



BROWARD VICTIM'S RIGHTS COALITION

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AGENDA

BROWARD VICTIM'S RIGHTS COALITION

GENERAL MEETING

November 19, 2025, 11:00 AM

Plantation Police Department

- I. Call to Order: Sandra Vazquez
 - 11:03 am meeting called to order
- II. Introductions: All members present
 - Total attendees at October's meeting: 25
- III. Read and approve minutes from October meeting: All present
 - Elena Muñoz motions to approve the October minutes, Cindy Woodward seconds. Treasurer notes there is an extra zero in the treasures report: Davie donated \$2,500, not \$25,000. Motion passes with correction. Minutes approved.
- IV. Treasurer's Report: Ashley Conon
 - A. General Account, October
 - October starting balance: \$12,807.01
 - -\$177.54 food for BDVC Training
 - -\$8,000 transfer to RLK account
 - +\$122.00 from merchandise sales
 - +\$150.00 annual meeting ticket sales
 - +\$60.00 Pembroke Pines PD agency membership
 - +\$630.00 Plantation PD NCVRW Payment
 - +\$4,500 Sunrise PD Donation
 - +\$50.00 Annual meeting registration
 - October closing balance: \$10,141.47
 - B. RLK Account, October
 - October starting balance: \$18,794.32
 - +8,000 transfer from General Account
 - +\$35.34 in interest
 - October closing balance: \$26,829.66
 - C. Leadership Broward Account, October
 - October starting balance: \$2524.00
 - October closing balance: \$2524.00
 - D. Dan Leveille motions to approve the September treasures report. Debbie Geller seconds. Motion passes. Treasures report approved.
- V. Speaker: Michelle Obando, Esq., Staff Attorney, Lucha Program, Americans for Immigrants Justice
 - For more information on any of the notes below, please see the attached presentation
 - AI Justice is a non-profit law firm that aims to protect the rights of immigrants
 - The firm represents mainly low-income people, with different income requirements for different programs
 - All services offered at no cost to the client
 - If there are any payments for service, it is fees from third parties (immigration documents, medical appointments, etc.)

- AI Justice has six programs, the:
 - **Family Defense Program** – anyone who comes to a legal clinic can obtain a free consultation and review of the situation to see if AI Justice can work on the case – no requirements for program participants in this program. The program also does community outreach.
 - **Children’s Legal Program** – free legal consultations (and representation if the case is taken) for anyone who came to the U.S. as, especially those who came on their own
 - **Detention Program** – works with adults in ICE detention facilities
 - **Litigation Program** – research on the best-practices for protection of immigrants’ rights and ways in which litigation (including lawsuits) can help immigrants
 - Examples: inhuman conditions at detention facilities, being detained when crossing the state borders (which is a violation of federal law)
 - **Lucha Program** – represents victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking – with the aim of helping victim/survivors start a new life and give them hope when they are often working from scratch. The program also works to re-unite/unite families. This program has a major positive impact on survivors – there is an ability to see the arch of improvement in their lives.
 - Help apply for: VOWA, U visas T visas – these are free legal services available for survivors.
 - There is a dedicated email for this program (need to send – at minimum – the name and phone number of victim): luchainfor@aijustice.org
 - **Pro-Bono Program** – trains and mentors pro-bono attorneys and connects them with immigrants in need of legal assistance; if legal team can’t take the case, they can still have legal support
- AI Justice’s team is growing! There was a restriction on funding that led to a reduction in services. But AI Justice is back and working to be re-established in Broward. There are many community partnerships that have allowed for wholistic service provision.
- Outreach is being done to raise awareness of the services provided by AI Justice
 - Pop-up free legal clinics
 - Joining community coalitions such as BDVC, HT task force, BVRC etc.
- The AI Justice team is trauma-informed and meets the clients where they are in their experience with trauma. Listen and allow the victim/survivor to guide the conversation and planning. Focus on safety, choice and empowerment.
- Work to prevent re-traumatization in the legal process. Retelling their story can be triggering and upsetting/embarrassing. Very sensitive to the need for building trust and safety. Led by the survivor. This is the best practice to recall memories and establish a good case with details and avoid interviewing the victim/survivor multiple times.
- Referral process is streamlined and done via strong partnerships – LEAs, VAs and other government agencies also send referrals (the form is available to all – will be sent to BVRC membership.
 - There is a dedicated email for referrals, and all can call any time: 305-573-1106.
 - Full process for referrals is detailed on the slides
 - Priority is given to those living with the abuser and those who are living in a shelter, otherwise it is a first call, first call back system
- Screening to ID 3 things:
 1. No conflict of interest – the client is not an abuser named in another client’s case
 2. Financials – they make more than 200% of the federal poverty line they cannot participate in the program (many who are referred to AI Justice are unemployed or significantly financially impacted by the abuse, abusers not allowing them to work etc.)
 3. Legal matter assessments – qualifying crime and related to domestic violence/SA/HT

- Lucha does not do detention work. However, if there is a victim that is detained, the fastest way to get repress 786-454-8554 is the detention hotline.
- ICE Is using a tactic of moving people around without notification. Can not find people/client so it is important to get people notified right away if they've been detained

VI. New Business:

- Holiday Helper – Ashley Conon
 - Currently accepting applications for the Holiday Helper Fund 2026! **December 3rd is the deadline!**
 - Requirement for the application is that the victimization occurred in Broward in 2025 or the very end of 2024. No police report needed, only the application (name, type of victimization and number of adults/children).
 - The funds are distributed via Amazon gift cards and try to get them out asap in the holiday season so they can be used to buy gifts etc. It is \$100/family member.
 - Each agency membership can submit 3 applications, each individual membership can submit one. Please apply for victims/families you've worked with this year
 - Last year we helped 55 people, giving each a \$100 card, total was \$5,500 last year.
 - So far this year: 5 applications, with a total of 6 adults and 16 children
 - Will send the application again as a reminder
 - Hoping to provide the same \$100/person as last year, but depending on the number of people who apply, we may have to reduce the amount per person

VII. In Progress:

- Annual Meeting 12/17/25 – Ashley Connon
 - Scheduled, have a venue, ready to go! Need to give the venue a head count soon
 - Registration DEADLINE is 12/3 – there are several payment options
 - a. So far 19 people have registered so far, please get the registrations in!
 - b. Anyone can attend, even not official members
 - RLK fundraising baskets –Ariel Ladner provided an example basket, thank you, Ariel! Great example of how it can be put together, nice donations – let us know if you are bringing a basket!
- NCVRW 2026: April 19-25
 - Venue – Elena Muñoz
 - a. Hoping to get sunrise venue (in communication), very close and hopeful. Reaching out to caterers to get quotes and will report back
 - Training Committee – Belize Leiva
 - a. Training will be happening during NCVRW in April 2026
 - b. 21 responses to the survey on the preferred training topics
 - i. First and second topics voted for are: #1 The Impact of Traumatic Grief on Friends and Family Members; #2 Mitigating the Impacts of Compassion Fatigue and Vicarious Trauma and Promoting Resiliency
 - ii. If you would like to complete the survey with your vote for the training topic, please do so now.
 - iii. The government is back open is back open and the board will be reaching out to OVC TTAC to secure the trainer.
 - Awards Committee – Elena Muñoz
 - a. Elena will be sending emails to get the committees together, with check lists and

- deadlines so everyone is all on the same page.
 - b. The applications will be reviewed by a neutral third party (by students in a criminal justice law course)
 - c. Submit applications! Be detailed as the people reviewing do not know the applicants or their great work in the same way we do.
- RLK Fundraiser: Elena Muñoz
 - Sales report – Ashley Conon
 - a. So far: 10 shirts, 4 totes \$259.00 in overall sales (shirts are \$20, totes are \$10)
 - b. Discussing the possibility of placing a small order (5-10) annual meeting XL only for the annual meeting as it is typically attended by LE, who typically order larger sizes. There is only 1 XL left and BVRC could not fulfil an order for an XL because of lack of inventory. Ordered 5 XLs and sold 4 so far.
 - a. Elena Muñoz makes the motion to order 6 more XL BVRC shirts up to \$70.00 from the general fund. Tricia James seconds. Motion passes.
 - i. 1 opposition re worried about having inventory the languishes, suggestion to take stalk before ordering. Asked for inventory, what account it is coming out of and the cost of the order. Motion passes as only one vote in opposition.
- 35th Anniversary Gala 2026 Events Committee- Belize Leiva
 - Need a place, time flies – there is only 13 months, need to book in advance/soon.
 - Reached out to a few places – open to anything, please make suggestions
 - Looking for a venue that can accommodate up to 150 people
 - Wilton Manors, The Venue is suggested – have discounts available
 - Thinking: formal, cocktail, celebratory
 - December 2026 – early evening and early enough in the month that it does not conflict – some venues cheaper on a Thursday than Friday – exploring options
 - Committee members started an email chain and Google doc to track venue outreach

VIII. Standing items

- RLK Victim Assistance Fund – Elena Muñoz
 - Fund of last resort, need to be a BVRC member to apply. Max is \$500, no cash – gift cards or payment to a vendor directly, only
 - a. A \$500.00 Walmart gift card was given to a Wilton Manors PD victim of DV for home items and groceries
 - Application is on the website. Need a police report.
- Social Media Committee – Sandra Vazsquez
 - Any events your agency/organization is hosting, please send our way and we will post
- Speaker’s Bureau/ Community Outreach – Sandra Vazsquez
 - If you are out in the community and mention BVRC, please let us know. We track these interactions for potential future grant applications to show we are in the community doing what we say we are doing.
- Membership – Belize Leiva
 - Paid membership forms can be accessed via the website
 - Feb-Feb, Due in Feb again
 - If you have any questions about you or your agencies memberships status, reach out to Belize (bleiva@lauderhill-fl.gov)

IX. Announcements

- 4th Quarter Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)/Child Abuse Coordination Committee (CACC) meeting is tomorrow (November 20th) virtually and at NJCC
- Garden Committee is encouraging people to put in applications for the wall of remembrance!
- Happy holidays!

X. Adjournment

- Dan Leveille makes a motion to adjourn. Deva Cats-Baril seconds. Meeting adjourned 12:00PM.

Next meeting
ANNUAL MEETING
December 17, 2025, 11:30am
JACARANDA COUNTRY CLUB
9200 WEST BROWARD BLVD
www.browardvictimsrights.org
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