

Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership

Annual Report



2020



The Governor's Office
of Youth, Faith
and Family



Arizona
Substance Abuse
Partnership

SubstanceAbuse.AZ.gov



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

MARIA CRISTINA FUENTES
DIRECTOR

July 31, 2020

Governor Doug A. Ducey
State Capitol Executive Tower
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor,

It has been an honor to assume the positions of Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) Chair and Vice-Chair. We would like to acknowledge the work of ASAP and its various workgroups under Justice Bill Montgomery's leadership. Their dedication to addressing the pervasive issue of drug abuse across Arizona has made this work possible. The following report includes a presentation of related activities and outcomes from 2019/2020 as well as future projects.

Prior to convening our first 2020 ASAP meeting, we had the pleasure of meeting with leaders from each ASAP workgroup. We gathered important feedback, project updates, and guidance for next steps. With input from all the workgroups and in consultation with the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family staff, the following workgroups were sunsetted: Community Outreach and Training, Recidivism Reduction, and Policy. Our decision to sunset these workgroups does not diminish the importance of their work. However, in light of ongoing work across the state in these areas, the elimination of duplicative committees was deemed advisable.

Since its creation, ASAP has sought to support improvements in substance abuse policy, develop dynamic partnerships and compile data on substance use and abuse by establishing activities which closely align with Executive Order 2013-05. With the ongoing support of the Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Task Force Civil Operations, ASAP will focus on: tracking and evaluating current substance use data trends; educating the public on emerging substance use issues in Arizona and the approaches to address these issues; and implementing targeted strategies to address public health and safety issues secondary to substance use.

ASAP strives to continue these efforts, collaborating with partners across Arizona to better serve communities as they work to combat this formidable challenge.

Sincerely,

Sheila Polk
Chair

Dr. Sara Salek
Vice-Chair

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COMMISSION OVERVIEW

The Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) is authorized under Executive Order 2013-05 to collaboratively address substance abuse-related issues in Arizona. ASAP serves as the statewide council on substance abuse prevention, enforcement, treatment, and recovery efforts.

ASAP initiates and supports improvements in substance abuse policy, develops dynamic partnerships, and participates in informed planning processes. ASAP has the following duties and responsibilities:

- Compile and summarize information and data on substance misuse and abuse and associated consequences and correlates, including mental illness and emerging trends, through a collaborative and cooperative data-sharing process. Identify and address data gaps in order to provide Arizona with a comprehensive picture of substance misuse and abuse.
- Utilize evaluation and research reports to promote the most effective and evidence-based programs, policies and practices across the state and make recommendations for modification as needed.
- Encourage state and local partnerships to engage in shared planning processes and build the capacity of local communities to meet identified needs and maximize resources.
- Identify and share effective practices to integrate strategies across systems that leverage existing funding and increase access to services at the community level.
- Analyze current state and federal laws and programs governing substance misuse and abuse prevention, treatment, and enforcement and recommend any changes that would enhance the effectiveness of these laws or programs.
- Recommend specific drug and alcohol related policy and budget line-items for consideration by Arizona state agencies and/or the Arizona legislature.

COMMISSION GOALS

The following goals guide the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership and its workgroups:

- GOAL 1: Track and evaluate current substance use data trends in Arizona.
- GOAL 2: Educate the public on emerging substance use issues in Arizona and related strategies to address these issues.
- GOAL 3: Evaluate targeted strategies to address public health and safety issues secondary to substance use.

MEMBERSHIP

The ASAP consists of 24 active members who are appointed by the Governor. Staffed by the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF), ASAP includes representation from local, state and federal criminal justice; child welfare agencies; health departments; community prevention coalitions; public safety; and behavioral health, prevention and treatment providers.

Sheila Polk
Chairperson
Yavapai County Attorney

Sara Salek
Vice-Chairperson
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

Alberto Gutier
Governor's Office of Highway Safety

Andrew LeFevre
Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Angela Patton
Arizona Attorney General's Office

Brenda Cochran
Pure Heart Church

Cara Christ
Arizona Department of Health Services

Dawn Mertz
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

David Klein
United States Department of Veteran's Affairs

Deborah Jones
Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

John Cocca
Arizona Department of Liquor License Control

Jeff Hood
Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

Kathleen Grimes
Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition

Kathy Waters
Adult Probation Services Division

Lawrence LaVeque
Cisco Systems

Leah Landrum-Taylor
Arizona Department of Economic Security

Lee Pioske
Crossroads

Maria Cristina Fuentes
Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family

Merilee Fowler
MATFORCE

Michael Faust
Arizona Department of Child Safety

Thomas Kelly
Apache Junction Police Department

Tobi Zavala
Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

Vanessa Bustos
Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Wanda Wright
Arizona Department of Veteran Services

CURRENT WORKGROUPS

In addition to the quarterly meetings, ASAP has formed issue-specific workgroups to accomplish bodies of work, which are composed of state agency staff, issue-area experts and community stakeholders. Through the support of the Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Task Force Civil Operations, work groups meet regularly and are focused on the following:

ARIZONA SUBSTANCE ABUSE EPIDEMIOLOGY WORKGROUP

Established through Executive Order 2013-05, this workgroup collects and reports on substance abuse and consequences-related data to help guide a data-driven decision-making process. The epidemiology workgroup continues to collect and develop a data profile on substance use behaviors and complex trauma in Arizona. This data profile has been limited to population surveillance using surveys and state agency data. To facilitate the statewide data profile, the GOYFF contracted with the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) to serve in the capacity of lead data analyst. ACJC partnered with the Arizona State University (ASU) Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (SIRC) to aid in data collection and analysis. The data profile will be presented to the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership in the fall of 2020 and build on the knowledge of complex trauma and substance use behaviors.

Membership

Deborah Jones, Ph.D., (Chairperson), Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections
Jamie Jeffords, Ph.D., (Co-Chairperson), Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Angela Aguayo, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
Jamie Ritchey, Ph.D., Inter Tribal Council, Tribal Epidemiology Center
Kevin Abbott, Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Task Force
Latrice Hickman, Treatment Assessment Screening Center, Inc.
Peggy Glider, Ph.D., University of Arizona
Steven Bailey, Arizona Department of Health Services
Sarah Lindstrom Johnson, Ph.D., School of Social and Family Dynamics, ASU
Susan Smith, Arizona Department of Child Safety

PROGRAM INVENTORY WORKGROUP

Established to assess statewide substance abuse programming and identify gaps in services, this workgroup identifies promising practices and provides recommendations to ASAP. The workgroup continues to review state and federal prevention funding awarded to and by the State of Arizona. Over the last year, members recruited from various sectors of government and non-government organizations reviewed a broad range of programming and strategies ranging from primary to tertiary substance abuse prevention. The workgroup drafted findings and recommendations which will be presented to the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership for review at the December commission meeting.

Membership

Merilee Fowler, (Chairperson), MATFORCE
Lee Pioske, (Co-Chairperson), Crossroads
Daniel Brooks, Banner Poison and Drug Information Center
Earl Harris, Arizona Department of Health Services
Gabrielle Richard, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
Hazel Alvarenga, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
James Taylor, Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Task Force
Steve Constante, Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Task Force
Jacqueline Kurth, Arizona Department of Health Services
Peggy Glider, Ph.D., University of Arizona, Campus Health Services
Wendy Wolfensteig, Ph.D., Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center, ASU

SUNSETTED WORKGROUPS

After evaluating the ongoing work across the state, along with the work within each workgroup, the elimination of duplicative committees was deemed advisable. Additionally, workgroups were considered for sunset based upon the completion of their workgroup tasks and goals. The sunsetted workgroups are as follows:

ARIZONA RECIDIVISM REDUCTION WORKGROUP

Established to support the Arizona Department of Corrections, Reentry and Rehabilitation (formerly Arizona Department of Corrections) to administer the Second Chance Act grant funded through the US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (DOJ/BJA). The workgroup was tasked to develop technology-based solutions to enhance the availability of substance abuse treatment and recovery resources within the department. The Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Task Force Civil Operations successfully developed a rubric of substance abuse programs that were technology based and provided a review of each program to the Arizona Department of Corrections Reentry and Rehabilitation leadership.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND TRAINING WORKGROUP

Established to provide direction regarding the implementation of community substance abuse prevention training and education. The workgroup was tasked in developing a web-based prevention hub focused on addressing substances identified by the Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area as posing the greatest threat. In partnership with the Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Task Force Civil Operations, a web-based prevention hub was successfully created and published in early 2020. The resource hub can be accessed through the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family website.

POLICY WORKGROUP

Established to understand the persistent threat of the opioid epidemic and drug threats facing Arizona. The workgroup conducted a review of state laws and programs governing substance abuse through state agency presentations. The extent of this work included receiving agency reports on programs, policies and initiatives listed in the 2019-2021 Opioid Action Plan. This work continues to progress across Arizona through a collaborative process led by the Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, and the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family.

CONCLUSION

In State Fiscal Year 2021, ASAP will continue to fulfill the mission statement of raising awareness of substance abuse in the state of Arizona. Each quarter ASAP hopes to focus their efforts on a substance that has been identified by the Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Drug Threat Assessment and engage ASAP members in a discussion about how the identified substances are affecting the communities of Arizona. The partnership will continue to support agencies in initiatives, and development of a research-based approach for emerging drug threats. ASAP will continue to establish subcommittees and complete the following:

- Develop recommendations that support the implementation of a statewide continuum of prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery services.
- Develop and encourage implementation of statewide guidelines that promote the development, maintenance and improvement of evidence-based and evidence-informed prevention, treatment, and education.
- Encourage state and local partnerships to engage in shared planning processes and build the capacity of local communities to meet identified needs and maximize resources.
- Identify and share effective practices to integrate strategies across systems that will leverage existing funding and increase access to services at the community level.