



Arizona
Substance Abuse
Partnership

Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership

May 3, 2023

1:00 PM

State Capitol Executive Tower

Virtual Meeting

A general meeting of the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) was convened on May 3, 2023. The public meeting was hosted virtually, notice having been duly given.

Members Present (15)

Sara Salek, Vice Chairperson, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

Andrew LeFevre, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Tonya Hamilton, Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family

Sheila Sjolander, Arizona Department of Health Services

Douglas Sargent, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

Lawrence LaVeque, Cisco Systems

Dawn Mertz, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas

Sara Perry, Arizona Department of Child Safety [**Proxy for Interim Director David Lujan**]

Merilee Fowler, MATFORCE

Lee Pioske, The Crossroads

Christina Russell, Arizona Department Of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry [**Proxy**]

Tobi Zavala, Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

Leah Landrum-Taylor, Arizona Department of Economic Security

Shanda Breed, Arizona Department of Adult Probation

Kathleen Grimes, Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition

Members Absent (7)

Jeffrey Glover, Arizona Department of Public Safety

Nicole Costanza, Governor’s Office of Highway Safety

David Klein, United States Department of Veterans Affairs

Vanessa Bustos, Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Tom Horne, Arizona Department of Education

Dana Allmond, Arizona Department of Veterans Services

Kris Mayes, Arizona Attorney General’s Office

Call to Order

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, called the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) meeting to order at 1:07 PM with 15 members present. **Ms. Salek** reviewed virtual meeting platform procedures.

Welcome/Introductions

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, welcomed everyone to the May 2023 ASAP meeting and conducted a roll call of the members in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, requested a final review of the December 1, 2022 meeting minutes at 1:09 PM.
- **Dawn Mertz** motioned to accept the December 1, 2022 meeting minutes without revision.
- **Lawrence LaVeque** seconded the motion. There were no dissenting votes and the motion passed.

Community-wide Prevention Using Communities That Care (CTC)

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, introduced **Dr. Wendy Wolfersteig**, of the Arizona State University Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (SIRC).
- **Dr. Wendy Wolfersteig** shared an overview of the Communities That Care (CTC) model of support for community-based organizations that provide substance abuse prevention services and programs. **Dr. Wolfersteig** explained how CTC has broadened the work of community coalitions by developing and implementing evidence-based and evidence-informed interventions for youth and families.
- **Dr. Wendy Wolfersteig** continued by providing an overview of the effectiveness of the CTC model using two major advances in prevention science by identifying risk and protective factors..
- **Dr. Wendy Wolferstieig** shared that 20 years of research was involved in the development of the CTC model. **Dr. Wolfersteig** provided details about how CTC was developed through collaboration with communities across the nation, as led by the University of Washington's Social Development Research Group.
- **Dr. Wendy Wolfesteig** further explained how the CTC provides a framework for building coalitions, providing training and technical assistance, thereby empowering communities to address local issues and needs. **Dr. Wolfersteig** continued by sharing that the CTC is science-based, data-driven, outcome-focused and coalition-operated.
- **Dr. Wendy Wolfersteig** provided details about the 5-Phase CTC Process, which is guided by milestones and benchmarks.
- **Dr. Wendy Wolfersteig** shared a short list of the registry of evidence-based prevention models.

- **Dr. Wendy Wolferstieig** explained the role of the coaches and facilitators using the Communities That Care Plus Model in building infrastructure. **Dr. Wolfersteig** further explained how the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center provides strategic support in guiding coaches and facilitators through the CTC model.
- **Dr. Wendy Wolfersteig** shared data, detailing outcomes of CTC programs in determining sustainability and the reach of effective programs over time. **Dr. Wolfersteig** continued by sharing data from the Community Youth Development Study (CYDS), and the impact of CTC in providing enhanced protection in schools, the community, family individuals, and peers. **Dr. Wolfersteig** shared additional data from the CYDS, which detailed the reduction of past 30-day use, by 8th graders, who were exposed to the CTC model.
- **Dr. Wolfersteig** shared additional outcomes of a quasi-experimental study, over a 16-year period, in the state of Pennsylvania. **Dr. Wolfersteig** reiterated the effectiveness of the CTC.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, asked if the CTC model has been adapted to determine the risk factor of social media. **Dr. Wendy Wolfersteig** stated that the program is currently being updated to include social media as a risk factor and that CTC is creating an advisory board to help modified the model.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, thanked **Dr. Wolfersteig** for her presentation of the Communities That Care Model.

Trends in Cannabis-Related Hospital Visits in Arizona

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, welcomed **Dr. Madeline Meier**, Associate Professor of Psychology at Arizona State University.
- **Dr. Madeline Meier** provided an overview of hospital emergency department data, in several states in the United States, and how there has been an increase of cannabis-related visits, since the legalization of cannabis. **Dr. Meier** provided information on how data was obtained from the Arizona Department of Health Services.
- **Dr. Madeline Meier** continued by sharing data pertaining to changes in the rate of hospital visits related to cannabis use. **Dr. Meier** stated that there has been a 22% increase from 2016-2021.
- **Dr. Madeline Meier** shared trends for cannabis-related hospital visits by age group. **Dr. Meier** shared that the group with the largest increases were amongst youth ages 10-17.
- **Dr. Madeline Meier** provided additional information about the cannabis-related burden on mental health. **Dr. Meier** discussed the analyses which tested the association between cannabis and mental health. **Dr. Meier** shared that patients with cannabis use disorder had a risk of developing psychosis at a rate 7 times higher compared with people with no cannabis-related disorder.

- **Dr. Madeline Meier** shared additional data which compare cannabis-related mental health risks with alcohol-related mental health risks. **Dr. Meier** explained that although alcohol-use is more common and accounts for more hospital visits, people who visit the hospital with cannabis-related disorders show elevated prevalence of mental health disorders.
- **Dr. Madeline Meier** provided a summary and implications for prevention of cannabis use among youth. **Dr. Meier** stated that more messaging and education is needed about the harms related to cannabis use.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, stated that she is happy to hear that alcohol was included in the study and asked if opioid use would be looked at as well.
- **Dr. Madeline Meier** explained that there has been a 300% increase in opioid overdoses in 2022, but shared that the Arizona medical community has made huge changes in the process of prescribing opioids and that data is starting to show a decrease in overdoses.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, thanked **Dr. Madeline Meier** for her presentation, and welcomed questions.
- **Sara Perry** asked if there is any science that looks at causality as related to cannabis use disorder.
- **Dr. Madeline Meier** responded that although the data is limited, longitudinal data can be used to determine if there is an association between mental health issues and cannabis use disorder. **Dr. Meier** stated that most cannabis users will not experience psychosis.
- **Shanda Breed** shared that in the field of probation, there has been a large focus on providing more resources for juveniles, specifically those with higher needs. **Ms. Breed** explained that adults aged 18-30 years old seem to be using illegal substances the most, as compared to other age groups, and consequently are having the most encounters with law enforcement.

An Update on Arizona Overdose Trends

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, introduced **Sheila Sjolander**, Deputy Director of Public Health Services at the Arizona Department of Health Services.
- **Sheila Sjolander** provided data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) pertaining to a 12-month ending provisional drug overdoses. **Ms. Sjolander** shared data from November 2020 through November 2022. **Ms. Sjolander** explained that there has been a “leveling off” of the number of overdose deaths in Arizona in the past 12 months.
- **Sheila Sjolander** provided a CDC analysis of all drug overdose deaths in 2020, and explained that 74% of those deaths involved at least one opioid and 57% involved at least one stimulant.
- **Sheila Sjolander** provided a comparative of overdose death rates involving illicitly manufactured fentanyl, methamphetamines, and prescription opioids by state in 2021, looking at 32 jurisdictions.

- **Sheila Sjolander** shared that approximately 5 Arizonans per day died from opioids in 2022. **Ms. Sjolander** stated that although data for 2022 has not been finalized, it is expected that there will be decrease in opioid deaths compared to 2021.
- **Sheila Sjolander** explained that in 2022, two-thirds of opioid deaths were among people ages 25-54, with the highest number of fatalities occurring among 35-44 year olds.
- **Sheila Sjolander** shared data showing that approximately 9 Arizonans a day had a non-fatal overdose in 2022.
- **Sheila Sjolander** explained that referrals for drug treatment and naloxone distribution are essential in preventing opioid deaths. **Ms. Sjolander** continued by sharing that due to legislation, the number of opioid prescriptions dispensed in Arizona has decreased from 2018-2023.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, thanked **Sheila Sjolander** for her presentation, and welcomed questions.
- **Dawn Mertz** stated that the data related to naloxone gives her hope in the efforts to preventing overdoses. **Ms. Mertz** continued by stating that there has been recent seizures of fentanyl laced with xylazine.
- **Sheila Sjolander** stated that seizures of fentanyl laced with xylazine is very concerning, and that it is difficult to track overdoses unless the data is provided by healthcare providers.
- **Merilee Fowler** stated that Yavapai County is currently looking at overdose trends, and that data shows an increase in illicit drug use.
- **Sheila Sjolander** stated that data has shown an increase in naloxone being administered to bring people out of overdose.
- **Christina Russell** stated that the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry is currently in the infancy stage of implementing medication-assisted treatment (MAT) at her agency. **Sara Salek, Vice Chair** stated that this news is significant and asked what medications are currently being used under MAT. **Ms. Russell** stated that naloxone, methadone, and suboxone is currently being used by the MAT coordinators to treat inmates with substance-use disorders.
- **Andrew LeFevre** asked if there have been any updates on medicaid coverage eligibility for MAT. **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, explained that the AHCCCS waiver for MAT is for 30 days, to provide time for medical staff to coordinate care for adults and juveniles in the criminal justice system in Arizona.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, thanked **Sheila Sjolander** again for her presentation.

Workgroup Update Epidemiology Workgroup

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, welcomed **Dr. George Runger** to provide an update of the Epidemiology Workgroup.
- **Dr. George 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 related to overdose and hospital emergency department visits among polysubstance users.
- **Dr. George Runger** shared data related to Medically Assisted Treatment facilities and crime rates in those neighborhood.
- **Dr. George Runger** shared that currently there are 6 hospital emergency room departments in Arizona that distribute naloxone. **Dr. Runger** shared that he and his team are currently working with hospital associations in receiving data, and are looking to expand outreach to other associations.
- **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.

2023 Meeting Dates

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, reminded members of the next ASAP meeting date of September 05, 2023.

Meeting Adjourned

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, adjourned the meeting at 2:42 PM.

Dated the fifth day of May 2023
Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership
Respectfully Submitted By: Alfreda Moore
Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family
(GOYFF)