



**Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention  
Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2021  
10:00 AM**

**A general meeting of the Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention convened on January 20, 2021. Notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the Parents Commission.**

Members Present (6)		Members Absent (3)	
Bryan Cox		Laura Ciscomani	
Kristine FireThunder		David Reede	
Beatriz Hurtado		Raynee Schneider	
Eric Meaux			
Denise Beagley			
Bryan Harris			
Staff and Guests Present (8)			
Tonya Hamilton		Blanca Acosta	
Nicole Valenzuela		Eva Zuniga	
Kim Brooks		Jessica Gallego	
Kim Jensen		Kate Paolucci	

**CALL TO ORDER**

- **Chairperson Bryan Cox** called the Parents Commission meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. with 6 members present and 3 members absent.

**ROLL CALL**

- **Chairperson Cox** welcomed members and guests. **Chairperson Cox** took attendance via roll call at 10:05 am.

**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF YOUTH, FAITH AND FAMILY (GOYFF)**

- **Tonya Hamilton, Deputy Director of GOYFF** thanked the Parents Commission members for their commitment, contribution, and service to the commission. **Ms. Hamilton** acknowledged and especially thanked the commission members whose terms will be coming to a close in February 2021.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **Chairperson Cox** requested a review of the **November 18, 2020** meeting minutes.
- **Mr. Bryan Harris** motioned to accept the minutes.

- **Mr. Eric Meaux** seconded the motion at 10:07 a.m.  
The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

### High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)

- **Chairperson Cox** welcomed and introduced **Mr. Kim Jensen**, Threat Assessment Coordinator. **Mr. Jensen** thanked the Commission for the invitation to present.
- Arizona HIDTA coordinates and supports the efforts of 620 full-time and 177 part-time participants from 71 agencies. 25 Initiatives (task forces) are located in the nine HIDTA designated counties.
- HIDTA identified the top five drug threats in Arizona in 2020 were:
  - Methamphetamine (1), Fentanyl (2), Marijuana (THC Derivatives) (3), Heroin (4), and Cocaine (5). Fentanyl had the most marked increase in use and overdose in the use of “M30s” (pill form) of the drug in 2020.
- HIDTA monitors the prices of drugs every 90 days to gain information about the distribution and prices in different areas of Arizona.
- This is the first time in ten years that HIDTA had seen an increase in methamphetamine cost. **Mr. Jensen** shared COVID-19 pandemic could be a contributing factor to what is driving the increased cost due to the impact on the transport and supply of the drug.
- HIDTA utilizes a fusion center concept model utilized by Arizona HIDTA and Counter Narcotics Alliance (CAN) to ensure that agencies are connected and co-located to work cases with a thorough and comprehensive approach.
- **Chairperson Cox** thanked **Mr. Jensen** and asked if there were any questions for the presenter. There were not any questions from the commissioners.
- **Chairperson Cox** asked **Mr. Jensen** why HIDTA was not located in all Arizona counties. **Mr. Jensen** stated that there is a HIDTA initiative located in nine Arizona counties, sharing that some counties are hesitant to participate in the HIDTA initiative; however, HIDTA still works closely with these agencies.
- **Chairperson Cox** asked **Mr. Jensen** how Proposition 207 and legalization of the recreational use of marijuana would affect HIDTA’s work. **Mr. Jensen** stated that HIDTA is working closely with the Prosecutor’s Office in each county to see how each county is addressing the issue independently and then how it will be addressed at the state level.
- **Chairperson Cox** stated that he has seen how Proposition 207 is already impacting Maricopa County and recognizes that addressing the impact of Proposition 207 is not a one-size-fits-all solution.
- **Chairperson Cox** thanked **Mr. Jensen** for his presentation.
- The full presentation can be accessed at <https://goyff.az.gov/meeting/pc/2021/01/20>

### PAXIS Institute

- **Chairperson Cox** welcomed and introduced **Ms. Kate Paolucci**, PAXIS Institute, PAX Tools Manager. **Ms. Paolucci** thanked the commission for the invitation to present.
- PAXIS vision is to develop solutions that improve the peace, productivity, health, and happiness of people around the world. PAXIS Institute incorporates the power of science and prevention to develop simple, proven strategies that address human behavior. The strategies have been found to increase efficiency and job satisfaction, improve academic and social outcomes in children, reduce health disparities and risk probability for mental health and substance use disorders, and prevent factors leading to violence and suicide.
- PAX Good Behavior Games (GBG) reduces problematic behaviors and increases time for learning. The 3-month impact of PAX has shown about a 50% decrease in the inattentive,

disruptive behaviors after implementation and then a 75% reduction once there is full implementation.

- Certified PAX Tools Community Educators are eligible to become trained in presenting PAX Tools for School@Home. School@Home provides parents and caregivers with research-based strategies to increase their children's focus, motivation, stamina, and a number of other skills that specifically help children improve their study habits and outcomes when learning at home.
- PAX Tools for Human Services provides research-based, trauma-informed behavioral health strategies for youth-serving professionals. This program operationalizes a trauma-informed approach for agencies and individuals who work with youth. Included are strategies for professionals to use with youth in their practice or setting, and steps for guiding caregivers in utilizing selected strategies with children at home.
- PAX Tools Community Workshops are then provided at the local level at no cost to participants. Community Educators are encouraged to provide participants in PAX Tools Community Workshops with a PAX Tools kit.
- The full presentation can be accessed at <https://goyff.az.gov/meeting/pc/2021/01/20>
- **Chairperson Cox** thanked **Ms. Paolucci** for her presentation and asked if there were any questions. There were no additional questions.

### Constructing Circles of Peace

- **Chairperson Cox** welcomed and introduced **Ms. Blanca Acosta, Executive Director**. **Ms. Blanca Acosta** thanked the commission for the invitation to present and introduced **Ms. Eva Zuniga**, Prevention Manager and **Ms. Jessica Gallego**, Community Educator & Youth Facilitator.
- **Ms. Zuniga** shared the unique information and facts about Santa Cruz County where Constructing Circles of Peace is located: Santa Cruz County (1,238 sq mi) is the smallest county in Arizona. The Nogales, Arizona border is one of the main land-crossing points between Mexico and the U.S. In 2004, Judge Mary Helen Maley (Santa Cruz County Justice Court), in collaboration with Dr. Linda Mills (New York University's Center on Violence and Recovery), decided to develop a program that would meet the needs of underserved family violence victims in Santa Cruz County in a holistic, culturally sensitive manner.
- Circles of Peace utilizes the Restorative Justice Approach to services which include Pretrial Services, Court Ordered treatment, and Prevention & Family Programs. They include the Restorative Justice in Education approach which is to create just & equitable learning environments, build and maintain healthy relationships, and repair harm and transform conflict. **Ms. Zuniga** shared that it is not possible to undo the harm, but it can be repaired and transformed into something beautiful.
- Circles of Peace has an organizational trauma-informed approach including the six guiding principles: safety; trustworthiness & transparency; peer support; collaborations & mutuality; empowerment voice & choice; and cultural, historic & gender issues.
- **Ms. Gallego** shared that Circles of Peace has implemented the Strengthening Families Program (SFP), an evidence-based family skills training program for high-risk and general population families that is both nationally and internationally recognized. Parents and youth attend weekly SFP skills classes together, learning parenting skills and youth life and refusal skills.
- **Ms. Gallego** shared Circles of Peace success stories including transitioning to an online platform and providing technical support to families to get acclimated to the new platform;

implementing Facebook Live events to interact in real-time with family & to have the content available on their Facebook page at all times; and virtual presentations with family and school personnel. They hosted a Drive-in movie with a newly released family-friendly movie and they have 75 cars with 4 or more passengers; disseminated 130 care packet bags; hosted an Ask Me Booth, and provided snacks.

- The full presentation can be accessed at <https://goyff.az.gov/meeting/pc/2021/01/20>
- **Chairperson Cox** thanked **Ms. Acosta, Ms. Gallego, and Ms. Zuniga** for their presentation and asked if there were any questions.
- **Mr. Bryan Harris** complimented the Constructing Circles of Peace team for their work in the community and stated that he was impressed with the Drive-In Movie event.
- **Ms. Beagley** complimented the Constructing Circles of Peace team for their engagement with the community and meeting the need in keeping people's spirits up during these challenging times.
- **Chairperson Cox** thanked the team from Constructing Circles of Peace and asked if there were any further questions. There were no additional questions.

#### **Grantee Updates, Nicole Valenzuela, Program Administrator, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family**

- **Chairperson Cox** introduced **Ms. Nicole Valenzuela** who indicated that grantees reported that nearly 15,000 individuals served in the second quarter of 2020 (October, November, & December). **Ms. Valenzuela** shared that site visits are an opportunity to gain an understanding of the unique community grantees are serving and how the grantees utilize the funding for their programming and its impact on participants, stakeholders, and the community.
- **Site Visit**
  - **Parker Area Alliance for Community Empowerment (PAACE)** focuses to address and overcome the normalized "party atmosphere" the City of Parker residents face. They shared the success of their Strengthening Families Program with 100% of their cohort successfully completing the curriculum and graduating. PAACE shared the successes of their community engagement events during Red Ribbon Week and Family Fun Day in which over 500 families participated. PAACE is focused on continuing to strengthen its relationship with the Colorado River Indian tribe and to provide services in the most rural areas of La Paz County.
- **Grantee Updates**
  - **Amistades**, Tucson, AZ, utilizes a trauma-informed response to the needs of their participants through virtual home visits and providing resources that were culturally responsive to provide support and increase participant engagement. Amistades hosted an interactive Red Ribbon Week event utilizing the Kahoot online platform that was focused on drug prevention messaging. Amistades have new school partnerships with cohorts that began in December.
  - **MATFORCE. Inc**, Prescott Valley, AZ, tailored programming to be able to meet the needs of families with youth that are system-involved and for parents from Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe that had specific requirements for the parenting program they attended. In adjusting and modifying programming and providing it on a virtual platform MATFORCE, Inc had a positive impact and participants are report positive outcomes and successes.
  - **Chairperson Cox** thanked **Ms. Valenzuela** for her update and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Chairperson Cox** asked if any commissioners had any announcements they would like to share.
- **Ms. Beagley** shared that ASU Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy will be hosting their Winter Institute in partnership with the ASU School of Social Work on April 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The event will be a hybrid event with limited on ground attendance at ASU Skysong Scottsdale Innovation Center and virtual attendance. The sessions will be recorded and available to be viewed at a later date.
- **Ms. Beagley** also shared that she will be conducting a focus group to address the question of how first responders' significant others provide support to them and to identify what supports are needed to have a positive impact at home.
- **Chairperson Cox** thanked **Ms. Beagley** for her announcements. **Chairperson Cox** asked if there were additional announcements from commission members. There were no additional announcements.
- **Mr. Harris** shared that his term will be ending in February 2021 and expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Parents Commission members and the GOYFF staff. **Chairperson Cox** thanked **Mr. Harris** for his statement.
- **Chairperson Cox** introduced **Ms. Tonya Hamilton**, Deputy Director of GOYFF to share her announcements. **Ms. Hamilton**, Deputy Director, provided the following information:
  - GOYFF has opportunities for grant reviewers and the information can be located on the GOYFF website at [www.goyff.az.gov](http://www.goyff.az.gov). **Ms. Hamilton** stated that there will be two RFGA's opening soon and requested that Parents Commission members share the grant reviewer opportunity.
- **Chairperson Cox** thanked **Ms. Hamilton** for the announcement. **Chairperson Cox** asked if there were additional announcements from commission members.
- **Ms. Kristine FireThunder** shared her gratitude and appreciation to **Chairperson Cox** and **Co-Chair Bryan Harris** for their contribution to the Parents Commission. **Chairperson Cox** thanked **Ms. FireThunder** and shared his gratitude and appreciation to the Parents Commission members and to the GOYFF staff.

#### FUTURE AGENDA/MEETING SCHEDULE

- **Chairperson Cox** stated the next scheduled meeting is set for March 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

#### ADJOURN

- **Chairperson Cox**, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - **Ms. FireThunder** moved to adjourn.
  - **Mr. Harris** seconded the motion.
  - The motion passed with no dissenting votes and the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

21<sup>th</sup> Day of January, 2021  
Parents Commission  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Nicole Valenzuela  
Program Administrator, GOYFF