



Arizona  
Substance Abuse  
Partnership



## Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership

December 2, 2021

1:00 PM

State Capitol Executive Tower

1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007

In-Person/Virtual Hybrid Meeting

A general meeting of the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) was convened on December 2, 2021. The public meeting was hosted both in-person and virtually, notice having been duly given.

### Members Present (16)

**Sheila Polk**, Chairperson, Yavapai County Attorney's Office

**Sara Salek**, Vice-Chairperson, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

**Andrew LeFevre**, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

**Zora Manjencich**, Arizona Attorney General's Office

**Sheila Sjolander**, Arizona Department of Health Services **[Proxy for Director Don Herrington]**

**Jean Ajamie**, Arizona Department of Education **[Proxy for Kathy Hoffman]**

**Jeff Hood**, Arizona Department of Juvenile Justice

**Lawrence LaVeque**, Cisco Systems

**Dawn Mertz**, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas

**Lee Pioske**, The Crossroads

**Amelia Cearlock**, Arizona Department of Child Safety **[Proxy for Michael Faust]**

**Tobi Zavala**, Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

**Ed Gilligan**, Arizona Department of Adult Probation

**Wanda Wright**, Arizona Department of Veterans Services

**Matt Kunda**, Arizona Department of Public Safety **[Proxy for Heston Silbert]**

**Karen Hellman**, Arizona Department Of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry **[Proxy for David Shinn]**

### Members Absent (8)

**Alberto Gutier**, Governor's Office of Highway Safety

**David Klein**, US Department of Veteran Affairs

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

**Kathleen Grimes**, Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition

**Merilee Fowler**, MATFORCE

**Leah Landrum-Taylor**, Arizona Department of Economic Security

<b>Thomas Kelly</b> , Apache Junction Police Department
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<b>Vanessa Bustos</b> , Pascua Yaqui Tribe
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- **Call to Order:**

**Sheila Polk, Chair** called the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) Meeting to order at 1:01 PM with 16 members present. **Ms. Polk** reviewed virtual meeting platform procedures.

- **Welcome/ Introductions**

- **Approval of Minutes:**

**Sheila Polk, Chair**, requested a final review of the September 2, 2021 meeting minutes at 1:07 PM. Corrections to the minutes were elevated. The motion was approved with modifications made by **Andrew LeFevre**, seconded by **Jeff Hood**. There were no dissenting votes and the motion passed.

- **Arizona Department of Health Services Data Presentation**

**Sheila Sjolander, Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health- Prevention Services**

ADHS Update on Opioid Data Trends:

- More than 5 Arizonans a day died from opioids in 2020.
- The latest data for 2020 saw a huge spike of a 45% increase over 2019 and has since increased again in 2021.
- Data obtained from death certificates showing deaths by month indicate a spike in July 2020, which remains the worst month with the highest number of deaths.
- As of Monday, November 29, 2021, over 1,500 deaths from opioid overdoses have been confirmed.
- It is anticipated that 2021 deaths will be higher than those in 2020.
- White, non-Hispanic individuals accounted for 57% of opioid deaths.

CDC 12 Month-ending Provisional Drug Overdoses as of April 2021:

- From April 2020- April 2021, there were over 2,000 opioid deaths reported.
- 1,192 deaths involving psycho-stimulants.

Rate of opioid deaths by county:

- The death rate per 100,000 residents was higher in 2020 than in 2019 for all counties except Yuma, which has the lowest in the state.
- The highest rates are in Maricopa, Pima, and Yavapai counties.

Fatal and non-fatal opioid events:

- Two-thirds of verified fatal and non-fatal opioid overdose events were among people aged 15-44, with 30% of overdose events among 25-34 year-olds.
- The epidemic seems to be hitting the younger population harder.

Data from the Arizona Child Fatality Review Board:

- Data comes out every November, and are recorded by a multidisciplinary team
  - In 2019, of the 30 poisoning deaths, 28 deaths involved opioids and 27 of those involved fentanyl.
  - In 2020 the numbers jumped up, with 52 poisoning deaths, of which 51 were opiate overdoses, fentanyl was responsible for 50 poisonings.
  - Deaths may include a variety of substance-related circumstances such as motor vehicle crashes, pool-related deaths, etc.
  - Naloxone administered by law enforcement personnel during suspected opioid overdose responses gradually increased until mid-2020, with ongoing fluctuations since then.
  - Pre-hospital/emergency medical services (EMS) responses for suspected opioid overdoses increased in 2020. Monthly responses have fluctuated but remained relatively constant since then.
- **Wanda Wright** inquired if there is there data available on deaths by suicide. **Ms. Sjolander** replied and said she believes the number is around 15%.
  - **Lee Pioske** asked if this is a national trend. **Ms. Sjolander** replied that the CDC report shows over 100,000 deaths and that 2020 saw an increase, with Arizona and California being hit the hardest.
  - **Dawn Mertz** asked that as Arizona has seen so many overdoses, is the state tracking unintentional deaths as well? **Sara Salek** stated that Arizona State University is in the process of completing a report that will include data on unintentional deaths.
  - **Ms. Sjolander** shared that the data will be posted on the ADHS website in the future.

- **Way Out West Coalition's Role in Prevention**  
**Larry Tracey, Way Out West Coalition**

Updates on the work of the coalition around prevention:

- According to the "community views surveys", that were administered to program participants in a community that is serviced by the WOW coalition, substance use used to be the #1

public health concern in Buckeye. COVID, anxiety, and depression now surpass concerns about substance use. The latter are directly correlated to increased substance use.

- Concerns about marijuana use surpass all other substances. 60% of participants surveyed are worried about youth use increasing because of Proposition 207.
- 38% say COVID has greatly impacted their children and 3 out of 4 report having conversations with their children about isolation, depression, and anxiety.
- The goal of the coalition is to help youth get through their teen years without using substances, through education and awareness.
- The coalition works with the National Guard Counterdrug Taskforce, Buckeye Elementary School District, the Buckeye Police Department, and the Glendale Police Department in addition to other community coalitions throughout the state of Arizona.
- The coalition holds youth events that include ACEs training, though many events have had to be canceled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Way Out West Coalition website statistics over the past year:

- 27,792 visitors
- 2,611, views to the resource page
- 1,556 resources downloads
- 20,547 views on the blog
- 414 webinar views

Way Out West Coalition media statistics over the past year:

- Billboards have reached 16,024,210 by visitors on the Interstate 10 freeway.
- Print media has reached 1,659,500.
- Social media posts have had 217,742 views.
- Pandora has had 212,468 impressions

- **Lawrence LaVeque** asked if the coalition uses public service announcements in the schools and if school administrations help push out the messaging. **Larry Tracey** replied that the students develop the messages as part of leadership development. **Mr. Tracey** stated that messages must be student-driven and that students must have

ownership. Students create, edit, discuss and develop all scripts with the assistance of Prevention Specialists, of which they are working on hiring more of.

- **Lee Pioske** added that it is very important to get into schools in order to spread the word about prevention.

- **Arizona Department of Corrections' Role in Prevention and Treatment**

- Karen Hellman, Inmate Programs and Reentry**

- o Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery within the Arizona Department of Corrections Recovery and Reentry (ADCRR):
      - ADCRR currently houses 34,395 inmates and has 4,665 offenders under community supervision.
      - As of June 30, 2021, 75% were assessed as needing either a medium or high level of treatment.
        - 5.8% of inmates have committed an offense of drug possession.
        - 11.6% of inmates have committed an offense of drug sales/trafficking.
        - 3.1% of inmates have committed an offense of DUI.
    - o ADCRR provides Recovery Wellness programming:
      - The inmate Recovery Support Specialist Program began in August of 2018.
      - The program was proposed to AHCCCS by Ms. Hellman's colleague, in which upon completion of training, inmates receive certification to provide peer support to other inmates.
      - Over 500 inmates have been trained.
      - Led by trained and certified inmate Recovery Support Specialists.
      - Voluntary participation.
      - 30-week program, five classes lasting six weeks each.
      - Recovery Support Specialists (RSS) receive regular supervision sessions.
    - o ADCRR provides outpatient, inpatient, and community-based treatment in a therapeutic community with a mixture of professional staff and Recovery Support Specialists (RSS).
    - o Program participants' needs are prioritized based on need and risk levels, as well as time remaining until their release. Currently, there are 20 trained staff (17 inmates and 3 professional staff). Sixty-nine participants have already completed the program. There are currently 53 participants enrolled.
  - **Andrew Lefevre** asked if this program was the same as the Second Chance program. **Ms. Hellman** replied that it is not the same program but is facilitated in the same unit.

- **Sheila Polk** asked if assessments were made prior to release. **Ms. Hellman** replied that two prisons are rolling out additional assessments before inmate release based on a case-by-case determination.
- **Jeff Hood** pointed out that the programming is very creative and a great use of resources as needs have always outweighed available resources.
- **Sara Salek** asked what Medically Assisted Treatments (MAT) are being used in the correctional setting. **Ms. Hellman** replied that all 3 MATs are being used.
- **Sheila Polk** asked what the current numbers are for those receiving inpatient treatment. **Ms. Hellman** stated that there are 90 participants enrolled, 20 have graduated, and approximately 150-180 come through the program each year.

### **EPI Workgroup Updates, Dr. Sara Salek, Vice-Chair**

**Dr. Salek** shared that the EPI workgroup recently reconnected and is in the process of finalizing a detailed data inventory, and is looking at the data to determine what analyses can be conducted by the workgroup. **Dr. Salek** stated that funding can be provided through Arizona State University and is working with Dr. Runger of ASU. Additional funding is available through the State Opioid Response Grant.

### **2022 Meeting Dates**

**Dr. Salek, Vice-Chair**, advised participants of the ASAP Meeting dates for 2022.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

**Sheila Polk, Chair** adjourned the December 2, 2021 meeting of the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership at 2:43 pm.

Dated the seventh day of December, 2021  
Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership  
Respectfully Submitted By: Alfreda Moore  
Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family