

RESTORING THE VICTIM'S SENSE OF DIGNITY, POWER, CONTROL AND SELF ADVOCACY.

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Arkansas Coalition Against
Domestic Violence

Board Roster 2023

Executive Committee:

Chairperson:

Teresa Mills

Executive Director

First-Vice Chairperson:

Angela McGraw

Executive Director

Second-Vice Chairperson:

Penni Burns

Executive Director

Finance Officer:

Will Baker

Secretary:

Terah Whitley

Regional Representatives:

Liz Wesley

Shoshana Wells

At-Large Board Members:

Melanie Palmer

Will Baker

OUR MISSION:

The mission of the
Arkansas Coalition Against
Domestic Violence is to eliminate
domestic violence and
promote healthy families.

ACADV Successes 2023

We are excited about what ACADV has accomplished with your help in 2023 and would like to share these successes with you!

* Our Community Response Facilitator has provided community trainings all over the state including Pine Bluff Safe Babies Court Team, Northwest Arkansas coordinated Community response Team, Hendrix College, DCFS Welfare Teams, Nation Conference for Crimes Against Women, Arkansas DMV employees and Veteran Affairs NWA. She provided "Cut It Out" training on improving recognition and response of survivors of violence for beauty professionals in Hot Springs. She hosted multiple lunch and learns for Domestic Violence Intervention Program service providers.

* Our Director of Development, Michelle Harper, has trained 30 shelter service providers across all parts of the state of Arkansas on how to fundraise and develop in their community. She has trained multiple shelter boards as well as other non-profit partner boards how to fundraise and develop their community.

* The Coalition was able to help in the petition to the governor for financial assistance on behalf of all 30 shelter members and other victim service providers in Arkansas.

* We hosted All Saints Day Memorial Event at the State Capitol, November 1st honoring the lives lost in 2022 due to domestic violence.

* Our Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Coordinator, Ashley Walker, trained 800 law enforcement officers and held 39 awareness events and trainings all over the state.

* Our Education Coordinator, Kate Vincent, held 252 domestic violence awareness and advocacy training courses training over 1000 shelter employees, individuals and advocates across the state.

* Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence is proud to be in partnership with the Arkansas Building Effective Services for Trauma (ARBEST) program. Dr. Sufna John, Ph.D., who is a Licensed Psychologist and Associate Professor for UAMS and Dr. Allison Smith, Ph.D., is a postdoctoral fellow at UAMS, have been providing classes for our ACADV Members. The different topics have included: Adult Trauma, Trauma to Children and Self-Care to caregivers. It's an honor to be working with them!

* Executive Director, Beth Sanders, was awarded the 2023 Distinguished Service Award during the 2023 Arkansas Recognition and Victims' Rights Ceremony. Her exemplary service to not only domestic violence victims and survivors but to all victims and survivors of crime across the board, goes above and beyond.

Hello

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Beth Sanders

2023 has been a year of great challenges and changes for many folks. The need for continued funding for programs has increased significantly, while funding available has decreased. At ACADV we have been fortunate enough to have been able to provide training to our members regarding fundraising and development. Helping programs in this area has been a true joy for us. In fact, the trainings we have engaged in this year on all fronts have reminded us how fortunate we are to get to talk about utilizing a trauma informed approach to handling domestic violence with so many different groups of people in so many different professions.

Domestic violence truly affects every single citizen in some way or another.

We have worked diligently to foster collaborative learning experiences that help folks understand family violence in a way they never have before. At a recent training we facilitated, one participant said, "I've been to several trainings in my 15 years as a SANE nurse about domestic violence. I didn't really 'get it' until today. Thank you so much!" We hope to expand our training opportunities in the upcoming year and to grow into areas we have never been. Support for our work is critical, and we so appreciate allies in this work.

It is truly our privilege to be involved in this work. What a difference we have made this year, and what a difference we are planning to make next year too!



Governor Sanders Supports Arkansas Crime Victim Advocacy Groups as Federal Funding Falls Short

Little Rock – Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders has approved one-time funding of \$17 million for crime victim serving organizations in Arkansas to offset the loss of federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) dollars.

The state allocation will come from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars that have been awarded to Arkansas.

"We are incredibly thankful that Governor Sanders has approved our funding request that will support the work of 118 victim advocacy groups across the state of Arkansas," said Beth Sanders, executive director of the Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ACADV). "This shows that the Governor has prioritized advocating for victims and reducing crime in Arkansas and has delivered on that by signing the Protect Act into law."

Decreased revenues from federal criminal fines and fees have created a sustainability and cash flow issue with federal VOCA grants. In the past (5) years, the amount of VOCA funds distributed to Arkansas has dramatically decreased annually from its high of \$30.6M in 2018 to \$13.1M in 2022. Meanwhile, requests for funding by crime victim serving organizations have increased significantly each year.

Without this additional funding, dollars awarded in VOCA grants this federal funding cycle would have been cut by an estimated 60-70% rendering it very difficult for crime victim serving organizations to provide services across Arkansas and making bridge funding from the state essential. Loss of VOCA funding would have a detrimental impact on domestic violence shelters. A significant portion of shelter programs have significant operational budgets funded through VOCA.

In addition to ACADV, Child Advocacy Centers of Arkansas, the Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Ozark Rape Crisis Center, Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, and numerous other crime victim serving organizations will benefit from this one-time funding.

About the Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence The Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ACADV) is a nonprofit organization that has served both rural and urban areas of Arkansas since its inception in 1981. The membership consists of domestic violence service providers and others who demonstrate support for the philosophy, goals, and objectives of the ACADV. The mission of ACADV is to eliminate domestic violence and promote healthy families.