



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

Governor's Commission to Prevent Intimate Partner and Gender Based Violence
November 12, 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 November 12, 2024, with notice duly given.

Members Present (10)	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	
Lindsay Gephardt (proxy for Jon Eliason)	
Samantha Mendez-Dominguez	
Mark Perkovich (proxy for Dr. Neil Websdale)	
Lindsey Ashworth	
Jon R. Smith	
Beth Hoel	
Staff and Guests Present (7)	
Emily Uline-Olmstead, Staff	Michelle Jameson, Presenter
Sandra Mucino, Staff	Krista Titus, 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 **10:09 AM** with **ten** members and **four** staff/guests present.

Welcome/Introductions

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

Approval of Minutes

- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, requested a review of the **August 27, 2024** meeting minutes before requesting a motion to approve the meeting minutes as drafted.
 - **Kirstin Flores** moved to accept the minutes as drafted.
 - **Jon R. Smith** seconded the motion.
- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, called a vote, and at **10:16 AM**, the motion to accept the meeting minutes as drafted was approved with no dissenting votes.

New Member Introductions

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, welcomed **Samantha Mendez-Dominguez** and asked her to introduce herself.
- **Samantha Mendez-Dominguez** expressed her gratitude to the Commission for the warm welcome. She shared that her passion lies in assisting vulnerable communities. As a Forensic Nurse Examiner at HonorHealth, she has been a supervisor since 2016. Each year, HonorHealth screens approximately 2,300 patients for injuries related to sexual abuse and domestic violence. **Samantha Mendez-Dominguez** noted that she has observed a steady increase in the number of injuries associated with sexual and domestic abuse since she began her role.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, thanked **Samantha Mendez-Dominguez** and welcomed **Lindsay Ashworth** to introduce herself.
- **Lindsay Ashworth** thanked **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, before stating she moved to Arizona ten years ago to work for the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Abuse (ACESDV). Her current role is at the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) as the Office of Interpersonal Violence Manager, where she also serves as the administrator of Family Violence Prevention and Service (FVPSA). She reaffirmed her passion to serve survivors and collaborate with victim advocates.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, acknowledged **Jon R. Smith's** retirement from the commission and his position, effective at the end of the calendar year. She stated he has worked closely with Family Advocacy Centers since 2004 and will retire as Yuma County Attorney.
- **Jon R. Smith** stated he felt fortunate for his role and hoped to continue working with members in other capacities.

Ashley's Place

- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, introduced **Michelle Jameson** and **Krista Titus** from United States (US) VETS Phoenix Ashley's Place to speak about the resources they offer veteran survivors in Arizona.
- **Michelle Jameson** began the presentation by stating that US VETS is available in Arizona, Nevada, California, Hawaii, Texas, and Washington D.C. to help all military veterans and their families regain and maintain productive independence post-service.
 - Core Values of US VETS:
 - Veteran Success, Excellence, Loyalty, Dignity, Hope, Community Inclusion, and Service.
 - Their services serve all veterans but focus primarily on veterans experiencing homelessness.
- **Michelle Jameson** continued by sharing the history of Ashley's Place. Ashley's Place was established thanks to a generous benefactor and Habitat for Humanity, who identified the need for a safe environment for female veterans affected by military sexual trauma (MST) and domestic violence (DV). Ashley's Place honors Lieutenant (Lt) Ashley White, who lost her life during combat in Afghanistan. Lt. Ashley White's actions exemplified the highest commitment to duty, honor, and country.
- **Michelle Jameson** provided an overview of the Ashley's Place program. Ashley's Place offers transitional housing aimed at supporting the specific needs of women who have experienced sexual trauma during their military service or have been affected by domestic abuse. The program also assists individuals dealing with substance abuse challenges. As part of the intake process, they comprehensively assess each resident's unique needs to create personalized care plans.
- **Michelle Jameson** stated that Ashley's Place has three types of support groups.
 - Process Group: A group of peers gathered for recovery facilitated weekly by a therapist.

- Intimate Partner Violence Group: A support group held once a week for women with a history of domestic violence/sexual assault/MST.
- Individual Therapy: Held bi-weekly for residents who require additional support to discuss treatment goals related to trauma, depression, and/or other needs.
- **Michelle Jameson** shared that the program also helps veterans secure benefits in partnership with the DES and the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
- **Michelle Jameson** concluded the presentation by stating that Ashley's Place had provided services to 24 women veterans since February 2023. Among these 24 women, 12 had children. To be eligible for services at Ashley's Place, a woman veteran must have experienced MST or domestic violence, be experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and actively commit to participating in the programs offered.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, thanked **Michelle Jameson** and **Krista Titus** for their presentation and asked if any commissioners had questions.
- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, asked about the source of their referrals.
 - **Michelle Jameson** mentioned that referrals were their most significant obstacle when they launched Ashley's Place, adding that their numbers were low for several months. Recently, their referrals have come from the VA, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Continuum of Care (CoC) Program, and the Luke Air Force Base.
 - **Krista Titus** shared that the current case manager at Ashley's Place conducts outreach to women veteran groups across the valley to promote their services.
- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, thanked **Michelle Jameson** and **Krista Titus** for their presentation.
- To view **Michelle Jameson** and **Krista Titus**'s presentation, [click here](#).

Lighting Arizona Purple Highlights

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, introduced **Sandra M. Mucino**, a Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) Program Administrator, to discuss highlights from the Lighting Arizona Purple campaign during October 2024 in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- **Sandra M. Mucino** opened her presentation with an overview of the GOYFF and the purpose of Lighting Arizona Purple. She explained that this initiative offers a chance to raise awareness for Domestic Violence Awareness Month while uniting various organizations and agencies across Arizona to share resources available for survivors. The GOYFF promoted the resources through digital media channels (social media platforms and housed on the GOYFF website) to increase visibility and support for those who need it most.
- **Sandra M. Mucino** shared that the GOYFF hosted two Lighting Arizona Purple events this year: one held at the State Capitol in Phoenix and the other at the East Flagstaff Library in Flagstaff. Both programs included a tribal blessing and a panel discussion.
- **Sandra M. Mucino** stated that Aanya Venkat, the 2024-2025 Governor's Youth Commission (GYC) President, spoke at the State Capitol event and highlighted the importance of involving youth in domestic violence prevention efforts.
- **Sandra M. Mucino** presented the panel discussion topics from the State Capitol Lighting Arizona Purple event, which included the importance of prevention in helping educate future generations on indicators of domestic violence and how to seek help. Tribal community survivors also require additional support to ensure that the healing practices offered are culturally informed.
- **Sandra M. Mucino** mentioned that the conversation in Flagstaff was similar but focused on how community-based organizations (CBOs) in Northern Arizona can collaborate to support rural and tribal communities. One crucial topic addressed was the hidden signs of domestic violence, including strangulation.

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, asked if any members had questions; none did.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, thanked **Sandra M. Mucino** for her presentation.
- To view **Sandra M. Mucino's** presentation, [click here](#).

Strategic Planning Announcement

- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, stated the intention to build a 2025 Strategic Plan for the Commission.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, added that a strategic plan would be an opportunity to brainstorm a vision for the commission and workgroups.
- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, invited commissioners to share their thoughts on the announcement.
- **Kirstin Flores** stated that it was a great idea for the commission to become more action-oriented.
- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, agreed and stated she would love to create recommendations.

Upcoming Meeting(s)

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

Adjourn

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - **Kirstin Flores** motioned to adjourn.
 - **Teresa Manyoats, proxy for Sheila Sjolander**, seconded the motion.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, called for a vote, and at **10:59 AM**, the motion was approved unanimously, adjourning the meeting.

Dated the 12th of November 2024

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

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sandra Mucino

Program Administrator