 2024, with notice duly given.

| Members Present (9)                           | Members Absent (3)         |
|---|----------------------------|
| Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair                     | Nicole Bidwill             |
| Jenna Panas, Co-Chair                         | Tene'D Marion              |
| Teresa Manygoats (proxy for Sheila Sjolander) | Patricia Klahr             |
| Kirstin Flores                                |                            |
| Ed-Mercurio-Sakwa                             |                            |
| Dr. Neil Websdale                             |                            |
| Kate Loudenslager (proxy for Jon Eliason)     |                            |
| Jon Smith                                     |                            |
| Beth Hoel                                     |                            |
| Staff and Guests Present (7)                  |                            |
| Emily Uline-Olmstead, Staff                   | Monique Vallery, Presenter |
| Sandra Mucino, Staff                          | Chris Charles, Presenter   |
|   | Wallace Hudson, Presenter  |
|   | Dana Martinez, Presenter   |
|   | Wendy Romo, Presenter      |

**Call to Order**

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, called the Governor's Commission to Prevent Intimate Partner and Gender-Based Violence meeting to order at **10:06 AM** with **nine** members and **seven** staff/guests present.

**Welcome/Introductions**

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, welcomed everyone, conducted roll call, and reached a quorum.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, shared that Governor Katie Hobbs recently appointed **Jenna Panas** as the Governor's Commission to Prevent Intimate Partner and Gender-Based Violence Co-Chair.
- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, thanked the Commission and introduced herself as the CEO of the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV). She stated having over 20 years of experience in sexual and domestic violence work, emphasizing that this field is her heart and passion, sharing her excitement at taking on the role of co-chair.

## Approval of Minutes

- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, requested a review of the **May 21, 2024** meeting minutes before requesting a motion to approve the meeting minutes as drafted.
  - **Kirstin Flores** moved to accept the minutes as drafted.
  - **Beth Hoel** seconded the motion.
- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, called a vote, and at **10:15 AM**, the motion to accept the meeting minutes as drafted was approved with no dissenting votes.

## Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, introduced **Monique Vallery**, the [Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation \(SAAF\)](#) Chief Development Officer, and **Chris Charles**, the Chief Programs Officer, to speak about their current programming and how to engage with the LGBTQ+ Community.
- **Monique Vallery** thanked the Commission for inviting them to speak. She began the presentation by providing historical context on SAAF and its mission to promote health, well-being, and social justice for those living with HIV, LGBTQ+ individuals, and communities marginalized by society.
  - **1997**: three Arizona coalitions (the Tucson AIDS Project, the Shanti Foundation, and the People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson) merged to form SAAF.
  - **2014**: SAAF fully acquired Wingspan, a program developed in 1988 to provide LGBTQ+ youth with a safe space to prevent the shutdown of its programming due to experiencing a loss of funding.
- **Chris Charles** introduced the Anti-Violence Project (AVP), which Wingspan developed and ran before its acquisition from SAAF.
  - AVP serves survivors aged 18+ who identify as LGBTQ+ and are currently or have experienced domestic partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, or hate crime violence.
  - Family members and/or caregivers may be eligible for services as secondary survivors if it helps meet the needs of the primary client.
  - AVP has funding sources from the [Victims of Crime Act \(VOCA\)](#), Pima County, and the Pima County Community Service Block Grant.
- **Chris Charles** mentioned SAAF's intention to apply for future grant opportunities through the [Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family \(GOYFF\)](#) and the [Office on Violence Against Women \(OVW\)](#).
- **Chris Charles** elaborated on SAAF's services, which include safety planning, emergency shelter, and advocacy services. He emphasized that the organization is currently experiencing staffing issues and has changed its bilingual crisis line from 24/7 to a daytime support line. They aim to reinstate the crisis line with additional staff hiring by November 2024.
- **Chris Charles** mentioned a partnership with three hotels in Pima County, where SAAF provides temporary shelter for survivors. He explained that survivors need a place where their perpetrators cannot track them, so their stay at the hotels is often registered under a safe name such as "SAAF agency" to avoid disclosing their location.
- **Chris Charles** emphasized the importance of providing consistent care for LGBTQ+ survivors. He noted that the initial call is usually anonymous, allowing individuals to discuss their situation. Building a foundation of trust can lead to the caller becoming a client at SAAF for more tailored services. He also detailed the comprehensive support, including transitional housing, ongoing case management, and a personalized success plan.
- **Chris Charles** explained how the current data trends show a decline in reporting because members of the LGBTQ+ community are afraid to report. If they do report, they are often not offered adequate support systems. As a result, SAAF has expanded its training series to attorney

general offices and law enforcement districts to help community members learn more about the experience of LGBTQ+ survivors.

- **Monique Vallery** concluded their presentation by stating that SAAF offers counseling telehealth services statewide and serves 300 LGBTQ+ clients.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, thanked **Monique Vallery** and **Chris Charles** for their presentation and asked if any commissioners had questions.
- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, asked about the source of their referrals.
  - **Chris Charles** mentioned that most referrals are self-referrals, likely stemming from their outreach methods, such as distributing flyers in heavily populated areas of Tucson, Arizona.
- **Kirstin Flores** mentioned that she remembers Wingspan as a program. She states that the training for Law Enforcement is excellent and asked if they want to partner with the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (AZPOST) or revise victimology training to expand their impact.
  - **Chris Charles** responded that their new associate director is currently developing this programming. He recalled their first training series with the Tucson Police Department and its positive impact on their response to situations involving a member of the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Dr. Neil Websdale** emphasized that one of the significant national challenges in conducting family violence fatality reviews is the review of LGBTQ+ cases. He invited SAAF to connect with him to establish a partnership and integrate their organization into the process. Additionally, **Dr. Neil Websdale** mentioned the existence of a Task Force in Pima County dedicated to developing a risk assessment tool for law enforcement. He pointed out a challenge in validating data when the case involves male victims and LGBTQ+ victims. He also praised SAAF for their work.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, mentioned that as a member of the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council (APAAC), she is also seeking opportunities to provide training for prosecutors across the state. She will reach out to SAAF after the meeting to establish a partnership.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, thanked **Monique Vallery** and **Chris Charles** for their presentation.
- To view **Monique Vallery** and **Chris Charles**'s presentation, [click here](#).

#### one•n•ten

- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, introduced **Wallace Hudson**, [one•n•ten](#)'s Training and Digital Program Manager, to speak about intimate partner violence (IPV) in the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Wallace Hudson** began his presentation by discussing the different types of violence that are prevalent in the LGBTQ+ community and the significant impact on mental health that can interfere with professional or academic performance.
  - Bisexual and gay men are at a higher risk of IPV compared to their heterosexual counterparts.
  - Bisexual and lesbian women are also more likely to experience IPV compared to their heterosexual counterparts.
  - Members of the transgender community are at an even higher risk.
- **Wallace Hudson** reviewed the power and control wheel in the context of the LGBTQ+ community and outlined specific examples:
  - Exposing someone without their consent, also known as "outing," is a common threat that leaves the victim vulnerable. Perpetrators often use this as a way to exert power in the relationship.

- Internalized homophobia or transphobia of the perpetrator can influence emotional abuse to the victim.
- **Wallace Hudson** explained that reviewing the power and control wheel is important for knowing what to look for when supporting LGBTQ+ survivors and increasing knowledge of the support systems they need to heal.
- **Wallace Hudson** stated that a common barrier with existing programming is the gender segregation of services, and it may not be comfortable for a transgender person to navigate those spaces when their experience looks and is different.
- **Wallace Hudson** provided more information on one•n•ten, stating it is an Arizona-based nonprofit organization that primarily provides services to LGBTQ+ youth ages 11-24. They have 20 satellite locations and provide digital programming to youth who need access to the physical offices.
- **Wallace Hudson** concluded his presentation by sharing one•n•ten's program calendar and encouraged the audience to visit their website for more information.
- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, asked if any commissioners had questions; none did.
- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, thanked **Wallace Hudson** for his presentation.
- To view **Wallace Hudson's** presentation, [click here](#).

#### A New Leaf

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, introduced **Wendy Romo** and **Dana Martinez** from [A New Leaf](#) to discuss their REACH Sexual Violence Services Center.
  - **Wendy Romo** is the program manager for the REACH Sexual Violence Services Center, bringing her over 20 years of experience at A New Leaf.
  - **Dana Martinez** has been the Director of Domestic and Sexual Violence Services at A New Leaf for over 27 years.
- **Dana Martinez** began the presentation by providing a historical overview of A New Leaf.
  - **2019**: Identified a lack of comprehensive sexual violence services and decided to become a dual-service agency for domestic violence and sexual violence. They achieved their dual service training through ACESDV's first Sexual Violence Services Provider Cohort: "Creating Space."
  - **2022**: Received its first state funding for sexual violence services in January and opened the REACH Sexual Violence Services Center in April. Initially, their program aimed to serve 120 survivors, but by the end of the year, the number doubled.
- **Wendy Romo** introduced the services available at A New Leaf, explaining that the organization aims to be a one-stop shop for holistic and therapeutic services outside law enforcement and court advocacy. It is the only dedicated sexual violence 24/7 helpline in Arizona and has the longest-running sexual violence survivor support group.
- **Wendy Romo** emphasized the need for healing and support services for survivors who often feel unsafe in their bodies and require assistance to regain a sense of safety.
- **Wendy Romo** mentioned that while all their services have always been inclusive, they recognized the necessity of providing more focused support for LGBTQ+ survivors. As a result, they have made their collaborations more deliberate and have targeted the marketing of the REACH Sexual Violence Services Center in spaces frequented by the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Wendy Romo** explained that she realized her staff lacked confidence in their understanding of the experience of an LGBTQ+ survivor. As a result, she decided to provide more comprehensive training and strengthen partnerships with LGBTQ+-specific organizations to enhance their knowledge.

- **Wendy Romo** concluded the presentation by announcing that A New Leaf had received the 2024 Sexual Assault Service Program grant from the GOYFF. They intend to use it to broaden their outreach to LGBTQ+ survivors, including investigating alternative service options beyond their current support group.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, asked if there is a particular segment or type of organization they hope to develop and collaborate with for their LGBTQ+ programming.
  - **Wendy Romo** replied that their current collaborations help connect them to other organizations. Still, their primary focus is to ensure that the staff receives proper training to help them become more confident in assisting LGBTQ+ survivors.
  - **Dana Martinez** added to the response by stating that she is thrilled to see SAAF in the room because their IPV-specific services will help A New Leaf develop its services.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, thanked the presenters.
- To view **Wendy Romo** and **Dana Martinez's** presentation, [click here](#).

#### No Conflict of Interest Form and Training

- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, invited **Sandra Mucino**, a program administrator at the GOYFF, to provide updates from the office.
- **Sandra Mucino** reminded the commissioners to complete the No Conflict of Interest Form and Training before the next meeting.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, also reminded the commissioners that proxies could not be current members so that one commissioner doesn't have two votes.

#### Upcoming Meeting(s)

- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, stated the next meeting will occur on **November 12, 2024**.

#### Adjourn

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, called for an adjournment of the meeting.
  - **Teresa Manygoats, proxy for Sheila Sjolander**, motioned to adjourn.
  - **Kirstin Flores** seconded the motion.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, called for a vote, and at **11:25 AM**, the motion was approved unanimously, adjourning the meeting.

Dated the 27th of August 2024

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

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sandra Mucino

Program Administrator