



Arizona  
Substance Abuse  
Partnership

**Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership**

**September 1, 2022**

**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 September 1, 2022. The public meeting was hosted both in-person and virtually, notice having been duly given.

**Members Present (18)**

<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>Alfreda Moore</b> , Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family <b>[Proxy for Maria Cristina Fuentes]</b>
<b>Carla Berg</b> , Arizona Department of Health Services <b>[Proxy for Sheila Sjolander]</b>
<b>Yadira Price</b> , Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections <b>[Proxy for Douglas Sargent]</b>
<b>Lawrence LaVeque</b> , Cisco Systems
<b>Dawn Mertz</b> , High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas
<b>Sara Perry</b> , Arizona Department of Child Safety <b>[Proxy for Michael Faust]</b>
<b>Wanda Wright</b> , Arizona Department of Veterans Services
<b>Merilee Fowler</b> , MATFORCE
<b>Leah Landrum-Taylor</b> , Arizona Department of Economic Security
<b>Christina Russell</b> , Arizona Department Of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry <b>[Proxy for David Shinn]</b>
<b>Cynthia Pitaro</b> , Arizona Department of Education <b>[Proxy for Kathy Hoffman]</b>
<b>Shanda Breed</b> , Arizona Department of Adult Probation
<b>Zora Manjencich</b> , Arizona Attorney General’s Office
<b>Kathleen Grimes</b> , Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition
<b>Chad Hinderliter</b> , Arizona Department of Public Safety <b>[Proxy for Heston Silbert]</b>

**Members Absent (5)**

<b>Tobi Zavala</b> , Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners
<b>Alberto Gutier</b> , Governor’s Office of Highway Safety

<b>David Klein</b> , United States Department of Veterans Affairs
<b>Vanessa Bustos</b> , Pascua Yaqui Tribe
<b>Lee Pioske</b> , The Crossroads

### Call to Order

- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, called the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) meeting to order at 1:00 PM with 18 members present. **Ms. Polk** reviewed virtual meeting platform procedures.

### Welcome/Introductions

- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, welcomed everyone to the September 2022 ASAP meeting and conducted a roll call of the members in attendance.

### Approval of Minutes

- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, requested a final review of the May 5, 2022 meeting minutes at 1:05 PM.
- **Zora Manjencich** motioned to accept the May 5, 2022 meeting minutes without revision.
- **Leah Landrum-Taylor** seconded the motion. There were no dissenting votes and the motion passed.

### Substance Abuse Coalition Leaders of Arizona (SACLAZ)'s Expansion in Arizona

- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, invited **Merilee Fowler** to provide an update on Substance Abuse Coalition Leaders of Arizona (SACLAZ)'s new coalitions. **Ms. Fowler** introduced **Bernadette Coggins**, Program Director for the Tempe Coalition, **Shelly Verley**, Director of Standup AJ, and **Joronda Montano**, Prevention Specialist with Standup AJ.
- **Bernadette Coggins** provided the history of the Tempe Coalition, sharing that their original prevention work began in 1996, and in 2009 the coalition evolved into what it is today, serving diverse populations and students.
- **Ms. Coggins** explained how the Tempe Coalition is currently funded at a state and federal level. She briefly discussed the initiatives that the coalition is currently involved in that target youth alcohol and marijuana abuse, as well as provide education on the dangers of drugs.
- **Joronda Montano** provided an overview of the partnership between the Tempe Coalition and Standup AJ, sharing that the mentoring partnership began almost 10 years ago when they wrote their first grant together, which was later funded.
- **Ms. Montano** stated that the coalition used the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) as a best practice in developing the coalition. She explained how the framework's five step process rests on sustainability and cultural competence.
- **Joronda Montano** continued by sharing that Standup AJ used community surveying for data collection to access the needs of the community. She went on to explain how the

coalition became a fully functioning and operating entity, providing an overview of the coalition and how it was founded, as well as her role.

- **Ms. Montano** shared details about the coalition's social media outreach, and briefly discussed the coalition's role in Narcan training and distribution.
- **Shelly Verley** stated that the coalition was established in June of 2020 by a group of community members and organizations that shared the common desire and goal of preventing substance misuse in Apache Junction, and shared the coalition's mission statement.
- **Ms. Verley** briefly discussed community events and collaborations that have helped to create a stronger connection with the community, providing an overview of the collaboration with the Kids at Hope program. **Ms. Verley** shared that the coalition plans to create future programs that will engage elders and caregivers in the community.
- **Shelly Verley** continued by providing data that the coalition has gathered related to how Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma affect substance use, the progress of capacity building, the impact of resistance strategies and risk factors, as well as information on youth perceptions regarding specific substances.
- **Ms. Verley** reiterated how new funding will help facilitate the coalition's work over the next five years.
- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, thanked the presenters for their work in establishing coalitions across the state, and congratulated the group on obtaining grant funding. **Ms. Polk** stated that grassroots level coalitions can help to make a positive impact in lives on a daily basis.
- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, invited commission members to ask any questions they may have for the presenters.
- **Larry Tracey** commented that the assessment of community needs is important information.
- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, thanked the presenters again for their work on behalf of Arizona.
- **Sara Salek, Vice-Chair**, thanked the presenters for their work in the community and the difference they are making by understanding the needs of the community.

#### **PAXIS Institute: Overview of PAXIS Institute's Implementation Efforts in Arizona**

- **Sara Salek, Vice-Chair**, introduced PAXIS Institute Vice-President, **Carmen Irving**, and PAX Program Manager, **Jeanette Puskas**, to provide an overview of the PAXIS Institute's Good Behavior Game (GBG) and PAX Tools.
- **Sara Salek, Vice-Chair**, briefly explained how the program was previously funded by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) as a primary prevention, evidence-based strategy distributed in first and second grade classrooms. She shared that the program is now funded through the Arizona Department of Education (ADE).

- **Carmen Irving** provided an overview of PAX and the program's reach at a worldwide level. **Ms. Irving** stated that Arizona, specifically, has done a great job at implementing the PAX program.
- **Ms. Irving** shared that the initial success of the initiative through the state medicaid program has allowed the ADE to leverage funding to provide PAX Tools programming in schools. She explained the different kinds of community-based training programs for professionals, including educators, human service staff, youth workers, and site-specific professionals.
- **Carmen Irving** expressed the importance of parental and caregiver involvement in understanding evidence-based strategies and providing protective factors.
- **Jeanette Puskas** gave information about current PAX initiatives providing details about the number of at-large and site-specific trainings and projections. She provided additional information of the statewide initiative and different organizations currently receiving PAX Tools training throughout the state and the communities that are impacted.
- **Carmen Irving** ended the presentation by giving an overview of some strategies that are used to promote positive reinforcement in the school setting.
- **Sara Salek, Vice-Chair**, invited questions for the presenters. **Dr. Salek** expressed support of the strategies used in PAX Tools, and explained that there have been longitudinal studies in peer reviewed journals that demonstrate a reduction in substance use within communities as a result of the use of PAXIS. **Dr. Salek** added that the strategies have shown to help with childhood self-regulation.
- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, thanked the presenters.

## **Arizona Criminal Justice Commission**

### **Mentoring Youth Affected by the Opioid Crisis and Drug Addiction Grant**

#### **Proposition 207 - Smart and Safe Arizona Act**

- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, welcomed **Director Andrew LeFevre** of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC).
- **Director Andrew LeFevre** provided an overview of the ACJC, as well as the agency's current federal funding. He explained how the funding is used to address criminal justice needs, as well as substance abuse treatment for persons in jail or prison.
- **Director LeFevre** continued by giving an overview of the current funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). He explained how the grant provides funding to provide mentoring for youth affected by opioids and substance abuse.
- **Director LeFevre** provided information about the Arizona Youth Survey (AYS). He stated he would be releasing data results from the current survey at the Arizona Drug

Summit, adding that youth in rural counties have been adversely affected by trauma and subsequent substance use.

- **Director LeFevre** stated that his agency selected 133 sites in Arizona to provide mentoring services to youth who have elevated risks of substance use. He explained that three substance abuse coalition sites were chosen to serve as primary pilot partners, and the selected counties were: Graham, Yavapai, and Mojave.
- **Director Andrew LeFevre** continued by sharing that the selected coalitions are serving as Case Managers and are administering the grant in different ways based on the needs of their respective communities.
- **Director LeFevre** invited **Merilee Fowler** to explain the model that they are using at the Yavapai County site. **Ms. Fowler** explained how the mentorship project is being used in a school setting.
- **Director Andrew LeFevre** shared that his agency would like to apply for additional grant funding in the future to provide the opportunity to expand, stating he hopes that the efficacy of the pilot program will provide the necessary leverage for future funding.
- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, thanked **Director LeFevre** for his presentation, and welcomed questions.
- **Dawn Mertz** asked how the student participants were identified. **Merilee Fowler** responded that the schools identify and select the students to participate.
- **Sara Salek, Vice-Chair**, thanked **Director LeFevre** for his presentation.

#### **Arizona Attorney General's Office: Arizona Opioid Settlement**

- **Sara Salek, Vice-Chair**, introduced **Matthew du Mee**, Chief Counsel, Consumer Litigation Unit at the Arizona Attorney General's Office.
- **Matthew du Mee** provided an overview of the opioid crisis in Arizona and explained the opioid settlement negotiations with Johnson & Johnson and distributors of their products that began in 2017. He discussed how settlement funds would be distributed nationwide to state and local governments, as well as to the companies involved.
- **Mr. du Mee** continued by providing an overview of how allocated funds would be distributed to local governments in Arizona under the One Arizona Plan. He went into further detail about approved uses for the settlement funding under the One Arizona Plan's list of Opioid Abatement Strategies.
- **Matthew du Mee** ended his presentation by sharing that more information will be published on the Arizona Attorney General's website to help ensure transparency and accountability.
- **Sara Salek, Vice-Chair**, stated that she appreciates the work of the agency, adding that the Arizona Medicaid program has been looking into contingency management and

would like to explore the possibility of utilizing the opioid settlement funds to support these efforts.

- **Matthew du Mee** recommended that anyone interested in seeking funding from the settlement to contact the Attorney General's Office directly, adding that they welcome partnerships with other agencies.
- **Carla Berg** asked if **Matthew du Mee** would be the point of contact. **Mr. du Mee** affirmed he is the point of contact.
- **Dawn Mertz** asked if the settlement includes pharmacies. **Mr. du Mee** explained that pharmacies are not included in the settlement.
- **Dawn Mertz** asked if the funds could be used in substance abuse prevention. **Mr. du Mee** affirmed that the funds could be used for substance abuse prevention services.
- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, thanked **Mr. du Mee** and the work of the Attorney General's Office in addressing the opioid crisis.
- **Sara Salek, Vice-Chair**, thanked **Mr. du Mee** for his time and commitment.

## Workgroup Updates

### Epidemiology Workgroup

- **Sara Salek, Vice-Chair**, welcomed **Dr. George Runger** to provide an update on the work of the Epidemiology Workgroup.
- **Dr. Runger** provided an overview of the workgroup's analysis on the State Opioid Response (SOR) dashboard, sharing information about non-fatal overdoses and mortality rates that was completed with the help of his team at the Department of Biomedical Informatics (BMI) at Arizona State University (ASU).
- **Dr. Runger** discussed that he and his team at ASU are collaborating with the HonorHealth Clinical Informatics Fellows to determine distance to treatment analysis, urine screening and other testing analysis to measure the intensity of care, as well as structuring data for training artificial intelligence (AI) and simulation models.
- **Dr. Runger** explained that he and his team are looking at the Pathways to Addiction Model to possibly deploy as an application.
- **Sara Salek, Vice-Chair**, thanked **Dr. George Runger** and his team at ASU, and requested that specific, identified trends be shared with the rest of the commission once the analyses are complete.

### Prevention Workgroup

- **Merilee Fowler** gave an overview on the new direction of the workgroup, explaining that in August 2022, the workgroup changed the name and focus with the support of the ASAP Chairs and **Director Maria Cristina Fuentes** of the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF).

- **Merilee Fowler** discussed that the Prevention Workgroup, previously the Program Inventory Workgroup, will focus on prevention efforts and providing support to substance abuse prevention coalitions.
- **Ms. Fowler** invited commissioners to consider colleagues that are currently involved in substance abuse prevention who could potentially serve on the workgroup. She stated that new members would have to be approved by the chairs, and that individuals can contact **Alfreda Moore** with their recommendations.

### 2022 Meeting Dates

- **Sara Salek, Vice-Chair**, reminded members of the next ASAP meeting date of December 1, 2022.
- **Kainoa Spenser** encouraged members to attend the next meeting in person, explaining that it will be a legacy meeting to highlight progress made by the ASAP under Governor Doug Ducey's tenure.
- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, announced that the Arizona Drug Summit will be held on September 7, 2022, and that although in-person registration is full, there is still space available to attend the summit virtually. **Ms. Polk** gave a brief overview of the keynote speaker.

### Meeting Adjourned

- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.

Dated the seventh day of September 2022  
Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership  
Respectfully Submitted By: Alfreda Moore

Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family  
(GOYFF)