



Summary and Highlights from AVA Connect Call July 17, 2025, 2:00pm (ET)

Number of Attendees: 15 (*22 registered*)

Facilitator: Jackie Hoover, *Program Manager, Montana Board of Crime Control, AVA Board Treasurer*

CALL HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Opening Check-in

Prompt: What is your favorite summer activity?

Responses included: wearing flip flops, relaxing outdoors, spending time with family and friends, hiking, water activities, beach time, grilling, and golfing.

2. Open Discussion

I. Surveys:

- Was it all done online? What about rural areas?
 - PDF or paper option for populations that may not have internet access.
- Concern about survey fatigue; recommend making the survey brief and optional.
 - Question raised: *How many questions are too many?*
- Opportunity for unfiltered feedback, also shared with federal partners.
- We have a dedicated research team, and they do a complete analysis on data.

Additional comments:

- Survey open for three months.
- Mix of open-ended and multiple-choice questions.
- Population: current subgrantees
- All online with option to request a PDF copy.
- Online allows the option for honest feedback, the only information collected is geographic region and type of organization.

II. Status of Implementation Planning: Current Struggles, Successes and Strategies.

Successes:

- Two state team meetings completed.
- State tribal liaison is present on the team (first time in 20 years Virginia has had this level of tribal representation on the Implementation Planning Committee).

Challenges:

- Administrative requirements
- Inability to provide answers to subgrantees questions.
- Allocating time for implementation planning
- Apprehension among planning team members re: *how meaningful is the process*— though members remain committed to the process.

Ideas/Strategies Shared:

- Intentional recruitment of planning committee members,
- Shared document for committee members to give feedback to make the most use of synchronous meetings.
- Transparency with committee members and subgrantees about the state of funding.

- Reference statutory requirements whenever possible.
- *“We are moving forward with business as usual,”* based on guidance from federal partners.

Additional discussion topics:

- Impact of out-of-scope activities.
- AVA as a resource of experienced administrators for peer support.
- Administrators shared various stages of implementation planning.

Reminder: Continue compiling questions received from subgrantees so they can be shared with OVW during our quarterly calls.

3. Discussion Question: *“How are folks handling conversations about the list of “trigger” words/terms?”*

Responses included:

- Lots of conversations about how to protect funding.
- Question raised: Do we need to scrub scope of work from grantees for these words/terms?
- SAAs meeting with subrecipients to ensure submitted applications comply with all federal guidance and anti-discrimination law.
- Not doing anything with it— at this point.
- Individual conversations and provide relevant support to adjust language—as needed.
- *“We are using language and approaches that are in statute.”*

4. Announcements & Upcoming Events

- **2025-2026 Membership Packets:** Sent to Primary and Secondary contacts via email. Forms and fees due by September 1st.
 - Reach out to Arlene for support with renewal or joining.
- **AVA/OVW Quarterly Call:** August 11. Send questions and topics for discussion to Arlene by August 8.

- Reminder will be sent out via the listserv.
- **Next AVA Connect Calls-** August 21 and September 18 @ 2:00pm (ET).
- **AVA Peer-to-Peer In-person Meeting (Fall 2025):** Additional information will follow.

Updates:

- Meeting details and registration link were sent out on August 5, 2025.
- The meeting agenda and logistics memo were shared on August 18, 2025.
- **Note:** Registration will remain open until capacity is reached. *Please see logistics memo for details on securing lodging using AVA's room block and group rate.*
- **Peer-to-Peer Mentoring:** Process is being formalized! Stay tuned for more information.
 - Administrators with 3+ years of experience are encouraged to sign up as mentors.
- **Feedback to AVA:** If you have specific ideas or suggestions regarding unmet needs or ways AVA can enhance peer-to-peer support and engagement, please share them with Arlene and/or Board members. The list of Board members was shared via the listserv.

5. Participant Feedback:

- *"This space is helpful to organize thoughts, share challenges, etc."*
- *"I find it helpful to think about the things we can do and say; I ground and root myself in the work we are doing and subrecipients are doing."*
- *"We are finding hope wherever we can."*