



Commission  
to Prevent Violence  
Against Women

**Arizona Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women**

**May 17, 2018, 10:00 a.m.**

1700 W Washington St<sup>h</sup> Avenue, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

A general meeting of the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women was convened on May 17th, 2018 at 1700 W Washington St<sup>h</sup> Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given.

<b>Members Present (13)</b>	
<b>Diane Umphress, Chair</b>	
<b>Antoinette Means</b>	
<b>Ed Mercurio-Sakwa (Phone)</b>	
<b>Elizabeth Ortiz</b>	
<b>Jon Eliason</b>	
<b>Jon Smith</b>	
<b>Kirstin Flores</b>	
<b>Kay Radwanski (Phone)</b>	
<b>Mark Klym (representing Susan Smith)</b>	
<b>Neil Websdale (Phone)</b>	
<b>Patricia George</b>	
<b>Patricia Klahr (Phone)</b>	
<b>Tasha Menaker</b>	
<b>Staff/Guests Present (8)</b>	<b>Members Absent (3)</b>
<b>Malcolm Hightower</b>	<b>Armity Simon</b>
<b>Maria Fuentes</b>	<b>Daniel Rincon</b>
<b>Samuel Burba</b>	<b>John Tsosie</b>
<b>Joanna Jauregui</b>	
<b>Kate Lyon</b>	
<b>Trevor Umphress</b>	
<b>Jason Zimmerman</b>	
<b>Steve Stahl</b>	

**Call to Order**

- **Ms. Diane Umphress, Chair**, called the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. with 13 members and 8 staff and guests present.

### Welcome/Introductions

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

### Approval of Minutes

- **Ms. Diane Umphress, Chair**, requested a review of the **March 29, 2018** meeting minutes.
  - **Ms. Kirstin Flores** motioned to accept the **March 29, 2018** minutes.
  - **Mr. Jon Eliason** seconded the motion.
    - The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

### Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- **Ms. Maria Fuentes** presented on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), stating that they are a root cause for many of the issue areas that the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family (GOYFF) focus on. The ACE study originated in California and is now owned by the Center for Disease Control which used ten adverse childhood experiences such as abuse, family incarceration, the death of a parent and evaluated the ways in which these experiences affect health outcomes. An increased ACE score is associated with poor health outcomes such as heart disease, asthma, decreased mortality, and increased likeliness to attempt suicide. Arizona is 50th in The United States for incidences of ACEs which demonstrates the need for systems to have the capacity to respond to children and adults with multiple ACEs and counteract them. Witnessing violence between parents increases the likeliness that a child will be exposed to additional ACEs and higher ACE scores are prevalent among perpetrators and victims of intimate partner violence. An individual with an increased number of ACEs should not be seen as a lost cause but shows the importance of putting in place structures of community and statewide support to reduce the number of ACEs and serve individuals in a way that mitigates stress in a positive or tolerable way. A trauma-informed approach is especially necessary to help build resilience, to promote self-regulating skills for parents and children. Ms. Fuentes stated that ACEs are not an excuse for behavior, it shows the need to recognize what ACEs are and how systems must be informed on how to respond appropriately. The Arizona Human Trafficking Council and the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women both work to protect vulnerable populations and have an opportunity for collaboration and to learn from each other.
- **Ms. Umphress** asked whether shelters are addressing ACEs.
- **Ms. Patricia Klahr** stated that her organization is very involved in ACEs and staff, including board members, are currently getting certified by the Arizona Trauma Institute. The experience has been a paradigm shift and both staff and clients are responding positively. The results can be seen in the way staff speak to each other, self-regulate and the way they interact with clients.
- **Ms. Fuentes** thanked Ms. Klahr for sharing and stated that training all staff, including board members, is the best approach. Ms. Fuentes noted that this type of training is time intensive and hard to change, but that she would love to see more organizations using a trauma informed care and focus.
- **Ms. Klahr** agreed that the training is very intense and that it is fully expected by the end of the process some people may not be able to incorporate it as it is a hard concept to grasp. Ms. Klahr stated that she would like to further discuss this topic with Ms. Fuentes.
- **Ms. Fuentes** stated that GOYFF is currently working on a statewide effort to incorporate language associated with ACEs and trauma-informed care to ensure that more people are educated and trained on these areas.
- **Mr. Mark Klym** stated that he felt privileged to see how prevention efforts work, and that the work done in trauma-informed schools is phenomenal. He shared an example of a school that saw increased retention rates among teachers after incorporating trauma-informed training for staff.
- **Ms. Umphress** asked if this topic is being addressed in courts. She stated that incorporating this in to perpetrator intervention could be very beneficial.

- **Ms. Fuentes** stated that both perpetrators and victims would benefit from trauma-informed and evidence based programs. She stated that there are many different entry ways for intervention and the question is who wants to be involved and what the priority areas are for addressing this.

### Arizona Human Trafficking Council

- **Mr. Gil Orrantia** presented on the purpose and history of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council. He stated that there is currently a tremendous amount of momentum behind addressing this issue especially with the passing of the SESTA/ FOSTA bill. The goal of the Council is first and foremost to help victims. The Council works towards this goal by providing training to professions, conducting researching and collecting data, promote public awareness on this issue, develop and coordinate victim services and shape policy by engaging relevant stakeholders. The council releases an annual report on the issue of human trafficking in Arizona. Since the council was founded, it has shaped legislation with the passing of HB 2454 that strengthened the law and sentencing structure for traffickers, and HB 2337 which changed verbiage from child prostitution to sex trafficking victim. The council has trained over 5000 people in 2017 and established protocols and guidelines for domestic minor sex trafficking response for multidisciplinary teams. Mr. Orrantia also discussed the need for victim center courtroom techniques for trafficking victims. In order to prosecute perpetrators, the victim must be willing to testify which is often difficult for young children and adults. With the help of Mr. Jon Eliason and APAC, the Council was able to provide training and techniques to help the process easier for victims.
- **Mr. Jon Eliason** stated that an important aspect of a victim's testimony is that it is emotional and powerful, which may not be as effective in a video. A persuasive testimony ensures that the perpetrator is brought to justice and eliminates the ability for them to victimize others in the future.
- **Mr. Orrantia** stated that as a result of these types of trainings, the Navajo nation began working towards developing a law prohibiting human trafficking that was passed in 2017. He stated that post 9/11, it became apparent that many agencies were operating in silos, and that the need for multi-disciplinary collaboration was critical.
- **Mr. Eliason** thanked Mr. Orrantia for his leadership and echoed Ms. Fuentes' sentiments on wanting to collaborate with the Human Trafficking Council.

### The Arizona Child and Family Advocacy Network

- **Mr. Trevor Umphress** presented on the Arizona Child and Family Advocacy Network (ACFAN) whose goal is to bring hope and healing for victims, while ensuring the perpetrator is held accountable. ACFAN is a part of a national alliance that helps more than 800 centers nationwide. Arizona currently has 19 family advocacy centers that follow the ACFAN model and help victims of child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence and human trafficking. ACFAN began in 1999 with only 3 centers in Arizona, but understood that a great need was needed across the state and that victims in rural areas deserved the same access to quality services as those in urban areas. ACFAN provides support to multidisciplinary teams housed in advocacy centers that include law enforcement, medical, mental health, victim advocacy and child safety professionals. ACFAN also coordinates and provides training on topics such as ACEs and mandatory reporting while constantly striving to ensure each center and multidisciplinary team has the tools needed to successfully serve their population. There is no charge or cost to attend or receive services from ACFAN. In 2017, Governor Ducey signed SB 1107 that would ensure funding for family and child advocacy centers. Finally ACFAN incorporates the Outcome Measurement System developed by the National Children Alliance to measure center performance involving the impact of families receiving services and multidisciplinary agencies, teams and individuals who partner with the center.
- **Mr. Eliason** stated that he is a big fan of advocacy centers.
- **Mr. Malcolm Hightower** stated that he previously worked for Casey Family Programs and that part of his job was to use Arizona for a benchmark for Family Advocacy Centers in New Mexico.
- **Mr. Umphress** stated that although we often hear negative things about Arizona, the state has had centers since the 1990s and has worked to ensure that there is one in each community.

- **Mr. Steve Stahl**, founder of ACFAN, stated that after working for Department of Child Safety for 20 years he saw how much easier and less traumatic the centers were for families.
- **Mr. Hightower** stated that Chief Stahl will be joining the Commission.

#### **Glendale Family Advocacy Center**

- **Lt. Jason Zimmerman** presented on the Glendale Family Advocacy Center (GFAC) whose goal is to provide a “one stop” center for victims of family violence, child abuse and sex crimes in a way that does not revictimize them. The GFAC is available for victims and law enforcement agencies throughout the west valley, even if the crime occurred in another city. The facility offers soft forensic interview rooms, forensic nurse examination rooms as well as crisis preparation and recovery counseling offices. GFAC also has Glendale Police Department staff assigned to the center, including detectives for adult sex crimes, child crimes, family violence and human trafficking as well as a sex offender program manager, victim assistance case workers and volunteer coordinators. GFAC partners with Department of Child Safety, Office of Child Welfare Investigations, Honor Health Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, Maricopa County Attorney’s Office Forensic Interviewers and Crisis Preparation and Recovery, Inc. Lt. Zimmerman shared photos of the Family Advocacy Center and stated that areas for victims are completely separate from areas that house law enforcement officers.
- **Ms. Patricia George** asked if GFAC provides services even if the victim does not want to proceed with prosecution.
- **Lt. Zimmermann** stated that victims are able to receive services without perusing prosecution but that evidence collection is still offered in the event that the victim would like to prosecute in the future. He further stated that all child crime detectives are trained in forensic interviewing.
- **Mr. Eliason** stated that prosecutors must be cognizant that the centers are there for victims, and although law enforcement may take them there, the primary purpose is to receive medical care and evidence collection is secondary.

#### **Lighting Arizona Purple Plans**

- **Mr. Malcolm Hightower** provided the commission with an update on the current planning process for Lighting Arizona Purple. The dates of October 1<sup>st</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup> have been approved for lawn reservation, and confirmation on Governor Ducey’s availability is still pending. Communication with corporate sponsors has begun and GOYFF will begin reaching out to state agencies and city governments in June to ask them to participate. Mr. Hightower also asked the council for their recommendations on potential keynote speakers for the event.
- **Ms. George** asked if money was available to pay for a speaker.
- **Mr. Hightower** stated that there is money available for speaker fees.
- **Mr. Eliason** asked if the keynote is separate from the survivor speaker.
- **Mr. Hightower** stated the keynote is separate from the survivor speaker. He also stated that GOYFF would like to ensure the commissioners are all involved and will keep in contact about other tasks that are needed.
- **Ms. Umphress** asked if trainings around the state will still be provided
- **Mr. Hightower** stated that training will be held leading up to and during the month of October.

#### **Future Meeting Dates**

- **Chairperson Diane Umphress**, announced the following meeting dates
  - Thursday, August 9, 2018, 10:00 AM
  - Thursday, November 15, 2018, 10:00 AM

#### **Call to the Public**

- **Chairperson Diane Umphress** gave call to the public. No public members wished to address the Commission.

#### **Adjourn**

- **Mr. Eliason** motioned to adjourn, **Mr. Jon Smith** seconded motion.

**Chairperson Diane Umphress** called for adjournment at **11:56 a.m.**

Dated the 18<sup>h</sup> of May 2018  
Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Malcolm Hightower  
Program Administrator, GOYFF