



Commission
to Prevent Violence
Against Women

Arizona Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women

August 9, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room

1700 W. Washington, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

A general meeting of the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women was convened on August 9, 2018 at the Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room at 1700 W. Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (14)	
Diane Umphress, Chair	
Daniel Rincon	
Ed Mercurio-Sakwa (Phone)	
Jon Eliason	
Jon Smith (Phone)	
Kay Radwanski (Phone)	
Kirstin Flores	
Kay Radwanski	
Kirstin Flores	
Laura Guild	
Neil Websdale	
Steven Stahl	
Susan Smith	
Tasha Menaker	
Staff/Guests Present (8)	Members Absent (4)
Maria Fuentes	Antoinette Means
Tonya Hamilton	Elizabeth Ortiz
Rebecca Chesley	Patricia George
Nikki Green	Patricia Klahr
Joanna Jauregui	
Sonya Pierce-Johnson	
Alfreda Moore	
Sara Lamog	
Jerald Monahan	

Call to Order

- **Ms. Diane Umphress, Chair**, called the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. with 14 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 **May 17, 2018** meeting minutes.
 - **Mr. Jon Eliason** motioned to accept the **May 17, 2018** minutes.
 - **Ms. Kirstin Flores** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Seek then Speak and VictimLink

- **Chief Jerald Monahan** Presented on the Seek then Speak and VictimLink Initiatives. The inception of the programs was due to a 2014 Office of Crime Victims grants recommendation of the increased use of technology for victims services. The Seek then Speak is an alternative reporting method for victims of sexual assault in which the victim can first access information on sexual assault to better understand what has occurred, forensic examinations and what to expect if they contact a victim advocacy center or law enforcement. It is also a platform for friends and families of victims to learn about ways to support someone who has been victimized. VictimLink is the provider platform that allows them to respond to victims. VictimLink allows agencies (law enforcement or victims advocate) to determine who should respond to the victim notification based on the information provided through Seek then Speak. Currently, there are 100 organizations in Arizona who utilize VictimLink including Amberly's Place, Community Alliance in Apache Junction and Yavapai County Advocacy Center. Through the grant, they are able to provide VictimLink at no cost for one year, but the biggest challenge is spreading awareness about VictimLink for service providers and Seek then Speak for victims and allies as a platform to educate and promote informed decision making.
- **Ms. Umphress** stated that she reviewed Seek then Speak and found that the information provided is the same that their victims advocate would provide. The program also provides a way to collect evidence while maintaining anonymity, even if the victim is not yet ready to report. **Chief Monahan** stated that Denver is the largest subscriber, and that they have large advertisements at bus stops to spread awareness. He also stated that the US Olympic committee will make their participants and athletes aware of the program.
- **Mr. Eliason** asked if when a victim submits a report through Seek then Speak is the notification live or is a message left on VictimLink? **Chief Monahan** stated that a notification is sent between platforms, allowing law enforcement to decide who should receive the information to respond, whether law enforcement needs to make contact with the victim or a victims advocate should. Notifications can also be flagged as "urgent", letting law enforcement note that a quicker response is needed. This method of communication reduces the need of a victim having to wait in the police lobby or for an officer to have to go out to the victim. It allows the agency to coordinate the most appropriate response. Using the application is anonymous and the system does screen for urgent responses by asking if the victim is injured. **Mr. Eliason** then asked if the program removes the need for a patrol car to respond? **Chief Monahan** stated that it depends on who the subscribing agency is. In St. John's for example, the responder will be a patrol car because that is the only agency. In larger agencies, they may choose to send a victims advocate.
- **Ms. Laura Guild** asked if a victim requests assistance, will the application recommend the closest subscribing agency or will it provide information based on jurisdiction and what happens if they are not a member? **Chief Monahan** stated that Seek then Speak does not require a membership, but that if the agency is within jurisdiction and a subscriber they will receive a notification. **Ms. Guild** asked if languages other than English were available? **Chief Monahan** stated that the application is currently available in 56 languages and the phone service is available in English and Spanish.

Domestic Violence-Related Mass and Spree Killings

- **Dr. Neil Websdale** presented on Domestic Violence Related Mass and Spree Killings, stating that while both types are extremely rare (account for less than .2% of all US murders) media amplification and public concern are considerable. He stated that while assaults occur in millions, it is extremely difficult to predict intimate partner violence (IPV) homicide, spree or mass killing. The three types of mass/ spree killings are familicide, felony mass/ spree killing (in which DV or IPV are an aspect of the case) and non-felony related public mass spree killing (in which DV or IPV is centrally important). Dr. Websdale provided case illustrations of Dwight Jones and Omar Mateen discussing the social patterns and the key themes associated with domestic violence-related mass and spree killings. Dr. Websdale noted that while mass murderers are often emotionally or mentally unstable they are rarely psychotic or hallucinatory. Furthermore, 32% of perpetrators had psychotic symptoms prior to their attacks but only 14% of attacks are identified as mental health or psychosis as the principal motive. In the Dwight Jones case, an apparent key theme was the many ways in which his behavior signaled or warned that he would act out violently, one of which was the posting of videos on YouTube that outlined a conspiracy to deny him access to his son. A notable predictor or stressor for the Dwight Jones case was the significant life change that occurred with the divorce and reduction of alimony. The Omar Mateen case differed in that the victims were unknown to him and that while he was also a perpetrator of domestic violence, it was not a central motivating factor. The signaling that was apparent in the Mateen case was that prior to the attack, he spent more than \$26,5000 on jewelry, toys, guns, and ammunition. Surveys from the Arizona Bar Association reveal that family lawyers, criminal prosecutors or defense, and allied professions are targets of threats of abuse or assault but it is important to note how rare these cases are. Dr. Websdale stated that vicarious trauma is very real so it is important to develop ways to foster vicarious resilience. He concluded that while we can not screen or triage to determine who will be a perpetrator of domestic violence, we must consider ways about relinquishing access to firearms for serious domestic violence offenders.
- **Sgt. Rincon** stated that the information was very valuable, whether an individual was in law enforcement or not. Being in law enforcement for 27 years, there is a constant worry that an event like domestic violence mass or spree killing will occur, even if it is rare. He further stated that if as a community we are able to identify the stressors or warning signs, we may prevent an event like those from occurring. **Dr. Websdale** agreed that we do not hear about all the potential mass and spree killing that are intercepted.
- **Chief Stahl** asked whether the risk assessment tool would be updated based on these findings? **Dr. Websdale** stated that the risk assessment would not change but there are questions that address suicidality and substance abuse. He stated that he always includes those questions in his assessment, regardless of strangulation or use of weapons. He further noted that unresolved anger manifests as depression, and while anger management is not the solution for ending domestic violence, the dysregulation of anger is an important component. **Chief Stahl** noted that these types of cases have a lot to do with timing and triggers and asked whether follow up questions addressing those factors should be included? **Dr. Websdale** stated that he always tries to get a sense of what the changing circumstances are, such as bankruptcy or foreclosure. **Chief Stahl** stated that those questions are asked for sex offense calls but not for domestic violence perpetrators.
- **Mr. Eliason** asked whether there was a way to track or predict these cases? **Dr. Websdale** stated that statisticians will say we can only roughly predict these cases because mass killings are so rare, but that we can layer in questions regarding depression, social isolation, extreme rage and life changes to help us filter out these perpetrators better.
- **Ms. Guild** thanked Dr. Websdale for all of his research.

Lighting Arizona Purple Plans

- **Ms. Rebecca Chesley** provided the commission with an update on the current planning process for Lighting Arizona Purple. The date has been confirmed for Tuesday, October 2nd, and Governor Ducey has been confirmed to attend. The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family will continue to partner with PetSmart Charities for the kick-off event, and Home Depot who will provide "It Can Stop" brochures and purple light bulbs at all Arizona locations. GOYFF is also collaborating with the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV) to engage communities statewide. A webinar hosted by ACESDV and GOYFF is scheduled for August 22nd so that organizations may share their plans for domestic violence

awareness month, gain inspiration and ideas for awareness campaigns, GOYFF will also invite organizations to table at the event and asked the commissioners for recommendations to ensure statewide representation is available for victim service providers.

- **Chief Steven Stahl** stated that the city of Maricopa will light city hall purple as well as the new law enforcement memorial wall. Maricopa will also release a resolution.
- **Ms. Tasha Menaker** stated that ACESDV is excited to partner with the Governor's office to collaborate on spreading awareness statewide and to engage different communities. ACESDV will be tabling at various events, provide presentations as well as having a social media presence throughout the month of October.
- **Sergeant Daniel Rincon** stated that the Scottsdale Police Department will partner with the family advocacy center to identify locations and landmarks to light purple in each of their four districts.
- **Ms. Umphress** stated that they will work within the whole county to raise awareness. Amberly's Place will host a lighting ceremony on Monday, October 1st which will include tours of the center. Magnetic purple ribbons will also be provided for law enforcement vehicles, a picture of which will be featured on the front page of their local newspaper. They are also currently working to get a billboard with all the chiefs of police. The Arizona Cardinals stadium will also be lit purple in October and they will continue to encourage people to purchase the purple light bulbs from Home Depot.
- **Ms. Guild** asked if GOYFF will be sending out the statewide hashtag information? She stated the the Department of Economic Security (DES) will focus on promoting the DV awareness information they have and how they can send out that information to victims. DES will also participate in a poster campaign and are currently working on hosting a resource fair at the DES cafeteria to engage partners. They are also working on communicating with state agencies beyond DES to engage them in awareness efforts and to participate on the national awareness day.
- **Ms. Chesley** confirmed that the statewide hashtag will be sent out and that hosting a resource day is a great idea. She stated that the responsibility of GOYFF is to highlight what is being done across the state and encouraged the commissioners to share their events with the office to help with promotion. GOYFF will also be sharing the ACESDV event calendar on the website. **Ms. Susan Smith** asked when information on checking out the stop sign will be available? **Ms. Chesley** stated that the details are still being worked out but information will be sent when it is finalized. **Ms. Umphress** asked if trainings will be available? **Ms. Chesley** stated that APAAC is providing a training on October 2nd, after which participants will walk to the capital to attend the kick-off event. **Ms. Kirstin Flores** asked if the keynote for the event has been chosen? **Ms. Chesley** stated that GOYFF has contacted speakers both nationally and locally, but would also accept recommendations from the commission.
- **Ms. Flores** stated that her organization will have a victims rights training and will take photos with the stop sign for social media. They will also host a cell phone recycling drive to support the victim relocation fund.

Future Meeting Dates

- **Chairperson Diane Umphress**, announced the following meeting dates
 - Thursday, November 15, 2018, 10:00 AM
Arizona State Laboratory

Call to the Public

- **Chairperson Diane Umphress** gave call to the public.
- **Ms. Christina Martinez**, PetSmart Charities and ACESDV Chair, shared appreciation to the commission and Governor Ducey for allowing PetSmart Charities to a participate in the Lighting Arizona Purple event and allowing the organization a platform to share the work they are doing as an Arizona-based company and nationwide. PetSmart charities provides grant support to organizations beyond animal-focused and are committed to supporting programs that keep people and pets together and continuing the conversation of the correlation to animal abuse and domestic violence. Ms. Martinez had confirmed that PetSmart associates will be wearing purple in October, and they will be distributing an information card on where to

seek help if needed. PetSmart is excited to engage new partners and do something new within their organization

Updates

- **Mr. Eliason** shared that on Thursday, October 4th, there will be a screening of the documentary *I Am Evidence*, which is about a grant Arizona received to reduce the number of untested rape kits. The grant supported the testing of 2,000 kits, but Arizona was able to test approximately 4,000.

Adjourn

- **Chairperson Diane Umphress** called for adjournment at **11:47 a.m.** **Mr. Steven Stahl** motioned to adjourn, **Mr. Jon Eliason** seconded motion.

Dated the 10^h of August 2018
Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women
Respectfully Submitted By:
Rebecca Chesley
Program Administrator, GOYFF