



**Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2021
10:00 AM**

A general meeting of the Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention convened on July 14, 2021. Notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the Parents Commission.

Members Present (7)	Members Absent (2)
Denise Beagley (Chair)	Kristine FireThunder (Co-Chair)
Lori Robinson	Chief Robert Martin
Raynee Schneider	Asst. Chief Sherry Burlingame
Michael Klinkner	
Marina Lantsman-Waugh (Proxy: Arcenio Garcia)	
Nicholas Stavros (Proxy: Tina Braham)	
Staff and Guests Present (8)	
Nicole Valenzuela	Mark Person
Kim Brooks	Mayra Jeffery
Stephanie Siete	
Ariadne Weber	

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Beagley called the Parents Commission meeting to order at **10:07 a.m.** with 6 members present and 3 members absent.

ROLL CALL

Chairperson Beagley welcomed members and guests. **Chairperson Beagley** took attendance via roll call at 10:08 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Beagley requested a review of the **May 19, 2021** meeting minutes. **Commissioner Robinson** motioned to accept the minutes. **Commissioner Schneider** seconded the motion at 10:10 a.m. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

PARENTS COMMISSION MEETING PRESENTATIONS

COMMUNITY BRIDGES, INC.

Chairperson Beagley welcomed and introduced **Ms. Stephanie Siete**, Public Information Officer at Community Bridges, Inc. **Ms. Siete** thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present.

- **Ms. Siete** shared that COVID-19 precautions and protocols can also prevent contamination from prescription, controlled, and illicit substances. **Ms. Siete** stated that there have been spikes in overdose deaths since the start of the pandemic which have been driven by synthetic opioids like fentanyl. **Ms. Siete** shared that an individual can become exposed and potentially overdose by simply coming in contact with fentanyl. **Ms. Siete** stated that there has been the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded nationally in a 12-month period between September 2019 and August 2020. **Ms. Siete** stated that substance use does not discriminate, that prevention should be a community concern, and that everyone should be educated about substance use. **Ms. Siete** stated that there has been a 1,650% increase in e-cigarette use among middle schoolers and a 1,733% increase in use among high schoolers between 2011-2019. **Ms. Siete** stated that teens and young adults who use vaping products are at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19 than their peers who do not vape. **Ms. Siete** stated that the devices are inexpensive and easily concealed. **Ms. Siete** presented photos of examples of concealment devices for vaping and other substances and shared the street names for vaping devices and substances. **Ms. Siete** shared that vaping devices consist of water, flavor, nicotine, and propylene glycol. **Ms. Siete** stated that there are approximately, 15,500 flavors available and that one “pod” has the nicotine equivalent to 20 cigarettes. **Ms. Siete** stated that the sweet and candylike flavors are marketed to and appeal to youth. **Ms. Siete** stated that vaping the solvents and oils in the vaping devices “burns” the protective cilia inside the lungs causing serious injury to the lungs. **Ms. Siete** stated that there has been an increase in accidental poisoning of children under the age of six and pets that have come in direct contact with liquid nicotine. **Ms. Siete** stated that there has been extreme bodily injury caused by vape device explosions. **Ms. Siete** shared that there is not sufficient longitudinal data available to know the long term impacts of vaping or medical marijuana. **Ms. Siete** stated that tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. **Ms. Siete** shared the different types and names of cannabis concentrates, the potency percentages, and the potential biological and neuropsychological reactions. **Ms. Siete** stated that there is a “new” marijuana product called Delta 8, that is marketed as containing a lower percentage of THC and is being referred to a “light weed” amongst youth and young adults. **Ms. Siete** stated that butane has been combined with THC and cooked like methamphetamine to produce different forms of cannabis biproducts, which can contain up to 90% THC which could potentially induce psychosis when vaped. **Ms. Siete** stated cannabidiol (CBD) is a non-psychoactive ingredient in marijuana and reportedly may reduce anxiety, reduce pain, have anti-psychotic properties, and promote wakefulness. **Ms. Siete** shared the difference between CBD “edibles” and THC “edibles” is the amount of psychoactive ingredient in each type. **Ms. Siete** stated that the 2018 Farm Bill states that products can include up to 0.3% THC because it is reported that this amount does not have a psychoactive effect on individuals. **Ms. Siete** stated that there are edible products on the market that include significantly higher percentages of THC than is allowable by law. **Ms. Siete** shared an “Edibles Dosing Chart” which listed the potency, use, and potential effects of different amounts of THC. **Ms. Siete** stated that the potency will have a different effect on each person. **Ms. Siete** reported that 5% of world population resides

in the United States and the United States consumes 80% of global opioid supply. **Ms. Siete** stated that fentanyl overdoses are on the rise in Arizona and that fentanyl is 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin. **Ms. Siete** stated that the heroin purity has increased from 3.6% in the 1980s to 60-90% purity today. **Ms. Siete** stated that the heroin today is often laced with fentanyl. **Ms. Siete** shared the different forms of fentanyl and shared photos of counterfeit substances that are laced with fentanyl. **Ms. Siete** shared that a deadly dose of fentanyl is as little as 2-3 mg, which is equivalent to a few grains of sand. **Ms. Siete** stated that the most common drugs in prescription opioid overdose death include; methadone, oxycodone, and hydrocodone. **Ms. Siete** shared the personal story of a youth that passed away from a fentanyl overdose after just touching a pill laced with fentanyl then wiping her nose. **Ms. Siete** provided information for alternative pain management, resources, and contact information for Parents Against Vaping E-cigarettes (PAVE).

- The complete presentation can be reviewed at <https://govff.az.gov/councils-commissions/arizona-parents-commission-drug-education-prevention>

Chairperson Beagley thanked **Ms. Siete** and asked the commission if there were any questions.

- **Commission Klinkner** asked **Ms. Siete** if she was stating that CBD itself was harmful or just THC. **Ms. Siete** shared that due to the lack of regulation on CBD products that it is unknown how much THC could be in a CBD product. **Ms. Siete** stated that even with the reported benefits of CBD using the products is not worth the risk.
- **Chairperson Beagley** asked **Ms. Siete** if there has been a decrease in cigarette use. **Ms. Siete** stated that most youth have reported never smoking a cigarette, but there has been a dramatic increase in use of e-cigarettes. **Ms. Siete** stated that the vaping products are marketed toward youth and they are being baited with the low cost, sweet flavors, and easy concealment of the products. **Ms. Siete** recommended watching the docuseries Broken: Episode 2 Big Vape for more information about vaping.
- **Ariadne Weber, Family Treatment Coordinator**, asked **Ms. Siete** how long fentanyl remains in the body because she has clients that are testing positive for fentanyl but state they have not used fentanyl. **Ms. Siete** stated that she did not know how long it stayed in the body, but she has heard of individuals testing positive for fentanyl when they have come in contact with it but did not consume it.
- **Chairperson Beagley** thanked **Ms. Siete** for her presentation.

MARICOPA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT: FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

Chairperson Beagley welcomed and introduced **Ms. Ariadne Weber**, Family Treatment Court Coordinator. **Ms. Weber** thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present.

- **Ms. Weber**, shared that the Family Treatment Court model was designed by Retired Judge Colleen McNally to provide improved support for families facing substance use and child dependency case challenges to increase the potential for family reunification. **Ms. Weber** stated that Family Treatment Court is a voluntary program that follows a drug court model. **Ms. Weber** shared that FTC provides support and accountability to parents during their substance abuse treatment to increase success in sobriety. **Ms. Weber** stated that the mission of Family Treatment Court is to assist parents involved in the child welfare system toward achieving and maintaining sobriety, promote family

reunification and improve well-being for children and families. **Ms. Weber** shared that their data found that 94% FTC graduates had a reunification outcome for at least one of their children. **Ms. Weber** stated that the number of successful reunifications has varied over the years, but she has never seen it drop below a 90% success rate for reunification. **Ms. Weber** shared that Ret. Judge McNally would put a star sticker on client folders when they had accomplished their goals. **Ms. Weber** stated that it was a small reward for their accomplishment, but was very meaningful for the clients. **Ms. Weber** shared that the FTC team created an acronym for STAR which stands for support, treatment accountability, acknowledgment, and rewards. **Ms. Weber** stated that they provide small items as rewards for the clients intended for personal use or to enjoy with their children during family visitation. **Ms. Weber** stated individuals are eligible for the program if they have an open dependency in Maricopa County; have a history of substance abuse; are willing to consistently participate in substance abuse treatment; they must not have a severance trial scheduled within a month of observing; and they must not have a criminal case pending that is connected to dependency. **Ms. Weber** stated that the team collaborates and partners with state agencies, community partners, and stakeholders to improve outcomes for parents and babies that are struggling with substance use. **Ms. Weber** stated that they will refer clients to programs that provide supportive services for trauma and parenting skills support. **Ms. Weber** shared that one of the most meaningful moments in her career at FTC was when she was able to hire a former client to be a Parent Peer Support Specialist to provide support for incoming clients.

- The complete presentation can be reviewed at <https://goyff.az.gov/councils-commissions/arizona-parents-commission-drug-education-prevention>

Chairperson Beagley thanked **Ms. Weber** for her presentation and asked the commission if there were any questions.

- **Chairperson Beagley** asked **Ms. Weber** what factors contributed to the 94% success rate for families. **Ms. Weber** attributed the success rates to the team that is passionate about helping parents and bringing hope to the parents at the beginning of a case when the parents tended to be very angry. **Ms. Weber** stated that FTC is a program where the parent feel they can be seen and heard, they can discuss their experiences with a judicial officer, and they are provided resources and supports that they do not receive from other agencies involved with their dependency cases.
- **Commission Robinson** thanked **Ms. Weber** for her presentation.
- **Chairperson Beagley**, shared that she appreciated gaining an awareness of programs like FTC.
- **Chairperson Beagley** thanked **Ms. Weber** for her presentation.

PARENTS COMMISSION GRANTEE: PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Chairperson Beagley welcomed and introduced **Mr. Mark Person**, Program Director and **Ms. Mayra Jeffery**, Program Director at Pima County Health Department. **Mr. Person** thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present.

- **Mr. Person**, shared that the mission of the Community Mental Health & Addiction Program (CMHP) is to emphasize and bring greater awareness to the most critical issues surrounding mental health, including suicide prevention and the drug overdose

epidemic, by connecting vulnerable populations with available resources, responding to community-wide trends, and improving the overall health and education of the community. **Mr. Person** stated that their public health focal points include; drug overdose prevention, suicide prevention, stigma reduction, mental health education, trauma informed approaches, severe mental illness, substance use and addiction, and social vulnerability. **Mr. Person** shared that CMHP prevention strategies include; outreach, epidemiology, overdose response, naloxone distribution, and fatality review team. **Mr. Person** shared that they will be adding a suicide review team in the next couple of months. **Mr. Person** shared that CMHP hosts drug disposal and Take Back events and the location of the events are determined after analyzing data to identify “hot spots” for reported substance use and overdoses. **Mr. Person** stated that CMHP conducts morbidity and mortality surveillance related to suicide and overdose cases to identify trends and spikes, examine causal factors, and determine the needed public health response. **Mr. Person** shared a bar graph that indicated the significant increase in fentanyl use in Pima County. **Mr. Person** also shared data that reported a 67% increase in suicides among youth 12-17 and a 56% increase in suicides among adults 50-59 between 2019-2020. **Mr. Person** shared an example of a Public Health Alert that Pima County Health Department sends out to state agencies, partners, and stakeholders related to trends and spikes in public health related issues. **Mr. Person** shared that community collaborations and partnerships are what enables the CMHP to further their reach and provide vital services and information to their communities. **Mr. Person** shared that their team currently offers services and trainings for Mental Health First Aid, Suicide Prevention, School Outreach, Stigma Reduction, Referral and Treatment Collaboration, Fentanyl Task Force, and have a comprehensive resource and treatment directory. **Mr. Person** invited **Ms. Mayra Jeffery** to share information about CMHP strategies. **Ms. Jeffery** shared their social media campaign “Check-In Challenge” they developed in response to pandemic stressors. The campaign received national attention and was implemented in many areas across the United States. **Ms. Jeffery** shared that their objective for the campaign was to validate individuals’ feelings, provide tips in self-awareness and how to regulate emotions, behavior, attention, and thoughts while building resilience. The campaign was offered in English and Spanish. **Ms. Jeffery** shared that they created an internal document to check-in with Pima County Health Department employees to assess for the need for supports. **Ms. Jeffery** shared that they found that 1 in 4 employees had been diagnosed with a mental health disorder since the start of the pandemic and that 75% of respondents reported they could have used more emotional support. **Ms. Jeffery** shared the success of the Narcan Expansion plan and have tripled their distribution effort this year. **Ms. Jeffery** shared the CMHP destigmatizing and harm reduction campaign outreach materials they utilize in their outreach efforts. **Ms. Jeffery** shared positive experiences and testimonials from participants from their Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention and Strengthening Families Program.

- The complete presentation can be reviewed at <https://goyff.az.gov/councils-commissions/arizona-parents-commission-drug-education-prevention>

Chairperson Beagley thanked **Mr. Person** and **Ms. Jeffery** for their presentations and asked the commission if there were any questions.

- **Chairperson Beagley** stated that she worked for Chandler Fire Department and has seen an increase in marijuana laced with fentanyl. **Chairperson Beagley** asked **Mr. Person** how Pima County Health Department gets the word out about these types of

trends. **Mr. Person** shared that when they identify a trend they send out a Public Health Alert to state agencies, partners, and stakeholders. **Chairperson Beagley** shared that she felt the alerts were helpful because in her experience when an individual finds out a substance has been laced with fentanyl individuals will sometimes seek it out. **Mr. Person** stated that when the department identifies a trend or spike is affecting specific populations they will reach out to agencies and partners that work with those populations to increase their awareness of the presenting issue.

Chairperson Beagley thanked **Mr. Person** and **Ms. Jeffery** for their presentation.

PARENTS COMMISSION GRANTEE UPDATES

Chairperson Beagley invited **Ms. Nicole Valenzuela**, Program Administrator, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family, to share grantee updates with the commission. **Ms. Valenzuela** stated that the Parents Commission grantees had served over 39,000 individuals year-to-date. **Ms. Valenzuela** shared that the SFY22 Renewal Application process has been completed for Year 3 of the Parents Commission Grant. **Ms. Valenzuela** shared that over \$4.1 million dollars were awarded to the Year 3 cohort to continue delivering substance use prevention programming in their communities. **Ms. Valenzuela** shared that Wellington, the evaluator for the Parents Commission Grant, will present the SFY21 Parents Commission Grant Annual Report at the September 15, 2021 meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Beagley asked if any commissioners had any announcements they would like to share.

- **Chairperson Beagley** shared that the ASU Summer Institute launched on July 14, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. and would run through August 12, 2021. **Chairperson Beagley** stated that there were up to 30 Continuing Education hours available for completion at the conference.
- **Commissioner Robinson** requested a presentation related to the impact of marijuana concentrated substances on the neuropsychological well-being of youth.

FUTURE AGENDA/MEETING SCHEDULE

Chairperson Beagley stated the next scheduled meeting is set for September 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Executive Tower. **Chairperson Beagley** announced that the meeting would be hybrid (in-person & virtual) for those unable to attend in-person.

ADJOURN

Chairperson Beagley, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner Robinson** moved to adjourn. **Commissioner Klinkner** seconded the motion. The motion passed with no dissenting votes and the meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

16th Day of July, 2021
Parents Commission
Respectfully Submitted By:
Nicole Valenzuela
Program Administrator, GOYFF