



Governor's Council
to Combat Human
Trafficking in Arizona

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ARIZONA

Hybrid Meeting

September 12, 2024, 9:00 AM

1700 West Washington Street, Suite 104, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A general meeting of the Governor's Council to Combat Human Trafficking in Arizona convened on **September 12, 2024**, notice duly given.

Members Present (14)	Members Absent (8)
Maria Cristina Fuentes , Chair	Nathaniel Brown
* Lt. Nick Alamshaw	Carmen Heredia
* Dr. Sarah Beaumont	Joseph Kelroy
* Gina Read (proxy for Sarah Chung)	Lois Lucas
Doug Coleman	David Lujan
Erin Garcia	Sophia Philis-Ortiz
* Maj. Frank Griego (Proxy for Col. Jeffrey Glover)	Senator T.J. Shope
Maddy Dorn (Proxy for Tonya Hamilton)	Jim Waring
* Sara Micflikier	
* Maj. Andrew Orozco	
* Jill Rable	
Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz	
Brian Steele	
Mark Williams	
Staff & Guests Present (6)	
Amy Peep , GOYFF	Dreamlyn Williams , Presenter
Chantel Hutchinson , GOYFF	* Commander Tom Boelts , Presenter
	Stacey Sutherland , Presenter
	Shauna Sexton , Presenter

**Indicates Virtual Attendance*

Call to Order

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, called the Governor's Council to Combat Human Trafficking in Arizona meeting to order at **9:05 AM**. With 14 members and six staff/guests present, she reviewed meeting procedures, welcomed all joining via Zoom, and thanked them for their flexibility.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, announced that Claire Sechler Merkle no longer serves on the Council. She discussed Claire's dedication to preventing and raising awareness about human trafficking, highlighting how the former co-chair and part of Cindy McCain's team had devoted a significant amount of effort to supporting the Arizona Human Trafficking Taskforce and played a vital role in creating the Council. **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, expressed her gratitude for Claire's service and efforts to prevent, respond to, and eliminate trafficking across Arizona.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, mentioned two new appointees have joined the Council since the last meeting.
 - **Carmen Heredia** is the director of the [Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System \(AHCCCS\)](#).
 - **Mark Williams** is the [Arizona Office of Tourism](#) Director of Finance.

Approval of Minutes

- With the quorum met, **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, requested a review of the **June 05, 2024**, meeting minutes before requesting a motion to approve the meeting minutes as drafted.

- **Brian Steele** moved to approve the meeting minutes as drafted.
- **Doug Coleman** seconded the motion.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, asked for a discussion of the minutes, and no members requested amendments.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, called a vote, and at **9:12 AM**, the motion to approve the meeting minutes as drafted passed with no dissenting votes.

SFY24 Anti-Human Trafficking Grant Fund Continuation

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, introduced **Dreamlyn Williams** to give an update about the continuation of the SFY24 Anti-Human Trafficking Grant Fund.
 - **Dreamlyn Williams** started working with the [Arizona Department of Public Safety \(AZDPS\)](#) in July 2023. She has over 15 years of successful public service experience, particularly in law enforcement. In May 2020, she held the position of Budget Manager at the Tempe Police Department.
 - Before joining the City of Tempe in 2017, **Dreamlyn** worked for Maricopa County, Arizona State University (ASU), and the non-profit sector in roles ranging from operations to budgeting. She is a proud Sun Devil and a career public servant, having received her bachelor's degree in political science and sociology and a master's degree in public administration from ASU.
- **Dreamlyn Williams** began her presentation by explaining that the AZDPS' motto and guiding principle is courteous vigilance, which reflects the department's pride. The Department provides quality, reliable, and respectful service to the citizens of Arizona while being vigilant in enforcing the state's laws.
- **Dreamlyn Williams** explained that the Anti-Human Trafficking Grant Fund's main objectives are:
 - To work to reduce human trafficking by providing assistance and analytical services to law enforcement agencies.
 - To provide services to victims and training to law enforcement agencies, prosecutorial agencies, and the public on preventing and identifying human trafficking.
- **Dreamlyn Williams** explained that [Senate Bill \(SB\) 1724](#) established the FY24 Anti-Human Trafficking Grant Fund and allocated \$2.5 million to nine law enforcement agencies across the state for allowable expenses, including, but not limited to, software, vehicles, public outreach/education, training, operation assistance, victim services, prosecutions, etc.
- **Dreamlyn Williams** explained that [House Bill \(HB\) 2897](#) established the [FY25 Anti-Human Trafficking Grant Fund. This fund](#). It continued last fiscal year's grant program by allocating the remaining \$5.4 million to any City, Town, or County Law Enforcement agency, with a maximum allocation of \$500,000 per agency. Agencies that applied for and received the maximum award in the previous grant program are not eligible to use it again.
 - Allowable funding use:
 - 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 are not limited to:
 - Increasing support for forensic interviewing.
 - Developing victim-centered, trauma-informed support(s) 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.
 - Work with state or local partners to provide training and analytical services and develop/deploy tools to support trafficking prevention and response.
 - Programs can also focus on:
 - Victim/survivor services.
 - Victim advocates.
 - Detective/forensic interviews.
 - Data and research gathering and development.

- Personnel and Fringe benefit costs.
- Travel.
- Equipment (cost equal to or greater than \$5,000.00).
- Supplies (tangibles that cost less than \$5,000.00).
- Contractual/Consultant Services.
- Other costs such as ongoing maintenance services, vehicle maintenance, phone services, etc.
- Training and Exercise (except costs for consultation and contractual).
- Outreach/Education/Awareness.
- Application Guidelines:
 - AZDPS will accept applications until September 20, 2024.
 - Applications will be reviewed by an initial review panel comprised of members from the AZDPS, the [Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family \(GOYFF\)](#), and the [Governor's Council to Combat Human Trafficking in Arizona](#).
 - The final review panel will review the applications, and AZDPS will decide on awardees.
- Eligibility:
 - All obligations must occur between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.
 - All expenditures must occur by June 30, 2025.
 - Applicants must identify as county, city, and town law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies.
 - Non-profits can be sub-recipients of law enforcement agencies.
- **Dreamlyn Williams** mentioned that AZDPS has recently created two advisory panels. Individuals interested in attending or participating in the upcoming meetings can contact her.
 - Community Advisory Panel for "The Missing and Endangered".
 - The first meeting was on August 26, 2024.
 - Community Council for Missing and Endangered.
 - The quarterly meeting will take place on September 30, 2024.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** commended AZDPS for administering this fund and stated that the monies have changed Arizona's anti-human trafficking landscape.
- To view **Dreamlyn Williams'** presentation, [click here](#).

Arizona Human Trafficking Summit

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, introduced **Commander Tom Boelts** to explain the details of the upcoming Arizona Human Trafficking Summit.
 - **Commander Tom Boelts** started his career in Law Enforcement with the [Yavapai County Sheriff's Office \(YCSO\)](#) Detention Services Division in March of 1994. In October 2002, he left YCSO and returned to school to complete his Bachelor's in Accountancy at the University of Montana.
 - In 2022, he served as Captain of the Law Enforcement Services Division and has been its commander since May 2023.
- **Commander Tom Boelts** began his presentation by explaining that YCSO received a grant from the [Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs \(DEMA\)](#) in FY2023. Grant funding aided in establishing the [Arizona Human Trafficking Summit](#) to unite different disciplines, such as law enforcement and victim services, in one place.
 - The Summit presents an opportunity to involve the Arizona community in educating them about sex trafficking and its impact on various aspects of our society, including the criminal justice system, schools, and youth welfare.
 - Breakout training includes discipline-specific training for law enforcement, social work, youth, and education.
 - A networking event on the first night encourages the formation of Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) statewide.
 - In 2023, over 300 individuals attended the Summit.
 - The 2024 Summit, which will be held at the Harrah's Ak-Chin Hotel and Casino from September 29 through October 2, 2024, is funded by a grant from the [Administrative Office of the Courts \(AOC\)](#) and the [Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority \(NARBHA\) Institute](#). To register, [click here](#).
- **Commander Tom Boelts** explained that the Summit aims to foster collaboration among participants, bolster

prevention efforts, and offer crucial support for identified victims. Professionals and experts have come from all over the state to inspire a collective effort to inform and prevent Human Trafficking.

- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** invited Council Members who are interested to attend.
- To view **Commander Tom Boelts'** presentation, [click here](#).

CEASE Arizona | Human Trafficking Training

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, introduced **Stacey Sutherland** to give an overview of [Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network's \(AATN\) Cities Empowered Against Sexual Exploitation \(CEASE\) Arizona](#).
 - **Stacey Sutherland** is the director of the [Training and Resources United to Stop Trafficking \(TRUST\)](#), an AATN program that provides training, resources, and collaborative engagement to agencies and organizations fighting against human trafficking. Over the past decade, she has devoted her life to combating modern-day slavery by training thousands of first responders, victim-facing agency staff members, and medical personnel at both local and national levels. Leveraging her diverse background as a former emergency first responder (EMT), victim advocate, and parent, she effectively influences and educates those she trains and collaborates with.
- **Stacey Sutherland** started her presentation by explaining that AATN is a collaboration of programs that combat human trafficking from various angles. The programs encompass community education, public awareness, prevention, reducing demand, engaging men on the issue, and addressing human trafficking in the tourism and hospitality sector. Their goal is to eradicate human trafficking in Arizona by increasing awareness, reducing demand, and promoting prevention efforts with youth through the following programs and initiatives:
 - [CEASE Arizona](#): Trains and educates employees of Arizona cities and counties, including first responders such as law enforcement and fire/EMTs, to recognize, report, and respond to incidents of human trafficking in their communities.
 - [Community Schools Initiative \(CSI\)](#): Topics covered have included internet safety, dating violence, human trafficking, gang, and drug awareness.
 - [Just.Men](#): Training men about the causes and solutions to sexual exploitation and encouraging them to use their voices to speak up for those who are voiceless.
 - [Safeguarding All From Exploitation \(SAFE\)](#): A collaboration between the AATN, the [Arizona Attorney General's Office \(AG\)](#), and [Homeland Security Investigations \(HSI\)](#) to train professionals in the hospitality and tourism industry to identify, report, and prevent human trafficking.
 - [TRUST](#): Proactively develops and directs projects that build collaboration, capacity, and awareness of anti-trafficking efforts throughout Arizona. By leveraging resources, TRUST serves as a connection point for local professionals to support the critical needs of sex trafficking survivors and the overall success of Arizona's cutting-edge anti-trafficking field.
- **Stacey Sutherland** provided more information about the training, CEASE Arizona.
 - The training is free to all city government employees statewide and available in person, via webinar, or on demand through the learning management system. Cities that train at least 75% of their municipal staff receive a CEASE City designation.
 - Designated CEASE Cities:
 - [City of Scottsdale](#)
 - [City of Tempe](#)
 - [Town of Queen Creek](#)
 - [City of Chandler](#)
 - [City of Yuma](#)
 - [Town of Paradise Valley](#)
 - Undergoing CEASE City designation:
 - [City of Phoenix](#)
 - [City of Casa Grande](#)
 - [City of Apache Junction](#)
 - CEASE Arizona includes the following:
 - Definition of Human Trafficking
 - Local Impact in Arizona

- Recruitment and Traffickers
- Vulnerabilities and Risk Factors
- Potential Indicators of Trafficking
- Reporting Procedures
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** commented that changing sex buyer behavior still requires a lot of work. Altering people's attitudes and beliefs is a challenging task.
 - **Stacey Sutherland** added that every city has different ordinances, which can make it difficult.
- **Doug Coleman** inquired if AATN has provided training to City Councils, mentioning an upcoming annual conference and offering to share AATN's training information.
 - **Stacey Sutherland** expressed gratitude to **Doug Coleman** and welcomed the opportunity to establish a connection.
- **Major Frank Griego** asked about the duration of the training per person (online or in-person).
 - **Stacey Sutherland** explained that the duration of training varies by agency and budget. AATN can tailor the length of the training to accommodate different needs.
- To view **Stacey Sutherland's** presentation, [click here](#).

Phoenix Dream Center & StreetLightUSA Update

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, introduced **Brian Steele** and **Shauna Sexton** to provide an update about the [Phoenix Dream Center's](#) new program, [Where Hope Lives](#).
 - **Brian Steele** serves as the chief executive officer (CEO) of City Help Inc. in Phoenix. He supervises 12 life recovery campuses across Arizona, Utah, California, and New Mexico, providing life recovery housing to over 1,200 individuals every night. Over the past 23 years, **Brian** has dedicated himself to expanding life recovery housing and social services for individuals facing homelessness, survivors of human trafficking, individuals in foster care, and those impacted by addiction.
 - **Shauna Sexton** is the executive director of the Young Adult Human Trafficking Rescue and Recovery Operation at Where Hope Lives. Seven years ago, **Shauna** received recovery services from the same program she now leads, which ignited her passion for helping survivors heal. In her role, she manages and leads a team of individuals who work with service providers and survivors of sexual exploitation through human trafficking across the nation. **Shauna** is also a certified expert in trauma-informed care (TIC) and a member of governmental human trafficking relief teams such as the [City of Phoenix Human Trafficking Task Force](#) and the Maricopa County Child Sex Trafficking Collaborative (CST).
- **Brian Steele** commented that he is extremely proud of **Shauna** for her progress and all she has done for the people the Phoenix Dream Center serves.
- **Shauna Sexton** explained the details of the Where Hope Lives program.
 - Young Adults Program: Serving 18-26-year-olds who have aged out of foster care, experienced sexual exploitation, crisis pregnancy, and more
 - Located at 31st and Grand Avenue
 - Women's beds: 30; Men's beds: 16; Emergency Shelter for two families and six individuals
 - Teen Campus: Serving 13-17 year olds
 - Located at an undisclosed location in the West Valley
 - Eight beds
 - Children's Campus: Serving 4-15-year-olds
 - Situated at an undisclosed location in the West Valley
 - Eight beds
- **Shauna Sexton** explained that the Family Care Model and Mentor Teams are volunteers who help individuals transition back into the community, focusing on transportation, finance, education, careers, and housing.
- **Shauna Sexton** mentioned that all programs the Phoenix Dream Center implemented are incentive-based. Participants in the programs are rewarded with credits for making good choices, which they can redeem for items in the incentive closet. They also have input on what items to include in the incentive closet.
- **Shauna Sexton** stated that they have incorporated Trauma-Informed Sensory Modulation into all rooms, including Neurosensory Modulation for light, sound, and touch and Anchor Points for advanced in-house services. Rooms are designed like apartments to avoid triggering survivors of human trafficking who may find hotel-like rooms triggering.

- **Shauna Sexton** explained that the center has various third-party partners on their campuses, such as psychologists, psychiatrists, and medical professionals, to reduce the likelihood of revictimization during treatment.
- **Shauna Sexton** mentioned that 62% of program participants graduate, and 94% achieve success one year after graduating, measured by participants self-reporting on sociological, socioeconomic, or spiritual factors.
- **Shauna Sexton** discussed how the Phoenix Dream Center also participates in outreach activities, including local sting operations with law enforcement, a drop-in center, homeless outreach in Peoria, and hot meal provision for victims every Saturday at the Fountain.
- **Shauna Sexton** shared that the Phoenix Dream Center is partnering with Cyberdrive to address the barrier of lack of access to a cell phone for participation in the program. Cyberdrive can create a phone with a database to follow the incentive-based programming, with limited access to contacts, apps, and the internet. Participants can earn credits for more accessibility, aiming to learn healthy phone usage.
- To view **Brian Steele** and **Shauna Sexton's** presentation, [click here](#).

Workgroup Updates

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, introduced the Data and Research Workgroup Chair, **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz**, to share any updates with the Council.
 - **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** reported the following:
 - The 2024 Youth Experiences Survey (YES) data was compiled by the [Arizona State University Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research \(ASU STIR\)](#) with the partnership of ten organizations. However, finding homeless youth proved to be complicated.
 - The Arizona Human Trafficking Hotline has received 268 calls since February 2023.
 - Calling the hotline is free at Estrella Jail.
 - Focusing efforts on training juvenile detention and the [Maricopa County Attorney's Office \(MCAO\)](#) adult probation about human trafficking.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, 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 be meeting in October and has added new members to represent better the populations affected by human trafficking.

Council Member Updates

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, asked if members wanted to share any updates with the Council.
 - **Erin Garcia** stated that [Chicanos Por La Causa \(CPLC\)](#) is involved in homeless street outreach and has applied for three new workforce development grants. She looks forward to updating the Council about these services as they become available.
 - **Dr. Sarah Beaumont** stated that [Phoenix Children's Hospital](#) has partnered with the [Arizona Department of Child Safety \(DCS\)](#) to obtain complete licensure to provide care to youth in foster care and identify potential victims of human trafficking.
 - **Major Andrew Orozco** stated that the [Arizona Department of Transportation \(ADOT\)](#) and the AZDPS are engaged in a commercial vehicle enforcement safety partnership. They are actively enforcing regulations for commercial vehicles and focusing on identifying bad actors and potential victims. Outreach to the commercial industry is a crucial part of this partnership. Both agencies will remain vigilant in their efforts, and Operation Blended Patch, a significant blended patch commercial detail, is scheduled for mid-October in Northern Arizona.
 - **Brian Steele** stated that the Phoenix Dream Center has transitioned to accepting private referrals instead of referrals from DCS, allowing them to interact more with parents. Most, if not all, referrals at the 4-15 Children's Campus have come from the reservation. Additionally, they are considering providing services to out-of-state residents.
 - **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** provided updates for the ASU STIR:
 - Sweet Project: Prevention programming around the long-term impacts of 'sugaring' referring to sugar babies.
 - Developing a non-profit incubator that can provide support to new non-profit organizations.
 - Starfish Place currently has seven residents, with two recent admissions. They are receiving many

applications from young people aged 18-20.

- A Drop-In Center for labor trafficking will occur at the Maryville Community Center in October; in preparation for the event, ASU STIR developed labor trafficking-specific shoe cards.
- The next Drop-In Center will be on December 7, 2024.

Upcoming Meeting

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, reminded members that the next meeting will be on **November 14, 2024, at 9:00 AM** in the Executive Tower and offered in a hybrid format, with members able to attend in person or virtually.

Adjournment

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn.
 - **Erin Garcia** moved to adjourn.
 - **Doug Coleman** seconded the motion.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, asked if any further discussion was needed.
- With no other discussion needed, **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, called for a vote. At **10:30 AM**, the motion to adjourn the meeting passed with no dissenting votes.

Dated 13 of September 2024
Governor's Council to Combat Human Trafficking in Arizona
Respectfully Submitted By:
Amy Peep
GOYFF