



Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission
9:30 AM February 3, 2022
Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family
1700 West Washington Street, Suite 230, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A general meeting of the **Arizona Juvenile Justice Council (AJJC)** was convened on **February 3, 2022**, notice duly given.

Members Present (18)	Members Absent (7)
Cindi Nannetti, Chair	Tom Callahan
Tracy Darmody, Vice Chair	Jose Gonzales
Dorothy Wodraska	Dennis Pickering
Joseph Grossman	Lupita Durazo
Shaun Rieve	Jane Kallal
Maria Dodge	James Molina
Douglas Sargent	Michael Faust
Nicole Schuren	
Don Walker	
Steve Selover (proxy for Joseph Kelroy)	
Erica Maxwell	
Robert Thomas	
Alice Bustillo	
Vada Jo Phelps	
Earl Newton	
Melissa Castillo	
Shawn Cox	
Helen Gandara	
Staff and Presenters (4)	
Vicky Solomon, Nexus Coalition	Kim Brooks, GOYFF
Kelly Tanner, Arizona Youth Partnership	Maridee Jones, GOYFF

Call to Order

- **Ms. Cindi Nannetti**, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM with 18 members present and 7 members absent.
 - **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, reviewed the instructions of how the hybrid meeting would be facilitated and welcomed all those present.
 - **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, advised members of the public to submit their comments through the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) public comment page of the website.

Welcome/Introductions

- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, asked members to acknowledge their attendance during roll call.

Approval of Minutes

- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, requested a review of the **December 2, 2021** meeting minutes. Corrections were identified by members and the minutes are to be amended.
 - **Mr. Grossman** motioned to accept the **December 2, 2021** minutes, as amended.
 - **Ms. Wodroska** seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed with no dissenting votes at 9:37 A.M.

Staff Recognition

- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, presented **Steve Selover**, former Title II Program Administrator, with a commendation from Governor Doug Ducey, recognizing Mr. Selover for his professionalism, dedication, and tireless efforts to support at-risk youth, reduce recidivism, and promote public safety.
 - **Ms. Wodroska** also thanked Mr. Selover for his commitment to Title II and his hard work at organizing Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission meetings.

Juvenile Justice Update

- I. **Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections**
 - **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, welcomed newly appointed Director Douglas Sargent of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections. **Director Sargent** shared his background with the Council and stated he looks forward to serving in this new capacity on the Council.

Title II Program Presentations

- I. **Friends of Navajo County Anti-Drug Coalition, Taylor, Arizona**
 - **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, introduced **Ms. Vicky Solomon**, the Executive Director for Friends of Navajo County Anti-Drug Coalition—Nexus Coalition for Drug Prevention. **Ms. Solomon** began her presentation by sharing that she became the Executive Director of the program in 2016. Over the past six years, program staffing has been able to increase from two to seven with this being the first year having Title II funding. Located in the White Mountain region of Navajo County, this program focuses on building relationships with pre-teen and teens in multiple schools, juvenile justice centers, and faith-based centers. The program currently uses two different curricula. The first is evidence-based Botvin LifeSkills, which focuses on reducing drug and alcohol usage and life-building skills such as self-esteem, decision-making, dealing with stress, communication skills, social skills, and assertiveness. Also utilized is the evidence-based curriculum, an Alcohol Anonymous 12 step-based teenager program, known as MPOWRD. MPOWRD provides trauma-informed practices for primary intervention, meaningful response to student infractions, develops positive peer relationships through peer-to-peer class facilitation, continues transitional support through ongoing meetings and uses repetition for behavior management.
 - **Ms. Wodraska** thanked **Ms. Solomon** for her presentation and she mentioned how she used these very same evidence-based programs throughout her career and she is happy to see that they continue to be effective.
 - **Ms. Wodraska** then asked **Ms. Solomon** how long she has been doing this program and if she has any preliminary data on the effects of the program on the targeted population.
 - **Ms. Solomon** stated that she has been running this program for six years, however, this is her first year under the Title II grant. At this time, there is no preliminary data however she is open to recommendations on the best manner to collect this data.

- **Ms. Dodge** inquired about what age groups the program targets.
 - **Ms. Solomon** responded that the program starts with pre-teens in 5th grade and goes all the way up to the 12th grade, however, specific programs are targeted for specific age groups. **Ms. Solomon** stressed the importance of meeting with each group of students before determining which teaching method to administer.
- **Mr. Grossman** then asked how the program adjusted when schools were closed.
 - **Ms. Solomon** shared that the program pivoted in several ways including partnering with the breakfast and sack lunch program for students. **Ms. Solomon** and her staff assisted in distributing thousands of meals that included programmatic information packets in the lunch sacks. **Ms. Solomon** also conducted program-centered group meetings on ZOOM.
- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, then asked if the program had a system to track kids as they progressed through the grades.
 - **Ms. Solomon** replied that yes, the program is tracking data utilizing surveys that are placed into a database. At this time, there is no preliminary data but she is open to suggestions or recommendations on how to better track data.
- **Ms. Wodraska** then suggested that she utilize an online information sharing guide which Steve [Selover] had leadership on and explains the type of information that can be legally asked by different agencies.
- **Ms. Maxwell** asked if it could be clarified that the MPOWRD program is modeled after Alcoholics Anonymous and she then asked if there is a train-the-trainer model being used for the students.
- **Ms. Solomon** affirmed that MPOWRD is modeled after Alcoholics Anonymous. There is not an official train-the-trainer program being used. **Ms. Solomon** stated that she likes to focus on kids that demonstrate having more challenges or kids that are being bullied.
- **Mr. Newton** mentioned how churches are very important in the small towns of Navajo County, especially Holbrook and Winslow, and inquired about how the organization is working to build relationships with churches and local organizations.
- **Ms. Solomon** responded that over the last six years, the program had received grants in the past that focused on specific geographic areas. However, under Title II, the program is focused on the Holbrook area, Joseph City, and can shift focus to anywhere in Navajo County when it is needed. As an example, **Ms. Solomon** reported that Winslow school district reached out to her and stated they had a child overdose and if her program could help them. In response, **Ms. Solomon's** program took over 150 Narcans and trained 122 staff members in Narcan usage.
- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, further explained that **Mr. Newton** made a great point because families tend to stay with their churches and that would be an excellent way to track kids down the line and compile data.

II. Arizona Youth Partnership, Mohave and Yavapai Counties, Arizona

- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, welcomed and introduced **Ms. Kelly Tanner**, Director of Homeless Youth Services for Arizona Youth Partnership.
 - **Ms. Tanner** began her presentation with a background on the program. The program started in 2013 under Title II grant; under current Title II award and focuses on juveniles in shelters and tribal partners. Currently, the program has two boys' shelters and one girls' shelter. Arizona Youth Partnership utilizes grants from multiple sources and focuses on case management and reducing recidivism. Its focus is a Delinquency Prevention Model (Mind Matters), which includes the following elements:
 - Positive youth development

- Trauma informed care
 - Wrap around services
 - Positive adult connections
 - Aftercare
 - Coping skills
- **Mr. Grossman** asked about the progress of the program since starting the recent Title II grant in October of 2021.
 - **Ms. Tanner** stated that 115 juveniles were in virtual health classes which were conducted in partnership with Kingman Academy. Also, the program continued to see kids in shelters, juveniles at night reporting, and kids at the juvenile justice center in Yavapai County. Furthermore, **Ms. Tanner** explained that the program had undergone challenges, most significantly staff turnaround.
 - **Mr. Grossman** then asked if these were all homeless youth and how long kids usually stay in the program's shelters and if the program also focuses on reunification.
 - **Ms. Tanner** replied that her program tends to work with the kids that have "fallen through the cracks" of the justice system or the foster care system but not all kids in the program are homeless. Also, juveniles stay at the shelter for twenty-one days due to the law. However, the program also has grants through the Department of Child Safety and Arizona Office of the Courts. Those programs are able to fund beds that the federal government does not fund. As a result, the program does not need to exit kids without placement. **Ms. Tanner** continued that family dynamics is the biggest issue and when the program's counselors meet with parents. The program has also worked to meet parents' needs and provide assistance in any way necessary.
 - **Mr. Newton** then asked what the program considered to be a successful student that entered the program if reunification with family did not occur.
 - **Ms. Tanner** explained that often the program strived to place kids with alternative family placement including grandparents, family friends, or even group homes.
 - **Ms. Cox** asked about the program's trainers who have become case managers and how that workflow has been tracked.
 - **Ms. Tanner** responded that it has not worked out as well as it could have because her program would ideally require funds both to employ educators and case managers.
 - **Ms. Cox** explained it may be helpful if the program compared the percentage of workload during training versus the percentage of workload completed after training.
 - **Ms. Tanner** then thanked **Ms. Cox** for her advice.
 - **Ms. Wodraska** asked where the program is located and how youth are identified to require the program's resources.
 - **Ms. Tanner** responded that the agency is statewide, however the program that she oversees is Mohave and Yavapai Counties. Also, youth are referred to the program through shelters, identified by school resource officers, or school mental health staff.
 - **Ms. Wodraska** then asked if the program has implemented any pre or post evaluation.
 - **Ms. Tanner** responded that the program does utilize pre and post surveys which are completed with the case manager. These surveys include how many hours were spent with the case manager, if school attendance has improved, if the case manager has met with the parents, and reports of any recidivism.
 - **Ms. Wodraska** asked if the time that the juvenile spends in the program is determined by the program's funds or if the length of time is determined by the referral source.

- **Ms. Tanner** explained that when a juvenile is referred by a school, that juvenile must spend a certain amount of sessions in the program and complete a prevention or intervention program before the youth is brought in front of a judge to see if they can return to school. However, the diversion program goes much faster, approximately 60 days, and case managers will still follow-up with the child.
- **Ms. Wodraska** stated that the case managers keeping in contact with the juvenile is great for determining recidivism. **Ms. Tanner** further stated that the program tracks recidivism through case manager, juvenile probation and court record follow-up.
- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, stated that she loves how Arizona Youth Partnership pieces different grants together to accomplish the program's goals. **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, then thanked **Ms. Tanner** for her presentation.

Future Meeting Dates

- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, advised the next meeting will convene May 5, 2022, at 09:30 AM.

Adjourn

- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, called for adjournment at 10:42 AM.
 - **Mr. Grossman** motioned and was seconded by **Ms. Cox**.

Draft

03 February 2022
Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission
Respectfully Submitted By:
Maridee Jones
Juvenile Justice Specialist, GOYFF