



**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION TO PREVENT INTIMATE PARTNER AND  
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

**MARCH 25, 2025, 10:00 AM**

**ARIZONA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' ADVISORY COUNCIL (APAAC)  
3838 N. CENTRAL AVE, PHOENIX, AZ 85012**

A general meeting of the Governor's Commission to Prevent Intimate Partner and Gender-Based Violence convened on March 25, 2025, with notice duly given.

MEMBERS PRESENT (10)	MEMBERS ABSENT (3)
Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair	Beth Hoel
Jenna Panas, Co-Chair	
Celia Nabor (proxy for Sheila Sjolander)	
Kirstin Flores	
Jessica Wood (proxy for Tene D' Marion)	
Samantha Mendez-Dominguez	
Mark Perkovich (proxy for Dr. Neil Websdale)	
Lindsey Ashworth	
Donna Bartos	
STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT (7)	
Amy Peep, Staff	Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, Presenter
Sandra Mucino, Staff	

**CALL TO ORDER**

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, called the Governor's Commission to Prevent Intimate Partner and Gender-Based Violence meeting to order at **10:19 AM** with **nine** members and **three** staff/guests present.

**WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, welcomed everyone, conducted roll call, and reached a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, requested a review of the November 12, 2024, meeting minutes before requesting a motion to approve the meeting minutes as drafted.
  - **Kirstin Flores** moved to accept the minutes as drafted.
  - **Samantha Mendez-Dominguez** seconded the motion.
- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, called a vote, and at **10:23 AM**, the motion to accept the meeting minutes as drafted was approved with no dissenting votes.

## ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, OFFICE OF SEX TRAFFICKING INTERVENTION RESEARCH (STIR)

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, welcomed and introduced **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz**.
  - **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** is an associate professor at the Arizona State University (ASU) School of Social Work and director of the Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research. She holds a master's degree and a doctorate in social work and works as a researcher, professor, and forensic social work practitioner. Her research primarily focuses on women and violence, explicitly addressing prostitution and the therapeutic needs of those looking to exit that life. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz's expertise includes profiling sex traffickers, assessing the prevalence of sex buyers, and designing prevention and intervention strategies for victims of sex trafficking. Her work encompasses the prevention, detection, identification, and trauma-informed treatment of victims.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** provided an overview of ASU STIR's grants and funding sources, emphasizing a recent award from the National Science Foundation. This funding will support research aimed at understanding illicit networks involved in drug and human trafficking. The research project is a collaborative effort between the Las Vegas Metro Police, the Phoenix Police Department, and partners in Maui, Hawaii, that focuses on the troubling link between human trafficking and drug trafficking. She also discussed the profiles of traffickers, explaining that they are often referred to as "graduated criminals." This term refers to how they typically start their criminal careers with minor offenses before progressing to more serious crimes.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** emphasized the focus of ASU STIR's outreach and projects on the risk factors for sex trafficking. They launched the first statewide Human Trafficking Hotline, and on their second anniversary, they reported nearly 300 callers.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** went on to share several anecdotes from the human trafficking hotline. One caller, an anonymous doctor, requested resources for her daughter. Another caller, also anonymous, was a hairdresser who reported that a mother was trafficking her young client. These stories illustrate the diverse range of individuals reaching out for assistance.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** adjusted her presentation to focus on the human trafficking training offered to various medical and educational disciplines. She highlighted the importance of ongoing training to ensure that new staff members always have the opportunity to receive this critical education. Additionally, she recognized that while Maricopa County has the majority of available resources, efforts are underway to expand access to these resources in other counties.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** acknowledged Amy Peep from the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) for her work as the Human Trafficking Specialist. She also praised **Samantha Mendez-Dominguez** for their recent collaboration to revise the Sexual Assault Forensic Exams (SAFE), which now includes three questions relevant to human trafficking.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** continued her presentation by explaining that the definition of trafficking can vary between the United States and other countries. The United States signed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), which addresses both domestic and international crimes. In contrast, the global definition of trafficking defines it solely as a transnational crime.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** stated that the victimization rates for cisgender women and men are similar. However, there is a significant overrepresentation of marginalized racial groups and the LGBTQ+ community in human trafficking cases. She emphasized that individuals within these communities often participate as buyers, which complicates research aimed at identifying the typical characteristics of these buyers.

- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** reported that the average age of trafficking victims is 15.1 years, and one in five adults who are trafficking victims have also experienced trafficking as children.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** outlined the similarities between human trafficking and domestic violence. She explained that there are three types of traffickers:
  - *CEO Traffickers*: Individuals who view trafficking as a business and are primarily motivated by financial gain.
  - *Gorilla Pimps*: Violent traffickers who use force and intimidation against their victims.
  - *Romeos*: Traffickers who initially gain the trust and affection of their victims, enticing them with love. However, when victims seek to withdraw their consent, they find it difficult to do so.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** explained that, unlike domestic violence, which typically involves only two parties, human trafficking involves multiple individuals and often subjects victims to various forms of violence. She also emphasized that human trafficking has certain characteristics of having specific behavioral rules imposed on survivors. These rules may require victims to avoid specific clientele based on race, deliver their earnings promptly to the trafficker, and adhere to particular appearance expectations.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** presented an interview with Lawrence Taylor, who faced charges of soliciting sexual acts from a minor. During the interview, Taylor engaged in victim-blaming and attempted to normalize his behavior of purchasing sexual services. **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** explained that the purpose of the interview was to demonstrate that individuals who buy sex can come from any segment of the community and can look like anyone.
- **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** concluded that ASU STIR's programming is currently aimed at male buyers, helping them understand deterrence motivation and the impact of their actions. Her final remarks referred to resources available at ASU STIR (see slide 19).
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, thanked **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** for her presentation and asked if any commissioners had questions.
- **Donna M. Bartos** asked if the programming she referenced in her presentation is preventative programs for buyers.
  - **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz** explained that one program focuses on addressing porn addiction about human trafficking, while the Johns School is for individuals who have previously purchased sex. This program serves as a preventive measure to deter formerly incarcerated men from becoming more skilled traffickers. The Johns School also aims to prevent the exploitation of networks formed during incarceration, ensuring these individuals positively reintegrate into the community.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, shared that, in conjunction with the [Pinal County Attorney's Office \(PCAO\)](#), the [Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council \(APAAC\)](#) is preparing a training session on the intersection between drug trafficking and human trafficking and another training session highlighting the intersection between domestic violence and human trafficking.
- To view **Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz's** presentation, [click here](#).

## COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION

- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, provided an update on the commission's membership, noting nine vacancies with five pending applications. The commission is actively seeking candidates to fill the remaining open positions, and she encouraged commissioners to share any suggestions they may have for potential candidates.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, stated she had suggestions but would like to discuss the opportunity with the individual first.

- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, did not receive further suggestions and informed the commissioners that she would update them on membership changes at the next meeting.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING DISCUSSION

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, invited the commissioners to review the survey results from the pre-strategic planning meeting and asked if anyone would like to highlight any particular points.
- **Donna M. Bartos** inquired whether the survey could be re-sent to gather additional responses from other commissioners.
  - **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, responded in the affirmative.
- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, requested the commissioners commit to a two-day in-person session to develop the strategic plan. She assured them there would be sufficient time to accommodate all commissioners' schedules for the proposed dates.
- **Donna M. Bartos** asked if this would be the Commission's first strategic plan.
  - **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, responded in the affirmative.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, began a leadership exercise based on research by Jim Kouzes and Barry Posner, who describe five key behaviors of a better leader:
  - Model the Way
  - Inspire a Shared Vision
  - Challenge the Process
  - Enable Others to Act
  - Encourage the Heart
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, presented an analogy highlighting the importance of creating a transparent and expansive vision before tackling immediate tasks. She pointed out that a well-defined vision fosters commitment and loyalty while allowing commissioners to understand their roles within the commission better.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, introduced a value card sort activity involving cards with various values printed on them. She requested that the commissioners select their top five most important values. This activity aims to help the commissioners identify commonalities and establish shared definitions, ultimately assisting in overcoming barriers to developing a clear vision.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, asked commissioners to share their top five cards, and she began by sharing her own. The following commissioners also shared their cards for reflection purposes:
  - Jenna Panas, Co-Chair
  - Kirstin Flores
  - Donna M. Bartos
  - Lindsay Ashworth
  - Samantha Dominguez-Mendez
  - Jessica Wood
  - Celia Nabor
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, expressed her gratitude to all commissioners for their participation and urged them to try the Credo Memo exercise. Participants draft a paragraph in this exercise that encapsulates five key values and guiding principles. She concluded by sharing an example from her agency, APAAC.

### UPCOMING MEETING(S)

- **Jenna Panas, Co-Chair**, stated the next meeting will occur on May 6, 2025.

### ADJOURN

- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - **Donna Bartos** motioned to adjourn.

- **Kirstin Flores** seconded the motion.
- **Elizabeth Ortiz, Co-Chair**, called for a vote, and at **11:58 AM**, the motion was approved unanimously, adjourning the meeting.

Dated March 25, 2025

Governor's Commission to Prevent Intimate Partner and Gender-Based Violence

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sandra M. Mucino

Program Administrator

DRAFT