



**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.

<b>Members Present (16)</b>
<b>Sheila Polk</b> , Chairperson, Yavapai County Attorney's Office
<b>Sara Salek</b> , Vice-Chairperson, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
<b>Andrew LeFevre</b> , Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
<b>Zora Manjencich</b> , Arizona Attorney General's Office
<b>Sheila Sjolander</b> , Arizona Department of Health Services [Proxy for Don Herrington]
<b>Jean Ajamie</b> , Arizona Department of Education [Proxy for Kathy Hoffman]
<b>Jeff Hood</b> , Arizona Department of Juvenile Justice
<b>Lawrence LaVeque</b> , Cisco Systems
<b>Dawn Mertz</b> , High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas
<b>Lee Pioske</b> , The Crossroads
<b>Amelia Cearlock</b> , Arizona Department of Child Safety [Proxy for Michael Faust]
<b>Tobi Zavala</b> , Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners
<b>Ed Gilligan</b> , Arizona Department of Adult Probation
<b>Wanda Wright</b> , Arizona Department of Veterans Services
<b>Matt Kunda</b> , Arizona Department of Public Safety [Proxy for Heston Silbert]
<b>Karen Hellman</b> , Arizona Department Of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry [Proxy for David Shinn]
<b>Members Absent (8)</b>
<b>Alberto Gutier</b> , Governor's Office of Highway Safety
<b>David Klein</b> , US Department of Veteran Affairs
<b>Maria Cristina Fuentes</b> , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family
<b>Kathleen Grimes</b> , Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition
<b>Merilee Fowler</b> , MATFORCE

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

**Thomas Kelly**, Apache Junction Police Department

**Vanessa Bustos**, Pascua Yaqui Tribe

### 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

- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, welcomed everyone to the December 2021 ASAP meeting and conducted role call of the ASAP members in attendance.

### 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.
- **Andrew LeFevre** motioned to accept the proposed revisions to the September 2, 2021 meeting minutes.
- **Jeff Hood** seconded the motion. There were no dissenting votes and the motion passed.

### Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health Prevention Services,

#### Data Presentation

- **Sara Salek, Vice-Chair**, invited **Sheila Sjolander** to provide an update from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) on Opioid overdose data trends.
- **Ms. Sjolander** shared that in 2020, there was a 45% increase in opioid-related deaths over the previous year and these numbers continued to increase in 2021. **Ms. Sjolander** shared that as of Monday, November 29, 2021, over 1,500 deaths from opioid overdoses have been confirmed in 2021 and it is anticipated that in 2021, deaths will be higher than those in 2020.
- **Ms. Sjolander** stated that every county in the state of Arizona saw an increase in opioid deaths, with the exception of Yuma County, which has the lowest in the state. **Ms. Sjolander** explained that fatal and non-fatal opioid events are increasing in the younger population.
- **Ms. Sjolander** stated that law enforcement is saving lives by administering naloxone during suspected overdoses, which is estimated to be over 100 per month.
- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, thanked **Ms. Sjolander** for her presentation and stated that the problem seems to be getting worse, although there are a lot of efforts being made across the state to address the issue of substance abuse.
- **Colonel Wanda Wright** asked if there is current data available on deaths by suicide. **Ms. Sjolander** replied that she believes the number to be approximately 15%.
- **Lee Pioske** asked if the trends are national. **Ms. Sjolander** explained that the CDC reported over 100,000 overdose deaths in the United States in 2020.

- **Dawn Mertz** asked that since Arizona has seen so many overdoses, are unintentional deaths being tracked as well. **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, stated that Arizona State University is in the process of compiling a report that will include data on unintentional deaths. **Sara Salek** requested that **Ms. Sjolander** provide a follow up presentation of the analysis at a future ASAP meeting.
- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, thanked **Ms. Sjolander** again for the presentation.

### Way Out West Coalition's Role in Prevention

- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, introduced **Larry Tracey** to provide an overview of Way Out West Coalition's work around prevention.
- **Larry Tracey** stated that the goal of the coalition is to help youth get through their teen years without using substances through education and awareness. The Coalition's partners include the National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, Buckeye Elementary School District, the Buckeye Police Department, and the Glendale Police Department, in addition to other community coalitions throughout Arizona.
- **Mr. Tracey** stated that the coalition holds youth events that include ACEs training, social-emotional learning, and coping skills for youth, though many events have had to be canceled due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- **Lawrence LaVeque** asked if the coalition uses public service announcements in the schools and if school administrations help to push out the messaging. **Mr. Tracey** replied that the students develop the messages as part of leadership development. The messages must be student-driven so that students have a sense of ownership of the program. **Mr. Tracey** shared that students create, edit, discuss and develop all scripts with the assistance of Prevention Specialists, of which the coalition is working on hiring more to support the program. **Mr. Laveque** stated that it would be great if the material could be used in other schools, and commended **Mr. Tracey** on the coalition's work.
- **Lee Pioske** added that it is very important to get into schools in order to spread the word about prevention.
- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, thanked **Mr. Tracey** for his presentation.

### Arizona Department of Corrections, Inmate Programs and Reentry's Role in Prevention and Treatment

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, introduced **Karen Hellman** to provide an overview of substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery within the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation, and Reentry (ADCRR). **Ms. Hellman** provided a brief history about the ADCRR, and provided information about the various levels of substance abuse services. **Ms. Hellman** provided details about the agency's Recovery Wellness program, inpatient, outpatient, and

community-based treatment services that are provided in a therapeutic setting facilitated by a combination of professional staff and trained, certified peers.

- The inmate Recovery Wellness Program began in August of 2018. **Ms. Hellman** explained that the program was proposed to AHCCCS by a colleague, in which upon completion of training, inmates receive certification to provide peer support to other inmates. **Ms. Hellman** stated that over 500 inmates have been trained and certified as inmate Recovery Support Specialists. **Ms. Hellman** explained that the 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) with sixty-nine participants having completed the program. **Ms. Hellman** stated that 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, Chair**, 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 is a great use of resources, as needs have always outweighed available resources.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, asked what Medically Assisted Treatments (MAT) are being used in the correctional setting. **Ms. Hellman** replied that all 3 MAT's are being used.
- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, 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 participate in the program each year.

#### **Substance Abuse Epidemiology Workgroup Updates, Dr. Sara Salek, Vice-Chair**

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, shared that the EPI workgroup recently reconvened and is in the process of finalizing a detailed data inventory, and is reviewing the data to determine what analyses can be conducted by the workgroup.

#### **2022 Meeting Dates**

- **Sara 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.

2021 Dated the seventh day of December,

Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership

Respectfully Submitted By: Alfreda Moore  
Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family

DRAFT