

Janice K. Brewer
Governor



Sherri L. Collins
Executive Director

100 N. 15th Avenue * Suite 104 * Phoenix, AZ 85007
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Minutes of the Arizona Deaf and Hard of Hearing Domestic Violence Task Force held at the ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND THE HARD OF HEARING (ACDHH), 100 N. 15th Ave, Suite 104, Phoenix, AZ on Monday, March 24, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.

Sherri Collins called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

Task Force members present:

Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence
April Gadaev, Deaf Bridge
Cindy Foley, Deaf Bridge
Clinton Bartlett, Deaf Access of Arizona/People Helping People
Ivanito Maldonado, Deaf Bridge
Jenni Ewald, Deaf Access of Arizona/People Helping People
Joe McCleary, Superior Court Interpreter
Keri Darling, Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services (DVAS)
Tara Kandel, Deaf Bridge
Tracy Reid, Arizona Center for Disability Law
Yvonne Taylor, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Task Force Members present by phone:

Judge Wendy Million, Tucson City Court

ACDHH Staff present:

Sherri Collins, Executive Director
Carmen Green, Deputy Director
Beca Bailey, Deaf Specialist
Melinda Villela, Assistant to the Executive Director
Sean Furman, Deaf Specialist

Purpose of Task Force – Sherri Collins

The purpose of the this Task Force is to identify current services being provided, identify gaps in service, build collaboration between service providers and establish a service model for provision of services to Arizona Deaf and Hard of Hearing domestic violence victims.

Introductions:

National Deaf and Hard of Hearing Domestic Violence movement

Keri Darling is with Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services (DVAS) who partners with the Vermont Coalition Against Domestic Violence to provide services. This model has been

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very effective in Vermont. DVAS serves all signing and non-signing deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened and deaf-blind individuals to enhance awareness and educate about crimes and abuse. Ms. Darling has worked with Justice for Deaf Victims National Coalition (JDVNC) for 14 years providing trainings to courts, hospitals and police. They are a clearing house for domestic violence information. DVAS hosts a conference biannually. This year it will be in DC. She has also worked with Women of Color Network (WCDN) as a consultant and trainer. In past years she has worked locally with Deaf Bridges as well as other groups to establish their local DV organizations. Ms. Darling is available for consultation and presentations.

Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AzCADV):

Allie Bones - AzCADV was formed in 1980 to increase public awareness about the issue of domestic violence, enhance the safety and services for domestic violence victims and survivors and reduce domestic violence in Arizona families. They do not provide direct services to clients. They educate service providers through the provision of numerous workshops on a variety of topics including advocacy and sexual violence. They provide technical assistance, systems advocacy and have a lay- legal hotline. Their training calendar is posted on their website and they can also provide trainings upon request. Some training is free; for trainings with a fee, scholarships may be available. Per statute 40 hours of training is required for Advocates. A 40 hour Advocacy training (8a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) is held twice a year (Phoenix & Tucson). They have committees (Domestic Violence Programs, Legal, Legislative, Survivor and Women of Color) that meet throughout the state. When the Domestic Violence committee conducts trainings for facilities, they instruct that the ADA requires their programs to budget funds for interpreters.

Arizona Deaf and Hard of Hearing DV community

Deaf Access of Arizona/People Helping People:

Clinton Bartlett – Deaf Access of Arizona is a counseling organization who provides services to Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing and hearing clients. They have 5 therapists in their office at ASL Apache Trails.

People Helping People is a privately funded domestic violence shelter for Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing victims. They are pursuing their 501c3 status and licensing through the Division of Behavioral Health Services. They are currently renovating a home and hope to be in the home by June. There will be no gender or pet limitations. They hold a contract with a hotel and can accept placement at this time. Referral for placement is done through Deaf Access of Arizona who will provide counseling services. They will have their own paid advocates on staff. Donations of clothing and furniture are accepted.

Allie Bones advised the task force that many domestic violence shelters are dropping their behavioral health licenses and following domestic violence standards. Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence is willing to provided consultation as People Helping People moves forward in establishing services.

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Discussion ensued regarding the roles of therapist and advocate. Ms. Bones indicated that 40 hrs. of training is required by statute to be an advocate. Ms. Darling emphasized advocacy and the importance of separation of roles. Nationally most Deaf advocates are volunteers. Mr. Bartlett stated their plan is to have paid advocates so they have a sole focus.

Deaf BRIDGE:

Cindy Foley – Deaf Bridges has struggled with obtaining their 501c3 status. It is their desire to provide information and referral and advocacy for Deaf and Hard of Hearing victims. The organization is made up solely of volunteers. Cindy has personally provided information and advocacy and referred individuals out of state for services. They have not had calls for assistance recently.

Tracy Reid: Introduced herself; she is an Attorney with the Arizona Center for Disability Law. She worked extensively on domestic violence issues in Minnesota. She is passionate about the issue and is available for referrals, if clients are denied communication access at shelters.

She informed the task force of the McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act which ensures homeless children transportation to and from their school of origin regardless of what district the family lives in.

Judge Wendy Million: Shared her experiences in Tucson City Court who did not see many Deaf domestic violence victims coming through their system. She wrote and received a grant in which Emerge, Tucson City Court and COPD were named. The organizations have been working together and will present a 4 hour community outreach program for the Deaf, What is Domestic Violence to be held on April 26th. They are seeking a Deaf Survivor to speak at the event. If a Deaf survivor is unavailable, possibly the Executive Director of Deaf Hope can present. The goal is to engage the community.

What services are available

Counseling services are available through Deaf Access of Arizona

Training is available through Arizona Coalition against Domestic Violence and Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services.

Shelter is available through People Helping People.

What are your challenges

- Accessible shelter for Deaf and Hard of Hearing victims
- Many Deaf victims will not go to Shelter
- Training Advocates
- Turnover of volunteer advocates
- Obtaining 501c3 status

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- Licensing
- Provision of video phones in shelters
- Cultural Competency and Communication training for hearing organizations working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing victims

Where do we go from here?

ACDHH and AzCADV will work together to establish funding for development of a Strategic Plan.

Develop a curriculum to reach out to victims. Judge Million has offered their curriculum for reference.

Identify shelters that are not providing communication access and refer to Ms. Reid.

Minutes created and duly posted by Melinda Villela, Assistant to the Executive Director, ACDHH on April 9, 2014.