



**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
MEETING MINUTES**

**September 14, 2017  
10:00 AM  
1700 W. Washington Street  
2nd Floor Conference  
Phoenix, AZ 85007**

Notice having been duly given, a meeting of the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women convened on **September 14, 2017**, at 10:03 AM in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 1700 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 85007. Attendance of Council members was as follows:

**Members Present**

Diane Umphress (Co-Chair)  
Nicole Bidwill (Co-Chair)  
Toni Means  
Jon Eliason  
Kathleen McLaughlin  
Elizabeth Ortiz  
Neil Websdale

Laura Guild  
Kay Radwanski  
Susan Smith  
John Tsosie

**Members Absent**

Monica Antone  
Kirstin Flores  
Armity Simon  
Daniel Rincon  
Jon Smith  
Kevin Tredway  
Ed Mercurio-Sakwa

Patricia George  
Patricia Klahr

**Staff and Guests Present**

Sam Burba  
Myriah Mhoon  
John Raeder III  
Amanda Webb

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Diane Umphress called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**2. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Umphress welcomed everyone and asked the members to introduce themselves.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes for the meeting held May 4, 2017 were reviewed. Members approved the minutes by unanimous vote.

### **4. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS WALKING JOURNEY**

Mr. John Tsosie, Walking the Healing Path, showed a preview video from the domestic violence Walking the Healing Path awareness walk. Mr. Tsosie and his father, Ernest Tsosie Jr., founded Walking The Healing Path, Inc. (WTHP) in 2003 to “create solutions to end domestic violence and child abuse/neglect in the many homes and families that make up not only the Navajo Nation but the entire U.S. as a whole.” The Tsosies and their group of volunteers began their journey in Window Rock, Arizona on June 15th. The walk encompassed a little over 160 miles in 11 days, and ended June 25th. The commission congratulated Ms. Tsosie and thanked him for all his work.

### **5. ASU School of Social Work AmeriCorps Vista Project**

Ms. Jill Messing, ASU Professor, and Ms. Megan Lindsay, ASU AmeriCorps Vista, presented the AmeriCorps Safety Tool, which is online safety planning in the state of Arizona. This tool was created to increase access to evidence-based care for domestic violence survivors. This project is looking to develop a formal policy in partnership with DV programs throughout the state and use commission resources to further leverage AmeriCorps volunteers as a community resource. The commission members were engaged and wanting to partner with Ms. Messing and Ms. Lindsay on this program.

### **6. MAG Domestic Violence Council**

Ms. Amy J. Rebenar, Maricopa Association of Governments, presented on regional responses to domestic violence. The Human Services Coordinating Committee with representatives from local government as well as shelter and service programs discussed a need to have a coordinated regional response to domestic violence. 41 strategies were identified to address domestic violence in the region, including the creation of this multidisciplinary regional domestic violence council to help oversee the implementation of the plan's strategies. This council works to keep victims safe, more effectively hold offenders accountable, and preserve resources. The current project the council is working on is Data Sharing Pilot Project which municipal and regional leaders will benefit from identification of a seamless information transfer system. This pilot project and corresponding data will be used to strategically inform policy, decisions, and activities.

### **7. Intimate Partner Violence Risk Assessments Training Update**

Dr. Neil Websdale provided an update on the development of the Arizona Intimate Partner Risk Assessment Instrument System (APRAIS). APRAIS is a research based tool used to assess the risk of severe intimate partner re-assault or near-lethal violence. Law enforcement officers can refer victims to services based on the APRAIS assessment or bypass the assessment results in cases where officers' own professional judgment raises concerns about victim or community safety. The accompanying protocols instruct officers to inform victims of the discoverability of the information as well as to inform victims that they must make their own choices concerning what may increase their safety. Data from the pilot in Prescott and Prescott Valley showed that victims prefer to be notified about the discoverability of the risk information they might share. The APRAIS model addresses some gaps in previous risk assessment efforts in a survivor-centered fashion. In 2016 in Prescott Valley, approximately 24% of victims offered the tool declined to participate. Prescott had an

approximate declination rate of 9%. While officers initially believed that victims would simply refuse to answer if they informed them of discoverability, victims in intimate partner violence cases continue to share their experiences. In surveys with victims, 86 percent indicated it is important that officers notify them that answers to a risk assessment may be shared with others. The notification of discoverability required by APRAIS protocols is a central feature respecting victim autonomy and safety.

Dr. Websdale announced that through collaboration with the Committee on the Impact of Domestic Violence and the Court and the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council, the Arizona Supreme Court was considering amending the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure to include the APRAIS tool to Form 4(a).

#### **8. PetSmart Charities: Domestic Violence Outreach**

Ms. Kathy Mitchell, PetSmart Charities was not able to attend the meeting due to last minute notice that they would be traveling to Florida to help with hurricane Irma victims. Ms. Mhoon presented on their behalf stating that they will be sponsoring Lighting Arizona Purple events.

#### **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **Outreach and Awareness Committee**

Myriah Mhoon presented an update for the committee by asking the commission what they plan to do to participate in Lighting Arizona Purple:

- Ms. Laura Guild stated that DES is creating table tents for the cafeteria and that she is looking to put purple ribbon on a tree outside. Every Friday staff will be wearing purple and on October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Toni Means stated that her staff will be wearing purple on October 19<sup>th</sup> and decorating the office with purple ribbon. They will have a kiosk with domestic violence information and using social media to raise awareness.
- Ms. Susan Smith stated that she is picking up the It Can STOP sign today to have her staff take pictures with it and try to get it around the state as much as possible in the next couple weeks.
- Ms. Diane Umphress stated that Yuma city hall will be lit up purple and she will be lighting her building purple. She will take pictures to send to us to post on social media. In Yuma they also will be putting purple ribbon on all police cars. She will have all city chief of police take a picture with the stop sign.
- Mr. John Tsosie stated he will be spreading awareness by facilitating four trainings.
- Mr. Neil Websdale stated he will be facilitating three trainings for Lighting Arizona Purple and other trainings across the country and even into Canada.
- Ms. Elizabeth Ortiz stated that AACT will be taking a picture by the It Can STOP sign and working with GOYFF on our social media campaign.
- Mr. Jon Eliason is working on a project with a DV shelter, Safe House, Police Department, and HonorHealth on traumatic brain injury and domestic violence.

##### **Victim Services Committee**

Myriah Mhoon presented an update for the committee on behalf of Chief Kevin Treadway:

- The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family and the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence are partners on the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders. A deliverable from this grant is to

- update the 2001 Arizona Recommended Guidelines for a Coordinated Community Response to Sexual Assault.
- Since our last commission meeting, the second law enforcement workgroup was held in Tucson on June 27th and included officers from colleges, Tucson PD, the Air Force, Gila River PD, Federal Bureau of prisons and Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault (SACASA). The second medical workgroup meeting was held on June 19th in Flagstaff. Attendees included forensic nurse examiners from HonorHealth, SACASA, and the Southern Arizona Children's Advocacy Center. The first legal workgroup was held in Phoenix on July 6th and included attendees from Maricopa County Attorney's Office, Rural Women's Health Network, Pima County Attorney's Office, and consultants. Each of these workgroups addressed their particular section by adding relevant content on current best practices and editing where appropriate.
  - With regards to the Lab section, we have been given permission to use the Crime Lab section from the Maricopa County Sexual Assault Response Protocol as a draft to take to other providers around the state.
  - We have also reached out to professionals from probation/parole, campus response, and mental health to begin the edits of their particular section.

#### **Training & Prevention Committee**

Neil Websdale and Elizabeth Ortiz highlighted the following workgroup activities:

- Donna Kelly and Melissa Rhodes will be presenting Trauma Informed Interviewing on October 2, 2017 from 10am-4:30pm at the State Court Building.
- Dr. Neil Websdale and Dr. Jill Messing will be presenting on Risk Assessments on October 13, 2017 in Flagstaff at the police department.
- The Humane Society will be presenting on the link between animal abuse on October 20, 2017 in Yuma.
- Lesile Hagen, DOJ Attorney and Rep. from Montana Indiana Country Review Team, and Linda Young, an advocate will be presenting on working with underserved populations on October 27, 2017 in Holbrook.
- Jon Eliason, Jill Rable, and Dan Rincon will be presenting on strangulation on October 27, 2017 in Holbrook.

#### **10. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Ms. Umphress gave the call to the public.

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 A.M.