



**Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership
February 6, 2020**

1:00 PM

**State Capitol Executive Tower
2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007**

A general meeting of the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) was convened on February 6, 2020. The public meeting was hosted at the State Capitol Executive Tower, the 2nd Floor Conference Room - 1700 W. Washington St., Suite 230, Phoenix, AZ 85007, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (18)
Sheila Polk , Chairperson, Yavapai County Attorney's Office
Sara Salek , Vice-Chairperson, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
Maria Cristina Fuentes , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family
Mike Faust , Arizona Department of Child Safety
Wanda Wright , Arizona Department of Veterans Services
Lawrence LaVeque , Business Community
Sheila Sjolander , Arizona Department of Health Services [Proxy for Cara Christ]
Andy LeFevre , Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Michael Rosenberger , Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control [Proxy for John Cocca]
Jeff Hood , Arizona Department of Juvenile Justice
Alberto Gutier , Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Merilee Fowler , Matforce
Kathy Waters , Administrative Office of the Courts
Angela Paton , Arizona Attorney General's Office
Leah Landrum-Taylor , Arizona Department of Economic Security
Lee Pioske , The Crossroads
Deborah Jones , Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group
Tobi Zavala , Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners [Telephonic]
Members Absent (7)
David Klein , US Department of Veteran Affairs
Dawn Mertz , High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area
Kathy Grimes , Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition
Frank Milstead , Arizona Department of Public Safety
Thomas Kelly , Apache Junction Police Department
Vanessa Bustos , Pascua Yaqui Tribe
Brenda Cochran , Pure Heart Church

Call to Order

- **Sheila Polk, Chairperson** called the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) meeting to order at 1:03 PM with 18 members present.

Welcome/Introductions

- **Sheila Polk, Chair** welcomed everyone to the first ASAP meeting of 2020.
- **Vice-Chairperson Sara Salek** requested members to introduce themselves and the agency they represent.

Approval of Minutes

- **Chairperson Polk** requested a final review of the June 6, 2019 meeting minutes.
 - **Alberto Gutier** motioned to accept the June 6, 2019 minutes without revision.
 - **Leah Landrum-Taylor** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System's Role in Prevention & Treatment

- **Chairperson Sheila Polk** introduced the first agenda item and invited **Vice-Chair Sara Salek.**, to give a presentation and overview of Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System's Role in Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment.
- **Vice-Chair Salek** provided a brief history of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). **Salek** reported AHCCCS is the largest single insurer in the state. This means one in four individuals in Arizona are covered by AHCCCS. Member break down highlights included birth through seventeen years of age account for 41.2% which equates to 752,139 members and the Arizona Long Term Care System account for 3.6% which equates to 66,773 members. AHCCCS also currently covers fifty percent of the births in Arizona.
- After the brief highlights of AHCCCS history, **Vice-Chair Sara Salek** reviewed the agency's grant work related to the Opioid Epidemic which included the Substance Abuse Block Grant and the State Opioid Response grant. **Salek** mentioned if an individual cannot be covered through Medicaid then the agency is able to provide coverage through the Substance Abuse Block Grant.
- Regarding the work of primary prevention funded through the State Opioid Response grant, **Vice-Chair Sara Salek** highlighted the work of the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family and their expansion of Triple P providers across Arizona. She further highlighted the DCS Healthy Families Home Visiting and Sense Program which support NAS babies. **Vice-Chair Salek** continued to highlight the State Opioid Response programs with partner state agencies including Arizona Department of Veteran Services and the Opioid Assistance Referral Line through Poison Control.
- In addition to the primary push strategies, **Vice-Chair Salek** explained the work of behavioral health providers into Arizona schools. She stressed the importance providing services to children on school campuses including the work of Dr. Embry and Good Behavior Game®. **Vice-Chair Salek** explained how this tool is to help teachers in first and second grade classrooms and the importance of supporting teachers to be able to implement strategies and help self-regulation. **Vice-Chair Salek** thanked **Maria Fuentes** for funding further Good Behavior Game® expansion through the Substance Abuse Block Grant.
- **Vice-Chair Sara Salek** ended her presentation by emphasizing the increase of individuals being identified with Opioid Use Disorder and the increase of individuals accessing services including the 24/7 Access Centers and Medically Assisted Treatment. **Salek** mentioned the importance of community partnerships which is critical

to Naloxone distribution across Arizona with 324,282 doses distributed and 9,111 reported overdoses reversed.

- **Chair Sheila Polk** thanked **Vice-Chair Salek** for her presentation and asked the partnership members if they had questions.
- **Alberto Gutier** asked for clarification on the Community Medical Services 24 hour access centers. He stated the facility close to his house on Northern Ave has seemed to be closed more often. **Vice-Chair Salek** stated this facility has been in the process of relocating and will have a new address.
- **Merilee Fowler** followed up about the status of the facility in Yavapai County. **Vice-Chair Salek** stated the facility is providing stabilization and warm hand off services to individuals.
- **Kathy Waters** thanked AHCCCS for their work and partnership with adult probation. The services AHCCCS provides is essential and appreciated 83,000 justice involved adults.
- **Chair Sheila Polk** thanked **Vice-Chair Salek** again for her presentation and stated each of the partnership members will have the opportunity to highlight their scope of work in the field of substance abuse prevention and treatment.

Department of Child Safety's Role in Prevention and Treatment

- **Chair Polk** thanked **Vice-Chair Salek** for her presentation and introduced **Mike Faust** to provide an overview of the **Department of Child Safety's Role In Prevention and Treatment**
- **Mike Faust** first highlighted the department's most recent data charts from the week of January 27. This included communications & reports to the hotline, children receiving in home services, children in out-of-home care (0-17 years old), removed children with permanency goal of reunification by length of time in care, removed children with permanency goal of adoption by length of time in care, and children in out of home care (18-21 years old). **Faust** went on to further explain the reports received by month and the categorized by risk factor. Roughly one third of families with a Hotline report are experiencing drug use by a caregiver, and one third are experiencing domestic violence. **Faust** emphasized a single report can have more than one risk factor, and many families have both substance use and DV. About 10% include a substance exposed newborn.
- **Mike Faust** went on to highlight the number of reports received in the different months by risk factor vs the percentage of children removed within 60 days of the report received date. He reported the percentage children removed within 60 days of a report is around 12%. The percentage is around 21% for families with DV, and this has increased from 19% in prior months. The percentage is around 27% for families with drug abuse by a caregiver. For substance exposed newborns, the removal rate within 60 days has more variation, but is within the range of 17% and 24% each month.
- **Mike Faust** emphasized of the reports received and the children who enter care within 60days there continues to be a trend and co relationship between substance abuse and domestic violence which allows states to do federal claims. **Faust** went on to explain the substance abuse treatment resources which are provided even if the parent doesn't have AHCCCS or Title 19 eligibility and then DCS is able pay for those services and the services continue to work. Of the 11,000 people a year who are referred for services about 6,500 will get involved and 90% of those families will need treatment and 80% who complete their case plan will successfully reunify. There is a direct correlation between the success of the program and the children who transition home.
- **Mike Faust** further noted the department is moving forward with a standardize science based tool for anyone delivering services in Arizona through the Arizona Families First Program. It will open to the individual and any family members in the home who need treatment with an emphasis on enhanced care coordination and recovery

coaches. **Faust** emphasized the importance of recognizing relapse can happen during substance abuse recovery. Recovery coaches can assist judicial officers to recognize the signs and sometimes during recovery there are two steps forward and one step back however folks get treatment and families do reunify.

- **Chairperson Sheila Polk** thanked **Director Faust** for his presentation and asked the partnership if there were any questions.
- **Alberto Gutier** stated he recently met with 87 police agencies from across Arizona and it was determined about 25% of DUI asserts were drug related and agencies continue to report if 25 arrests are made usually 15 of them are alcohol and drug involved. He expressed his concern with this number and the increase of drug involved cases there continues to be across the state. **Mike Faust** agreed and reported about 25% of substance exposed newborns end up in DCS care and some of these parents are medical marijuana card holders which does not exclude individuals from DCS involvement.
- **Wanda Wright** asked if the Department of Children's Safety is asking each family if they are veterans. **Mike Faust** assured that information is available and will provide follow up.
- **Chairperson Sheila Polk** asked if the department tracks the different types of substance being tracked including the different forms of marijuana. **Mike Faust** stated a new substance use tracking system will launch in July and this system may be able to provide those granular details.
- **Lawrence LaVeque** asked if there has been an expansion of entry points or an increase in neglect and abuse reporting. **Mike Faust** reported mandated reporters are still the highest number of reports and DCS continues to be an intervention agency. He stressed the importance of supporting these community based issues and the importance of knowing the kids in each our neighborhoods. Each person needs to play an active role in community prevention.

Opioid Epidemic Data Update and ADHS Activities

- **Vice-Chair Salek** introduced the next agenda item and invited **Sheila Sjolander**, to provide an update of the opioid epidemic across Arizona.
- **Sheila Sjolander** first emphasized one of major roles of public health agencies is to provide surveillance of the opioid epidemic in Arizona. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) tracks suspected overdoses and pharmacies provide data on naloxone dispensed. **Sjolander** went on to explain the number of deaths confirmed are based on death certificates and there is about a four month lag on 2019 death certificates. Currently it has been determined 2% of the overdoses are meth related however this is not required to be reported to the health departments so there could be more. Fentanyl was involved in 15.7% overdoses in 2018 and October 2019 was the month with the highest number (101) of overdoses involving fentanyl.
- **Sheila Sjolander** went on to highlight the number of Opioid naïve prescribed opioids in the last 60 days is down 95% which is enormous change and a sign of hope. **Sjolander** continued to emphasize the importance of getting prescribers to check the CSPMP however there are exceptions to that law and it continues to be difficult to know what the percentage should really be. Though the percentage continues to improve the law states providers are only required check it once.
- **Sheila Sjolander** went on to explain the importance of getting naloxone into the hands of law enforcement agencies. She highlighted of the number of times law enforcement administrated naloxone 97% survived and were then transported to the hospital. Law enforcement agencies whose staff have completed opioid overdose recognition and treatment training consistent with ADHS are eligible for free naloxone.

- **Sjolander** further explained the most recent provision of electronic opioid prescriptions and as of December 60% were prescribing electronically. She emphasized the excitement of the Medically Assisted Treatment mentoring projects. New prescribers new to prescribing Suboxone will have pre support. Seventeen schools who participate in the pain and addiction best practices curriculum around chronic pain management and substance use disorder will be eligible to continue online medical education curriculum. This is now embedded in medical school and schools can use that curriculum. Students are graduating physicians who will be able to provide Suboxone.
- **Sjolander** went on to discuss next steps regarding the guidance to EMS to leave behind naloxone for individuals who refuse to be transported to the hospital after an overdose.
- Furthermore in partnership with AZ HIDTA a CDC public health analyst will be embedded and shared by both agencies. The department has an Arizona National Guard member embed as well to assist with naloxone orders.
- **Vice-Chair Salek** expressed her appreciation for that informative presentation and asked the members if they had any questions for **Sheila Sjolander**.
- **Merilee Fowler** explained her agency did a training for a team of pharmacist and there seemed to concern with red caps on opioid bottles now. **Sheila Sjolander** responded with she had heard that early on and there was concerns about stigma or making the medication too obvious however she also heard it helped people with multiple medications be on alert and more careful.
- **Alberto Gutier** asked if ADHS knew the rate of fentanyl deaths 3 years prior to the current data. **Sheila Sjolander** stated the data could certainly be provided and reported there has been an increase however it should be noted the drug equipment can now do better testing.
- **Andy Lafevre** stated he continues to be frustrated with the percentage of use prescribers using the CSPMP and asked if there is a way to link the electronic prescribers and the CSPMP. **Sheila Sjolander** stated there would need to be further research on the technologies.
- **Chairperson Sheila Polk** expressed the concern of illicit pills being found in Yavapai County and how important it is to educate individuals on every pill that could potentially be deadly.

Work Group Updates

- **Chairperson Sheila Polk** moved on to the next agenda item of the ASAP Work Group Updates. **Chairperson Polk** asked **Maria Fuentes** to provide an update on the 2020 workgroup procedure.
- **Maria Fuentes** stated in consultation with legal counsel all the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) councils and commissions will now provide an opportunity for public comments to be submitted online through the GOYFF website. **Fuentes** went on to explain subcommittees will no longer follow open meeting law because voting does not occur in those meetings. However notes will continue to be taken and GOYFF staff will continue to support the chairs.
- **Chairperson Sheila Polk** thanked **Director Fuentes** for that update and state in lieu of the usual workgroup report out, it was now important to discuss next steps for the ASAP workgroups. Each of the Workgroups spent the first half of last year working on projects related to the strategic plan and since meeting with each of the workgroup Chairs/Co-Chairs, a few weeks ago. It is the chairs recommendation that the following workgroups be sunset: Community, Outreach and Training, Recidivism and Reduction, Substance Abuse Policy
- **Vice-Chair Salek** further stated at this time there would an open dialogue on this direction so the partnership could reach a consensus moving forward. **Maria Fuentes** further

explained a lot of the work is already happening across the state and the chairs have a vision and would like to continue to further the work and not duplicate efforts.

- **Andy LeFevre** asked if the chairs were visioning other workgroups. **Chairperson Polk** explained as they continue to review the strategic plan it will be important to continue the work intentionally without adding more to anyone's work load.
- **Vice-Chair Sara Salek** again asked if any other members had thoughts. **Chair-Person Sheila Polk** stated all the work around opioid crisis is fantastic however there continues to be an issue with vaping of THC and nicotine. **Polk** emphasized the importance of getting ahead of the problem before it becomes another epidemic.
- **Andy LeFevre** stated the importance of addressing these large statewide problems by building relationships and sharing data. **Vice-Chair Salek** agreed and stated often leveraging the existing capacity of the state through the research institutions like Arizona State University. Discussing their capabilities of data analytics and collection could be a future agenda item.
- **Kathy Waters** asked if the possibility of entering into data sharing agreements could be discussed. It is important to know how many of the probationers are fighting to get their kids back. Adult Probation often touches the different state agencies and those partnerships can enhance the data sharing arguments. **Vice-Chair Salek** expressed her biggest frustrations is the federal regulations as far as data sharing. How does this impact the future direction of the ongoing work as far as epi is related to understanding trauma and closing out that project and the impact it will have determining new projects.
- **Chair-Person Sheila Polk** thanked the partnership for their feedback and expressed excitement for the direction ASAP will go in 2020.

2020 Meeting Dates

- **Vice-Chairperson Salek** asked participants to mark their calendars for the rest of the year and let **Emily Uline-Olmstead** know if any conflicts in dates arise.

Adjourn

- **Chairperson Polk** requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - **Alberto Gutier** made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - **Lawrence LaVeque** seconded the motion.
 - The meeting adjourned at 2:42 PM.

Dated the tenth day of February, 2020
Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership
Respectfully Submitted By:
Emily Uline-Olmstead
Program Administrator
Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family