



**Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission**  
**9:30 AM May 5, 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 **May 5, 2022**, notice duly given.

Members Present (17)	Members Absent (9)
Cindi Nannetti, Chair	Tom Callahan
Tracy Darmody, Vice Chair	Jose Gonzales
Dorothy Wodraska	Dennis Pickering
Randi Alexander (proxy for Michael Faust)	Don Walker
Shaun Rieve	Earl Newton
Maria Dodge	Alice Bustillo
Douglas Sargent	Julie Hawkins
Nicole Schuren	Melissa Castillo
James Molina	Joseph Grossman
Steve Selover (proxy for Joseph Kelroy)	
Erica Maxwell	
Robert Thomas	
Lupita Durazo	
Vada Jo Phelps	
Laura Lopez (proxy for Shawn Cox)	
Helen Gandara	
Jane Kallal	
Staff and Presenters (5)	
Dr. Raymonda Matheka, Clinical Director, Adobe Mountain	Kim Brooks, GOYFF
Jessica Vocca, Principal of Dr. Daniel Bright School, Cottonwood Oak-Creek District	Lucy Noriega, GOYFF
Kainoa Spenser, GOYFF	Emily Uline-Olmstead, GOYFF

**Call to Order**

- Ms. Cindi Nannetti, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM with 17 members present and 9 members absent.

**Welcome / Introductions / Roll Call**

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

## Approval of Minutes

- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, requested a review of the **February 3, 2021** meeting minutes. No corrections were identified by members.
  - **Ms. Phelps** motioned to accept the **February 3, 2021** minutes.
  - **Ms. Wodroska** seconded the motion.
  - The motion passed with no dissenting votes at 9:41 A.M.

## Staff Recognition

- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, took time to give recognition and a moment of silence for the passing of former Maricopa County Attorney *Allister Adel*.

## Juvenile Justice System Update

### I. Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, welcomed newly appointed **Director Douglas Sargent** of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC). **Director Sargent** gave a presentation on the **Impact of Covid 19 on the AZ Department of Juvenile Corrections**. **Director Sargent** started off his presentation by going over the impact that COVID-19 had on operations across the entire Department of Juvenile Corrections. He stated that there is an average of 130-140 youth in their secure facility at all times, while they also serve around 100 youth living in the surrounding community. Currently, no youth at the Adobe Mountain School are positive for COVID-19, and only 2 positive staff members. **Director Sargent** shared that 162 youth and 211 staff tested positive for COVID-19 over the last two years.
  - Through a partnership with the Arizona Department of Health Services, with the consent of the parent / legal guardian, ADJC was able to provide on-site vaccination services for the youth in their care. 50 youth have been fully vaccinated on-site and 6 youth are fully boosted.
  - ADJC can provide on-site vaccination for the staff of Adobe Mountain.
- Despite facing all of these positive cases; Adobe Mountain was still able to provide the necessary services for the youth in their facility. One of the ways that they were able to respond so quickly to the COVID pandemic was due to their updated Business Continuity Emergency Plan completed in 2019. The main part of this plan was the implementation of the Emergency Operations Center.
  - This center consisted of members from HR leadership, Inspector General, the communication team, financial business, and social work departments working alongside school leadership.
  - This team was responsible for overseeing the different protocols and processes that were put into place as safeguards to protect the youth and staff during the pandemic. These safeguards included such things as contact tracing and setting up different housing for youth who tested positive so that they had a designated space for quarantine.
  - This plan ensured that there was enough school staff available to provide the necessary services while following federal staffing regulations which proved to be another layer of difficulty for the staff because the normal staff to kid ratio is 1:8 during the day and 1:16 at night.
  - Through this operation center Adobe Mountain was also able to set up multiple Safeguards that allowed for increased COVID-19 protection for all youth and staff. These safeguards included health screenings at the entrance of Adobe, increased sanitation, biweekly intakes versus weekly, different types of testing, acquiring PPE, and designating medical housing units for quarantining youth.

- The HR team also did daily health check-up phone calls for employees that were out with COVID-19 which resulted in very positive feedback from those sick staff members. Adobe Mountain was able to contract with medical assistants to help with routine health checkups and COVID-19 testing.
- Testing offered included rapid, saliva, and antigen testing to make sure the results were as accurate as possible, partnering with ASU for the saliva tests allowed Adobe Mountain to find asymptomatic positive youth and staff to be proactive.
- Another method utilized to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 was suspending in-person youth visitation and moving towards a virtual option throughout the pandemic. In-person mentor and volunteer visits were also suspended and moved to a virtual option.
- Adobe Mountain continued with its educational programs through mixed school schedules or one on one tutoring sessions with the teachers and youth.
- Adobe Mountain suspended their work training programs.
- Currently, in-person and virtual visitation options are open. Masks and weekly testing for staff are still required. Adobe Mountain was able to reopen the sports program, trade work programs, and allow meals in the dining hall. In-person visits are open and volunteers/mentors are allowed back on-site to meet with the youth. Also, the CDC guidelines no longer require masks in secure correctional facilities
- **Ms. Lopez** asked **Director Sargent** how the staff helped support youth and staff who lost family members/friends to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Director Sargent** responded that **Dr. Matheka** could better answer and explained there were a few staff and youth who had relatives pass away and that counseling was provided by clinical staff for those dealing with grief. **Director Sargent** further explained Adobe Mountain luckily did not have any students or staff pass away during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Ms. Maxwell** then asked **Director Sargent** if he saw any social and emotional health/behavior changes in the youth who are in a secure care facility during the pandemic. **Director Sargent** responded saying **Dr. Matheka** will also speak better about the clinical services provided in Adobe Mountain but he felt most of the fear that led to behavioral changes stemmed from the unknown. **Director Sargent** expressed his gratitude for the good processes in place that Adobe Mountain relied on throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. He further explained that the Virtual visitation brought about by the pandemic had a major role in getting families much more involved with the youth to help with those who are dealing with depression and anxiety stemming from separation issues.
- **Ms. Wodraska** then asked **Director Sargent** what Adobe Mountain learned through the COVID-19 pandemic that changed their operation's plan and how Adobe Mountain implemented those changes. **Director Sargent** responded saying that they learned something new every day and found the efficiency behind virtual visitation options. Adobe Mountain also had a great foundation due to the ADJC business continuity plan and the standard work operations which helped support the changes during COVID-19.
- **Ms. Dodge** then asked **Director Sargent** if ADJC was experiencing a higher rate of family visitation overall. **Director Sargent** responded by saying they are down for in-person visits by self-imposed measures but now are starting to open up fully for in-person visitation. If one was to include virtual visitations and in-person visitations then visits as a whole are way up. He said on a separate note that they conducted a survey within the families and he has a team working on being able to offer transportation for families to visit. **Director Sargent** said a quarter of the families would be interested in that.

- **Ms. Darmondy** then asked **Director Sargent** what Adobe Mountain is doing to provide recognition for the incredible service their staff has provided. **Director Sargent** explained that ADJC has an annual staff recognition ceremony and award program to recognize staff accomplishments.
- **Ms. Gandara** then asked **Director Sargent** if he saw any disparities for the youth of color in Adobe Mountain during the pandemic. **Director Sargent** stated that he did not see any himself. He asked **Dr. Matheka** who responded that there are some disparities for youth in relation to where they live or where they're from but not any disparity is related to the impacts of COVID-19 in Adobe Mountain.

## II. Juvenile Justice Services Division

- **Ms. Nannetti**, Chair, welcomed **Steve Selover**, Budgets & Program Manager of the Juvenile Justice Services Division, Arizona Supreme Court. He gave a presentation on the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Juvenile Justice Services and the Arizona Strategic Agenda for the Court.
- **Mr. Selover** stated that he is speaking on behalf of Director Joseph Kelroy as his proxy. **Mr. Selover** started by sharing a broad overview and a look at the Arizona Strategic Agenda for the Court and how that fits into the AOC Juvenile Justice Division. The agenda for the court is a five-year plan that sets out the goals for the Arizona judicial system which will soon be updated after 2024. **Mr. Selover** discussed a broad overview of the programs that the juvenile justice division provides and how they align with the goals of the agenda for the court.
- **Mr. Selover** further explained that the main role of the AOC strategic agenda is to focus on Goal 2: Protecting Children, Families, and Communities - all of the AOC programs are based around this role such as expanding mental health and substance abuse prevention resources. All of the programs and materials are evidence-based which allows sustainable practices to continue throughout the years. This will help provide overall system improvements, expand trauma-informed practices, create better outcomes, and reduce recidivism overall. The model that AOC uses to look at recidivism is based on the three areas of risk, need, and responsibility. It is in the Responsibility portion that AOC can have a direct impact and understand why people re-offend but also make sure that they are provided services to counteract any negative influences. AOC is part of a system that is responsible for identifying ways to reduce recidivism and produce better outcomes. The department also has many state and federal partners that are helping provide the necessary resources for the programs connected to the AOC strategic agenda.
- **Mr. Selover** further explained the Arizona Youth Assessment is the backbone of the other programs because it allows them to determine the risk factor that they're at and the best programs they can use to help mitigate negative outcomes. The Hope Centers are also proving to be another great alternative to detention centers in reducing juvenile delinquency. These centers provide community-based resources to youth and families. AOC is also participating in many system improvement initiatives. These include things such as the Arizona code of judicial administration, detention standards, statutes, and even local policy changes.
- **Mr. Selover** finished his presentation by reviewing the court's goals moving forward. This includes revamping the Probation Officer Certificate Academy to have the second week of training for juvenile specific issues. With FY23 coming soon it will also offer a new solicitation of contracts to give the opportunity for additional trauma-informed programs. The AOC is also in the process of ongoing system updates for the JOLTS AZ data and improving the program where that data sits so it is most accessible. Furthermore, AOC has also helped train 5 counties in their Fentanyl Awareness Program and the goal is to train all counties in Arizona. This is a community problem so it needs to be a community solution. In partnership with the HIDTA response teams and the

expertise they bring, AOC collaborates on providing substance abuse awareness and training to youth and families.

- **Ms. Darmody** asked **Mr. Selover** about the Awareness Program and how it addresses new drugs besides Fentanyl such as ISO which we will be seeing soon. **Mr. Selover** answered that this was just created six months ago by the county since it is such a big problem - 80% of Fentanyl comes out of Arizona. **Mr. Selover** reiterated that the awareness program can definitely be adapted with other drug resources.
- **Ms. Alexander** asked **Mr. Selover** what cultural awareness training has been provided to staff to help remove their implicit biases and prejudices. **Mr. Selover** stated that each county has its own training in regards to cultural awareness and understanding of racial disparities. Some counties are leaders in it such as Pima, Yuma, and Pinal but AOC does not have training on that specifically. AOC is working on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training for Judges and increasing family engagement in case planning to help remove racial disparities at all levels.
  - **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, also stated that the Juvenile Justice Court (JJC) has mandatory training that provides Juvenile Judges with DEI training. **Mr. Selover** asked if that could be provided and shared with other agencies.
- **Ms. Lopez** thanked **Mr. Selover** and all staff at the AOC for bringing awareness to Fentanyl usage as she is the mother of a recovering Fentanyl user. She expressed her immense gratitude that this issue was brought to the forefront and there is training for it. **Mr. Selover** then stated that there has been a positive response from the community within Yuma county for this program. **Ms. Nannetti** also said there is a great response team and partners in that community and it might be interesting to have Yuma County come up and speak at a meeting.

#### **Adobe Mountain Clinical Program**

- I. **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, welcomed **Dr. Matheka, Clinical Director of the Adobe Mountain School**.
  - **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, shared her experience of over 19 years of trauma-informed care and 8 years working in Corrections. Her goal is to bring more trauma-informed care when practicing and working with underserved populations.
  - **Dr. Matheka** before presenting addressed **Ms. Alexander's** question about any changes in youth behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Dr. Matheka** responded by saying youth are acting just like everyone else during the pandemic. They saw a rise in depression and anxiety brought on by a lack of connection with the community and uncertainty of the situation. Adobe Mountain had many of its services in-house and was still able to provide the necessary services for high-risk youth. The implementation of virtual visits helped mitigate many of the negative behaviors brought on during the pandemic.
  - **Dr. Matheka** started the presentation by saying all youth start mental health care on day one of entrance at Adobe Mountain. They begin by receiving a full mental health screening when they enter and have a 14-day intake process where specific areas of need are identified. This allows for an individualized treatment plan for their specific needs with highly trained mental health specialists. The overarching theme of trauma-informed care sits at the heart of all protocols that take place at Adobe Mountain, including having one-on-one therapy sessions and group therapy offered weekly. There are 12 fully trained juvenile mental health experts at Adobe Mountain and youth are seen by their therapist at least once every 14 days. They are trained in providing Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), and other specialized trauma therapy. These forms of therapy help the youth learn how to reprocess traumatic experiences and each therapist who uses EMDR receives around 40 hours of training to be certified. Adobe Mountain has two housing units for youth dealing with significant

substance use disorders through its partnership with the Arizona Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (RSAT). Adobe Mountain offers the STAR program (Sex Trafficking Awareness and Rehabilitation) which raises awareness and provides support for female youth who are victims of sex trafficking. Adobe Mountain also has Stages of Accomplishment for sexually abusive and troubled youth. **Dr. Matheka** stated Adobe is supposed to have one therapist per housing unit but half of the positions currently sit vacant due to recruitment issues.

- Adobe Mountain has a year-round school schedule in which they have credit recovery options that are aligned with State Standards. Along with offering GED and high school diplomas, the youth are offered a variety of trade programs. These range from Cosmetology, Computer Animation and Gaming, Automotive, Culinary Arts, Electrical, and School to Work programs. These were shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic but have since reopened. For Adobe Mountain youth, there is an on-site medical clinic that provides medical and dental treatments, psychiatric needs, and provides educational materials. This clinic is run by two doctors who are board-certified in pediatric and adolescent medicine and also certified in addiction counseling. Adobe Mountain wants to grow this clinic into having a full addiction center that is able to provide more services and educational programs. One program that is related to this issue and very helpful to current Adobe youth and families is the Naloxone training and distribution program.
- **Ms. Wodraska** then said there have been problems in the past with school records transferring and asked **Dr. Matheka** if there are any problems with school credits transferring once the youth leave Adobe. **Dr. Matheka** responded that the problems associated with transferring have gotten better now that technology has allowed for quicker upload and processing by all the necessary parties involved. One of the major tools used to help this process is the implementation of the PowerSchools online system and curriculum manager. **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, responded by saying that the work programs provided are creating wonderful opportunities for the youth since they are training them with highly sought-after job skills.

### **Cottonwood Oak-Creek District**

#### **I. Ms. Nannetti, Chair, welcomes Jamie Woodward, District Curriculum Coordinator of Cottonwood Oak-Creek District**

- In 2021 the Cottonwood Oak-Creek District received funding through the GOYFF Trauma-Informed Substance Abuse Prevention Program (TISAPP) Grant to provide a Neurosequential model of education in their district. This provides students and staff with tools to relate, regulate and reason in a moderate and safe setting in order to build resiliency.
- **Ms. Elaine Rankin** stated that she will be stepping in for Jamie Woodward and giving the presentation alongside her colleagues. **Ms. Kraken** is the Neurosequential model program coordinator for the Cottonwood Oak-Creek District. She is joined by **Jessica Vocca**, Principal of Dr. Daniel Bright School, their Vice Principal, **Nicole Barrier**, and other teachers.
- **Principal Vocca** stated that it is very positive to hear the other presentations and to be around like-minded colleagues who are also providing trauma-informed care. Dr. Daniel Bright School has been a K-8 school for the last four years. They use Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) programs to assess their youth and to identify the barriers youth and their families are facing. Within their school, they use a "Multi-tiered System of Supports" (MTSS) based on the findings of Dr. Bruce Perry as this is the best way to serve their students and the families who are struggling. Rallying community members and partners who can help with juvenile probation are showing how the MTSS helps by providing a layer of support that not only helps the youth but also families. It has taken about five years of work to build the system of providing and teaching resilience through

trauma-informed care that they have right now. The office transitioned its purpose from punitive to being proactive by doing a lot of work on alternative suspension options.

- Another goal is removing systemic barriers as a whole for all students, creating universal accommodations, and providing training for their teachers so they are working from the same understanding. The school provides resources through a Behavioral Layered Support system that is tier-based so that all youth who walk through the doors receive the individualized care they need to succeed. The school also has different types of classrooms so that youth with different learning styles can have the correct spaces. All of these classrooms center around the concept of the Neurosequential Model In Education (NME) which has a mission to “Capture the Youth's Hearts” which is shown through the body language of the teacher the moment they engage with a student. NME is not a program you buy but data that shows a sequence of how to make students feel cared for and engaged. It allows the teachers to pull in the students so they can better relate to them and helps to regulate their emotions so education can take place.
- **Principal Vocca** then handed off the presentation to **Ms. Barrier** to share next steps for how the school is moving forward with program implementation. She is working on the alternative suspension program by making students more cognitively aware of their behavioral impact on others. Additionally, she is working with the school resource officer to track attendance and provide mental health resources to youth and families. The end goal is to provide students with tools to act in a predictable, moderate, and controlled way so that they can build resilience as students and teachers.

#### **Title II Staff Updates**

- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, welcomed **Emily Uline-Olmstead**, Justice Program Manager at GOYFF. **Ms. Uline-Olmstead announced** that GOYFF has brought on two new staff members since the last AJCC meeting. **Lucy Noreiga** will serve as the Title II Juvenile Justice Compliance Monitor and **Kainoa Spenser** will be the Executive Assistant.

#### **Future Meeting Dates**

- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair**, advised the next meeting will convene on September 1, 2022, at 9:30 am.

#### **Adjourn**

- **Ms. Nannetti, Chair** called for adjournment at 11:32 AM.
  - **Ms. Wodroska** motioned and was seconded by **Ms. Phelps**.

05 May 2022  
Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Kainoa Spenser  
Executive Assistant, GOYFF