



Commission
to Prevent Violence
Against Women

Arizona Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women

February 18, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Virtual- Zoom meeting

A general meeting of the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women was convened on February 18, 2021 virtually via Zoom, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (18)	
Diane Umphress, Co-Chair	
Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair	
Beth Hoel	
Steve Stahl	
Kristin Flores	
Jon Smith	
Neil Websdale	
Kay Radwanski	
Sheila Sjolander	
Ed Mercurio-Sakwa	
Elizabeth Ortiz	
Jon Eliason	
Laura Guild	
Monica Yelin	
Susan Smith	
Patricia Klahr	
Daniel Rincon	
Jenna Panas	
Members Absent (2)	
Eve Scarff	
Nicole Bidwill	

Call to Order

- **Diane Umphress, Co-Chair**, called the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women meeting to order at 10:03 AM with **18** members present.

Welcome/Introductions

- **Diane Umphress, Co-Chair**, welcomed everyone and asked all members to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

- **Diane Umphress, Co-Chair**, requested a review of the **November 19, 2020** meeting minutes.
 - **Steve Stahl motioned** to accept the **November 19, 2020** minutes. **Monica Yelin** seconded the motion. **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair** abstained from voting due to her absence at the November meeting. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Across Arizona Podcast

- **Elizabeth Ortiz**, Executive Director of Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council (APAAC) was introduced by **Diane Umphress, Co-Chair**.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz** gave an overview of APAAC's podcast- Across Arizona, including previous guest speakers and topics listed in the powerpoint presentation.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz** reported APAAC started the podcast with the goal of being a source of unbiased information and a voice for spotlighting the work of criminal justice professionals throughout Arizona.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz** informed the Commission of the cadence of the podcasts, preparation and logistics, technology used, and the community outreach the podcast has provided. The podcast provides an outlet for the public to hear about important issues and topics and aids in building positive relationships in the community.
- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair**, asked how the amount of listeners was measured. **Elizabeth Ortiz** responded that statistical tracking is done through Soundcloud's databases. Based on feedback from the community, **Elizabeth Ortiz** stated that she felt that outreach has been improving and growing over the past few weeks.
- **Dan Rincon** asked if there is any marketing being done to get publicity of the podcast out to more people. **Diane Umphress** recommended that the APAAC podcast have a spot on the GOYFF domestic violence page.
- **Neil Websdale** stated that he appreciates the balance of the presentations that APAAC is putting together and how unbiased the information has been presented.

AZ Point: Enhancing services

- **Marc Peoples**, Criminal Justice Systems Improvement Administrator at the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission was introduced by **Diane Umphress, Co-Chair**.
- **Marc Peoples** provided an update on the first year of AZ Point and how services are being enhanced through the second year and during the continued COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Marc Peoples** reported that the systems improvement program is working to rectify any gaps in service and concerns for the system to run better. It was stated that from the plaintiff side, AZ Point is running well and has been useful during the pandemic when it has been necessary to have virtual documentation and handling of cases.
- **Marc Peoples** stated that feedback from AZ Point users has consistently said the system is speeding up the court process. Main areas of development include translating the site

into Spanish and improving specific service components for the court. A current focus is adjusting alerts for served and pending petitions to make the process more efficient for police officers and courts to maintain.

- **Marc Peoples** notified the Commission that data for the first year is still being compiled for a full report and that a previous audit from the Department of Public Safety has inspired new legislation in regards to record retention and handling through AZ Point.
- **Marc Peoples** reminded the Commission that the goal of AZ Point is to make the petition process more accessible, more efficient, and more effective for everyone involved.
- **Diane Umphress, Co-Chair** expressed concerns on people still being able to access the account without a password. **Marc Peoples** addressed that changes have been made to access and reset passwords.
- **Kate Brophy McGee, Co-Chair** asked for further insight on the Spanish translation and plan for implementation. **Marc Peoples** stated that the systems improvement team was currently working hard to have the website properly translated. **Kay Radwanski** stated that the Supreme Court is working with AZ Point on doing an in depth translation.
- **Marc Peoples** further thanked **Kay Radwanski** for helping make the language easy to read for laypersons and making sure the site was in plain language to help users understand the process and the form.

STOP Grant Funding

- **Emily Uline-Olmstead**, Program Administrator at the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) was introduced by **Diane Umphress, Co-Chair**.
- **Emily Uline-Olmstead** presented on the STOP Grant Program administered by GOYFF by providing an overview of the grant, the 22 organizations that received awards, and the available \$2.5 million in funding for victims services, SART teams, and prosecution improvements throughout the state.
- **Emily Uline-Olmstead** reported on specific programs that will be focused on sex trafficking cases, including the Department of Child Safety (DCS), the McCain Institute, and the Arizona State University office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research.
- **Emily Uline-Olmstead** talked about training in critical sectors and coordinated community training by awarded organizations.
- **Diane Umphress, Co-Chair** commented on the large impact that the STOP Grant has had on developing the SART team in Yuma County and educating the community.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes**, Director of GOYFF, spoke on future funding from GOYFF coming at the end of Spring 2021 and legislation that has been brought regarding sexual assault.

Request for Future Presentation Topics

- **Diane Umphress, Co-Chair**, stated that the Commission will now be accepting public comment via written submission through the GOYFF website and all Commission members could email Gaelyn Davis for any suggestions on future meeting presentation topics.

Future Meeting Dates

- **Diane Umphress, Co-Chair** announced the following meeting dates:
 - Tuesday, May 18, 2021
 - Thursday, August 19, 2021
 - Tuesday, November 16, 2021
- **Diane Umphress, Co-Chair** reported to the Commission that she would be retiring in May 2021 and this would be her last meeting as Co-Chair of the Commission.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes** thanked Diane Umphress for her work and contributions to the State of Arizona and presented Diane Umphress with a commendation from the Governor.

Adjourn

- **Diane Umphress, Co-Chair** called for adjournment at 11:37 AM.
 - **Steve Stahl** motioned to adjourn. **Dan Rincon** seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Dated the 19th of February 2021
Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women
Respectfully Submitted By:
Gaelyn Davis
Program Administrator, GOYFF