



Governor's Council
to Combat Human
Trafficking in Arizona

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ARIZONA

Hybrid Meeting

February 20, 2025, 9:00 AM

1700 W Washington Street, Suite 200, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A general meeting of the Governor's Council to Combat Human Trafficking in Arizona
convened on **February 20, 2025**, with notice duly given.

Members Present (15)	Members Absent (7)
Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair	Lt. Nick Alamshaw
*Dr. Sarah Beaumont	Nathaniel Brown
*Special Agent Heidi Chance	Joseph Kelroy
*Gina Reed (proxy for Sarah Chung)	Lois Lucas
Doug Coleman	Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz
Jennifer Goodall (proxy for Erin Garcia)	Senator T.J. Shope
Capt. Shannon Soto (proxy for Col. Jeffrey Glover)	Jim Waring
Tonya Hamilton	
Dr. Roger Willcox (proxy for Carmen Heredia)	
*Sara Micflikier (proxy for Rachel Mitchell)	
*Maj. Andrew Orozco	
*Tonya Allen (proxy for Sophia Philis-Ortiz)	
*Jill Rable	
Irene Orr (proxy for Brian Steele)	
*Sarah Way	
Staff and Guests Present (6)	
Amy Peep, GOYFF	Sandra Mucino, GOYFF
Chantel Hutchinson, GOYFF	Darlene Quihuis, Presenter
Shayne Johnson, GOYFF	Dr. Angela Salomon,

**Indicates Virtual Attendance*

Call to Order

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, called the Governor's Council to Combat Human Trafficking in Arizona meeting to order at **09:05 AM** with **15** members and **six** staff/guests present; she reviewed meeting procedures, welcomed all those joining via Zoom, and thanked them for their flexibility.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, announced that the [2024 Annual Report](#) has been completed and is available for review. This comprehensive report highlights the Council's activities from the past year. She encouraged Council members to read through the report at their convenience.
 - Please see the Council's [website](#) for all previous annual reports and other materials.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, the Chair**, expressed gratitude to the Council members for their participation in the film screening of "The Journey" held in September 2024. This event was a collaborative effort involving the Council, the [Flinn Foundation's Arizona Center for Civic Leadership](#), [Amplify Voices](#), and the [Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family \(GOYFF\)](#). The film highlights the stories of three survivors of human trafficking and sexual assault.
 - Following the screening, **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, moderated the panel discussion, which included Deb Shapiro, founder of Amplify Voices; Amanda Schneider, executive director of Amplify Voices; and Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, director of the [Arizona State University Office on Sex Trafficking Intervention Research \(ASU STIR\)](#).

Approval of Minutes

- With the quorum met, **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, requested a review of the **September 12, 2024**, meeting minutes before requesting a motion to approve them as drafted.
 - **Doug Coleman** moved to approve the meeting minutes as drafted.
 - **Tonya Hamilton** seconded the motion.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, asked for a discussion of the minutes, and no members requested amendments.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, called a vote, and at **9:09 AM**, the motion to approve the meeting minutes as drafted passed with no dissenting votes.

Governor's Initiatives and Legislative Update

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, introduced **Kennesha Jackson** and **Hannah Johnson** to provide a legislative update specific to human trafficking-related bills.
 - **Kennesha Jackson** is Governor Katie Hobbs' Public Safety and Military Affairs Policy Advisor, and **Hannah Johnson** is Governor Hobbs' Criminal Justice Policy Advisor.
- **Kennesha Jackson** shared that the current legislative session has commenced. In the [2026 Fiscal Year \(FY26\) Executive Budget Proposal](#), the Governor has detailed her initiatives to support crime victims, including those affected by human trafficking. Notably, she intends to allocate \$20 million to aid victims of crime.
 - The funding will support local entities and non-profit organizations.
 - Approximately 1,600 bills have been introduced during this legislative session, nearly 400 of which relate to public safety and criminal justice.
 - At this time, there has not been a specific bill introduced in this session that addresses the issue of human trafficking.
- **Hannah Johnson** stated the last legislative session approved a bill addressing human trafficking, following [Senate Concurrent Resolution \(SCR\) 1021](#), and included it on the ballot for the November 2024 election. It advocated for changes in the sentencing structure, proposing that individuals convicted of child sex trafficking receive a sentence of natural life in prison. The resolution classifies all cases of child sex trafficking as Class 2 felonies, except when the victim is 17 years old.
- **Hannah Johnson** explained the introduction of [House Bill \(HB\) 2207](#) to ensure the sentencing structure passes this legislative session. The bill recently passed in the House with 53 votes and is moving to the Senate, which requires a three-fourths vote to pass.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, thanked **Kennesha Jackson** and **Hannah Johnson** for providing a legislative update to the Council, especially considering the busy time of year.

Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative | ACTIC, DPS, and ADOT

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, introduced **Captain Shannon Soto** to give a presentation on the [Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance \(CVSA\) Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative](#) and collaborative efforts between the [Arizona Department of Public Safety \(DPS\)](#), the [Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center \(ACTIC\)](#), and the [Arizona Department of Transportation \(ADOT\)](#).
 - **Captain Shannon Soto** has been with the DPS since August 2004 and is currently the deputy director of the ACTIC, responsible for managing daily operations and administration. In addition to this role, he serves as the Administrative Captain for the DPS Criminal Investigations Division's Intelligence Bureau, overseeing its administration. Before becoming Captain, Soto worked as the Administrative Sergeant within the Intelligence Bureau.
- **Captain Shannon Soto** began his presentation by outlining the [CVSA Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative](#), a comprehensive five-day program focused on raising awareness, outreach, identification, and prevention of human trafficking. This initiative aims to educate commercial motor vehicle operators, motor carriers, law enforcement personnel, and the general public regarding the complexities and realities of human trafficking. Furthermore, the initiative includes guidance on recognizing warning signs and provides instructions on the appropriate actions to take if one suspects a trafficking victim. The program occurred from January 13 to January 15, 2025.
- **Captain Shannon Soto** discussed the recently reinstated Arizona Commercial Safety Partnership (ACVSP), comprising DPS Troopers and ADOT Enforcement and Compliance Officers. The primary goal of the ACVSP is to promote safe, secure, and efficient transportation throughout Arizona.

- The ACTIC has joined forces with the ACVSP to raise awareness about human trafficking and promote the [Human Trafficking Tip Line](#). This initiative allows individuals to report tips and provides crucial support services for victims; if a caller is in an unsafe situation, their call goes to Law Enforcement for immediate assistance. Conversely, individuals who feel their situation is safe can access resources such as transportation to get victims home, personal care items, tattoo removal, etc., available through ASU.
- **Captain Shannon Soto** explained that, besides the CVSA Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative, the DPS visited the City of Eloy on January 15, 2025. During this visit, they distributed over 11,000 public awareness materials, including wallet cards, window decals, posters, stickers, and coasters, to raise awareness about human trafficking.
 - Representatives from the TA Travel Center, [Truckers Against Trafficking \(TAT\)](#), DPS, and ACTIC were present.
- **Captain Shannon Soto** discussed the other Human Trafficking Awareness Events DPS participated in throughout the month.
 - January 16: Human Trafficking Awareness 12News screening and panel discussion in Phoenix, featuring their latest docuseries, "He Made Me Do It."
 - January 17: Pima County Human Trafficking Summit 2025 in Tucson.
 - January 29: Interdiction for the Protection of Children Course in Phoenix. During this training, five Arizona Troopers received training on how to identify indicators related to human trafficking suspects and victims. Additionally, the course supplied vital information regarding resources available for victims of human trafficking.
- **Captain Shannon Soto** provided the updated number of calls to the Arizona Human Trafficking Tip Line (1-877-4AZ-TIPS).
 - From July through September 2024, the tip line received 108 calls.
 - From October through December 2024, the tip line received 143 calls.
 - In total, the tip line has received 251 calls.
- **Captain Shannon Soto** explained the services and solutions provided to tip line callers between October 2024 and December 2024 and the year-to-date.
 - **Connection to an Outreach Team:** 4 | Year to Date: 18
 - **Shelter:** 13 | Year to Date: 46
 - **Shelter Funds:** 20 | Year to Date: 30
 - There was a 233% increase in shelter funds from the previous year.
 - **Transportation:** 10 | Year to Date: 35
 - **Connection to Diversion:** 1 | Year to Date: 8
 - **Connection to Mental, Medical, and Sexual Assault Services:** 0 | Year to Date: 8
 - **Connection to Dental Services:** 0 | Year to Date: 0
 - **Connection to Sex Trafficking Specific Group:** 7 | Year to Date: 19
- **Captain Shannon Soto** explained that in 2023, six of the 15 Arizona counties received services: Maricopa, Pinal, Graham, Cochise, Santa Cruz, and Yuma.
- **Captain Shannon Soto** explained that by 2025, all but two counties—Mohave, Coconino, Navajo, Apache, Yavapai, Gila, Maricopa, Pinal, Graham, Cochise, Santa Cruz, Pima, and Yuma—had either received services or contacted the tip line.
- **Captain Shannon Soto** discussed DPS' planned Human Trafficking Awareness Events.
 - February 14, 21: Human trafficking awareness efforts in Lake Havasu involved a partnership with Mohave County to provide educational materials.
 - February 22: 73rd Annual Laveen BBQ in Laveen.
 - September 28-October 1: Arizona Human Trafficking Summit 2025 in Mesa.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, thanked **Captain Shannon Soto** for his presentation to the Council. She acknowledged ACTIC's valuable work supporting the tip line and shared her enthusiasm for the progress achieved since its establishment.
- **Tonya Hamilton** asked if the Protection of Children Course is available to the public or only to Troopers.
 - **Captain Shannon Soto** answered that the course is specific to DPS Law Enforcement. However, they are in conversations with the instructors about making it available to the public in the future.
- To view **Captain Shannon Soto's** presentation, [click here](#).

DEMA and DPS Anti-Human Trafficking Grant Fund | Successes and Victims Served

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, introduced **Darlene Quihuis** for an update regarding the awardees of the state fiscal year (SFY) 2023 Anti-Human Trafficking Grant Fund.
 - **Darlene Quihuis** is the Assistant Director of Grant Administration, overseeing the financial aspects of federal and state grant programs within the Division of Emergency Management at the [Department of Emergency and Military Affairs \(DEMA\)](#). During Emergency Operations Center activations, she also serves as the Chief of the Finance and Administration Section. Darlene provides assistance and guidance to state, county, and local agencies, as well as volunteer organizations, to ensure prompt and accurate reimbursements for communities affected by disasters.
- **Darlene Quihuis** began her presentation by providing an overview of the grant fund.
 - HB 2893: Established ARS 26-105; Border Security Fund:
 - HB 2860: Established ARS 26-106; Anti-human trafficking grant fund
 - Work to reduce human trafficking by providing assistance and analytical services to law enforcement agencies.
 - Provide services to victims and training to law enforcement agencies, prosecutorial agencies, and the public on preventing and identifying human trafficking.
 - HB 2862: Established Supplemental Appropriation:
 - Ten million dollars
 - Anti-human Trafficking Reimbursement Program
 - DPS ACTIC: \$2,000,000
 - City, Town, and County Law Enforcement agency grant awards for not more than \$500,000 per agency: \$8,000,000
- **Darlene Quihuis** explained the total awards by county.
 - Total Awards (20): \$9,473,477.69
 - La Paz (1): \$41,137
 - Gila (1): \$333,320
 - Maricopa (10): \$4,438,025
 - Mohave (1): \$436,000
 - Pima (1): \$295,384
 - Pinal (3): \$929,611
 - Yavapai (1): \$500,000
 - Yuma (1): \$499,998
 - DPS ACTIC (1): \$2,000,000
 - Types of Funding
 - Personnel:
 - Detectives/Investigators
 - Crime Analysts
 - Victim Advocates
 - Forensic Specialists
 - Training Coordinators
 - Overtime
 - Conferences and Training:
 - Crimes Against Children
 - International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators
 - Sexual Assault Investigators Training
 - Human Trafficking Summit
 - Professional Development
 - Patrol Level Human Trafficking 101
 - Other:
 - Undercover operations equipment/supplies
 - Drones
 - License plate readers

- Body-worn cameras
- Cell phone analytics software
- Outreach materials and handouts
- Partnerships
 - Radical Empath
 - ASU:
 - ASU STIR
 - Training for First Responders
 - Evaluation of Data, Analysis and Reporting
 - Phoenix Starfish Place
 - [Arizona Youth Partnership \(AZYP\)](#)
 - Neighboring law enforcement agencies
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, expressed her gratitude to **Darlene Quihuis** for her presentation on the grant fund and for updating the Council about its grantees. She acknowledged the hard work of Darlene and her team at DEMA for their effective management and oversight of the grant.
 - **Darlene Quihuis** also thanked GOYFF and the Council for supporting DEMA during the application process.
- **Tonya Hamilton** thanked **Darlene Quihuis** for her presentation and inquired about the information that the grantees provided to DEMA concerning their partnerships.
 - **Darlene Quihuis** answered that grantee contracts detail their formal agreements with other organizations. The grantee's quarterly reports also include information about the different services (e.g., transportation of victims (referrals), victim advocates).
- To view **Darlene Quihuis'** presentation, [click here](#).

Workgroup Updates

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, stated **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** could not attend today's meeting. Meanwhile, she is meeting with **Tonya Hamilton**, GOYFF Director and Tribal Liaison, to discuss the upcoming goals and priorities of the Council's Workgroups.

Council Member Updates

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, stated that January is recognized annually as Human Trafficking Prevention Month before inquiring if members wanted to share any updates with the Council.
 - **Amy Peep** explained that the GOYFF, on behalf of the Council, partnered with ASU STIR and the [Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network \(AATN\)](#) to conduct two training sessions: the first session targeted State of Arizona employees and the second for community members. These training sessions attracted over 400 participants. She expressed gratitude to the Council members who helped share this opportunity with their networks and conveyed optimism for future collaborative efforts between the Council and GOYFF.
 - **Irene Orr** mentioned that the [Phoenix Dream Center](#) hosted its [Phoenix Stop Traffic Walk 2025](#). The 6th annual walk raises funds for [Where Hope Lives](#), one of the nation's most prominent human trafficking rescue and rehabilitation operations in North America. The center also hosted a community and law enforcement event during the month.
 - **Major Andrew Orozco** thanked **Captain Shannon Soto** for his presentation and stated that the partnership between ADOT and DPS ACTIC is ongoing.
 - **Sara Micflikier** discussed the high school mentorship program run by the [Maricopa County Attorney's Office \(MCAO\)](#). This initiative involves visits to high schools across Maricopa County, where representatives from the MCAO engage with students about topics related to criminal law and the criminal justice system. Additionally, the program includes discussions on critical issues, such as sex trafficking, aimed at clarifying myths and misconceptions surrounding this topic.
 - **Tonya Allen** mentioned that [American Airlines](#) hosted a lunch and learn, where Corporate Security shared insights and knowledge about human trafficking.

Upcoming Meeting

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, reminded members that the next meeting will be on **April 23, 2025, at 9:00 AM** in the Executive Tower and offered in a hybrid format, with members able to attend in person or virtually.

Adjournment

- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn.
 - **Dr. Roger Willcox** moved to adjourn.
 - **Doug Coleman** seconded the motion.
- **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, asked if any further discussion was needed.
- With no other discussion needed, **Maria Cristina Fuentes, Chair**, called for a vote. At **9:52 AM**, the motion to adjourn the meeting passed with no dissenting votes.

Dated 21 of Month 2025
Governor's Council to Combat Human Trafficking in Arizona
Respectfully Submitted By:
Amy Peep
GOYFF