



Arizona  
Substance Abuse  
Partnership

**Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership**

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

**Members Present (17)**

<b>Sheila Polk</b> , Chairperson, Yavapai County Attorney’s Office
<b>Sara Salek</b> , Vice Chairperson, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
<b>Matt Bileski</b> , Arizona Criminal Justice Commission [ <b>Proxy for Andrew LeFevre</b> ]
<b>Tonya Hamilton</b> , Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family [ <b>Proxy for Maria Cristina Fuentes</b> ]
<b>Sheila Sjolander</b> , Arizona Department of Health Services
<b>Anjelica Miller</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>Lee Pioske</b> , The Crossroads
<b>Christina Russell</b> , Arizona Department Of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry [ <b>Proxy for David Shinn</b> ]
<b>Tobi Zavala</b> , Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners
<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

**Members Absent (6)**

<b>Heston Silbert</b> , Arizona Department of Public Safety
<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

**Kathy Hoffman**, Arizona Department of Education

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

### Call to Order

- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, called the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) meeting to order at 1:08 PM with 17 members present. **Ms. Polk** reviewed virtual meeting platform procedures.
- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, made a formal announcement of her retirement as Yavapai County Attorney, and subsequent resignation as Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) Chair.
- **Tonya Hamilton, Deputy Director**, thanked **Ms. Polk** for her service to ASAP and the State of Arizona.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, thanked **Ms. Polk** for the impact she has made through her work on ASAP.

### Welcome/Introductions

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, welcomed everyone to the December 2022 ASAP meeting and conducted a roll call of the members in attendance.

### Executive Director's Address to Council members

- **Tonya Hamilton, Deputy Director**, provided the Executive Director's address on accomplishments made by ASAP under Governor Ducey's leadership.

### Approval of Minutes

- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, requested a final review of the September 1, 2022 meeting minutes at 1:12 PM.
- **Zora Manjencich** motioned to accept the September 1, 2022 meeting minutes without revision.
- **Dawn Mertz** seconded the motion. There were no dissenting votes and the motion passed.

### National Guard Counterdrug Task Force: Interdiction and Prevention Efforts in Arizona

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, introduced **1SG Jaime Sotomayor**, and **SMSgt Micheal Gunderson**, from the Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF).
- **1SG Jaime Sotomayor** shared the program's mission statement and provided an overview of the task force's counterdrug operations in support of state, local, tribal and federal law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Arizona.
- **1SG Jaime Sotomayor** provided an overview of the four core competencies of the CDTF's Authorized Activities Analyst Support structure.

- **Mr. Sotomayor** continued by providing an overview of the effectiveness of the interdiction of narcotics through ground and aerial reconnaissance and observation efforts from fiscal year 2019 through 2022.
- **SMSgt Michael Gunderson** shared the mission statement and provided an overview of the Drug Demand Reduction and Outreach (DDRO) program. **Mr. Gunderson** provided details about the collaboration between the CDTF, community based organizations and schools. **Mr. Gunderson** further explained how the DDRO supports increased prevention efforts in critical need areas by providing the facilitation of evidence-based/ evidence-informed prevention programming in schools throughout Arizona. **Mr. Gunderson** continued by sharing that the task force intends to hire additional staff to help maximize their efforts in educating 6-12th grade students and educators, on the harms and risks associated with substance use.
- **SMSgt Michael Gunderson** provided details about partnerships with the Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program. **Mr. Gunderson** shared a list of specific community organizations that the CDTF works with. **Mr. Gunderson** explained that the CDTF serves as a conduit between several like minded organizations to make a difference in the community.
- **Mr. Gunderson** explained that the CDTF is amping up efforts in the west valley of Arizona.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, stated that she appreciates the work of the task force. **Ms. Salek** asked if the task force works in elementary schools as well or just junior high and high schools. **SMSgt Michael Gunderson** explained that the task force currently primarily works in junior high and high schools. **Mr. Gunderson** stated that the task force works to reach the high risk areas first and supports coalitions and schools as much as possible.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, offered the support of ASAP in the prevention and interdiction efforts of the task force.
- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, thanked **1SG Jaime Sotomayor** and **SMSgt Michael Gunderson** and the work of the Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Task Force on their prevention and interdiction efforts, agreeing that it is all about partnerships.
- **Dawn Mertz** stated that she appreciates the work of the counterdrug task force.
- **Tonya Hamilton** presented members of the CDTF with commendations from Governor Ducey for their efforts in substance abuse prevention and interdiction in Arizona.

#### **Arizona Criminal Justice Commission: 2022 Arizona Youth Survey**

- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, welcomed **Matt Bileski**, Data Integration, Analytics and Optimization Program Manager, and **Ana Daniels**, Senior Research Analyst and Interim Director at the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) Statistical Analysis Center.

- **Matt Bileski** provided an overview of the Arizona Youth Survey (AYS). **Mr. Bileski** explained the methodology in the recruitment of schools to participate in the administration of the survey.
- **Mr. Bileski** provided information about the partnership with Arizona State University AYS data collection.
- **Matt Bileski** continued by sharing that participating schools had autonomy in deciding when they administer surveys, allowing 2-3 months to plan how the surveys would be administered.
- **Mr. Bileski** stated that the ACJC intends to save on the cost of administering the survey by using a computerized version in the future.
- **Ana Daniels** provided additional information about the AYS, stating that over 300 schools participated in the 2022 survey.
- **Ms. Daniels** shared that, according to survey results, the most commonly used substances among youth are: alcohol, marijuana, e-cigarettes, and marijuana concentrates. She stated that use continues to decline as compared to previous survey years, and according to survey results, females reported a higher percentage of substance use than males.
- **Ana Daniels** continued by sharing that the most common reason for using substances, as reported by the surveyed youth, was to have fun, feel good, and deal with stress. **Ms. Daniels** explained that the most common reason for not using substances, as reported by the surveyed youth, was that they were not interested, that their parents would be disappointed, and the fear of harm to their bodies.
- **Ana Daniels** explained that new survey questions pertaining to Fentanyl showed that 47% of 8th graders surveyed had never heard of fentanyl, and of those, only 14% have had parent discussions about fentanyl. **Ms. Daniels** stated that youth reported that they had seen billboards and flyers about Fentanyl.
- **Ms. Daniels** further explained that of the students surveyed, 50% of 8th graders, one third of 10th graders, and one quarter of 12th graders, don't know what fentanyl is. She stated that these statistics are a concern, and there is a need to maximize messaging on the risks and dangers of Fentanyl.
- **Dawn Mertz** asked if the survey included questions that asked students where they are obtaining illicit substances, and specifically through social media.
- **Ms. Daniels** explained that the survey did inquire about the internet as an option, but not social media specifically.
- **Matt Bileski** encouraged council members to reach out to ACJC with ideas and recommendations for future survey questions.
- **Larry LaVeque** asked what is the best way to get prevention messaging out to youth. **Mr. Bileski** stated that community coalitions are the best sources for prevention

messaging and efforts, and that schools are also great resources in providing prevention messaging as well.

- **Christina Russell** asked if the age of initial use was asked on the survey. **Mr. Bileski** responded yes.
- **Ms. Russell** asked if the ACJC has considered surveying younger grades. **Mr. Bileski** replied that the ACJC is considering launching a pilot program, in collaboration with a local school district, to survey 6th graders.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, asked if it has been reported on a national level that females are more likely to use than males.
- **Ana Daniels** stated that the ACJC plans to do a comparative study in the future.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair** shared that she is excited about the partnership between Arizona State University, the ASAP Epidemiology Workgroup and ACJC.
- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, thanked **Matt Bileski** and **Ana Daniels** for their presentation, and welcomed questions.

#### **Substance Abuse Coalition Leaders of Southern Arizona**

- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, introduced **Bob Shogren**, Executive Director, and **Katie Vasquez**, AmeriCorps Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) Program and Communications Manager, of the Casa Grande Alliance.
- **Bob Shogren** provided the history of the Casa Grande Alliance sharing that the coalition has successfully been in existence for more than 10 years.
- **Mr. Shogren** explained that the coalition evolved into what it is today, serving diverse populations and students. **Mr. Shogren** stated that the coalition has recently shifted prevention efforts to focus more on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma in an effort to determine the root causes of trauma, adversity, and stress among youth, and to provide support in building resilience and reducing the burden of life stressors.
- **Bob Shogren** explained how the Casa Grande Alliance has a food pantry and provides clothing and other resources to those in need in the community,
- **Mr. Shogren** provided an overview of the Casa Grande Youth Alliance, and some results from the youth wellness survey. He explained that many students reported feelings that their lives and voices didn't matter to others, especially during the pandemic.
- **Bob Shogren** shared details about the coalition's role in Narcan training and distribution in Pinal County. **Mr. Shogren** explained that through the efforts of coalition staff and community partnerships, the coalition has supplied Narcan and training on its use, to stores, hotels, gas stations, and eight school districts throughout Pinal County.
- **Larry LaVeque** asked if the coalition had staff that focused specifically on obtaining grants.
- **Bob Shogren** explained that the coalition works to identify gaps and find areas of need in an effort to obtain sustainable funds. **Mr. Shogren** stated that MATFORCE has done an

amazing job with connecting the coalition to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) to obtain funding for specific projects and subsequently building greater capacity.

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, thanked the presenters for their work.
- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, thanked the presenters and invited commission members to ask any questions they may have for the presenters.
- **Larry LaVeque** 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.

### Workgroup Update

#### Epidemiology Workgroup

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, welcomed **Dr. George Runger** to provide an update of the Epidemiology Workgroup.
- **Dr. Runger** provided an overview of the workgroup's analysis done in collaboration with his team at the Department of Biomedical Informatics (BMI) at Arizona State University (ASU). **Dr Runger** shared data sets from the Pathways to Addiction model for policy decision making, the overlap of addiction codes, Arizona Vital Statistics data, and data from Health History Associations.
- **Dr. Runger** explained that he and his team are looking at ways to create a comprehensive dashboard that is more organized and user-friendly.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, thanked **Dr. Runger** and his team at ASU, and stated that she is looking forward to policy recommendations based on the data obtained from the EPI Workgroup.
- **Sheila Polk, Chair**, stated that she also looks forward to using data from Epidemiology Workgroup and dashboard.

#### 2023 Meeting Dates

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, reminded members of the next ASAP meeting date of February 23, 2023.

#### Meeting Adjourned

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

Dated the fifth day of December 2022  
Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership  
Respectfully Submitted By: Alfreda Moore

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