



Governor's Council on
Child Safety and
Family Empowerment

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON CHILD SAFETY AND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

Hybrid Meeting

October 10, 2024, 10:00 AM

1700 West Washington Street, Suite 104, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A general meeting of the Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment convened on October 10, 2024, notice duly given.

| Members Present (22) | Members Absent (06) |
|---|--|
| Colleen McNally, Co-Chair | Maria Cristina Fuentes, Co-Chair |
| Jillian Aja | James Molina |
| Berisha Black | Richard Yarbough |
| *Detective Jeremy Brazell | Dr. Lorrie Henderson |
| Pastor Terry Crist | Leslie Reprogle |
| *Obed Escobar | Ryan Young |
| Marie Fordney | |
| Emily Uline-Olmstead (proxy for Tonya Hamilton) | |
| Malcolm Hightower | |
| Leah Landrum Taylor | |
| Claire Louge | |
| Deputy Director David Lujan | |
| *Sara Micflikier (proxy for Rachel Mitchell) | |
| *Paul Mulligan | |
| *Darlene Newsom | |
| *Katie O'Dell | |
| Kathryn Blades Ptak | |
| *Ashley Baumgartner (proxy for Abi Saifi) | |
| Torrie Taj | |
| *Jeff Taylor | |
| *Mark Upton | |
| Ginger Ward | |
| Staff & Guests Present (04) | |
| Amy Peep, GOYFF | Master Sergeant Tommy Morga, Presenter |
| Chantel Hutchinson, GOYFF | Michelle Sambrano, Presenter |

**Indicates Virtual Attendance*

Call to Order

- **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, called the Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment (CSFE) meeting to order at **10:04 AM** with **22** members and **four** staff/guests present. She reviewed the Council meeting procedures, welcomed all those joining via Zoom, and thanked them for their flexibility.
- **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, introduced and welcomed the new members appointed to the Council since the last meeting.
 - **Jillian Aja**, Bureau Chief for the [Pima County Office of Children's Counsel](#).
 - **Detective Jeremy Brazell** for the [Prescott Police Department](#), specializing in crimes against children.
 - **Leah Landrum Taylor**, Assistant Director for the [Arizona Department of Economic Security \(DES\)](#).

Approval of Minutes

- With the quorum met, **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, requested a review of the **August 08, 2024**, meeting minutes before requesting a motion to approve the meeting minutes as drafted.
 - **Pastor Terry Crist** moved to approve the meeting minutes as drafted.
 - **Deputy Director David Lujan** seconded the motion.
- **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, asked for a discussion of the minutes, and no members requested amendments.
- **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, called a vote, and at **10:12 AM**, the motion to approve the meeting minutes as drafted passed with no dissenting votes.

Arizona Department of Child Safety Update

- **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, introduced **Deputy Director David Lujan** to update the Council on the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS)'s goals, priorities, and objectives.
 - The DCS has received the fewest calls/referrals since the department's inception, as reported by the [Arizona Ombudsman Office](#).
 - The number of children in foster care is expected to drop to below 8,000 by the end of the 2024 calendar year.
 - The Department has seen the population getting older, and older teens face complex challenges. Below are the complex needs children in care are facing and the strategies the Department is utilizing to reduce the group home population:
 - Complex needs:
 - The DCS sees many cross-over youth and children in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Corrections Systems. In 2018, the Department implemented the Cross-Over Youth Model to ensure youths get the needed services. Currently, the Department is meeting county-by-county to support this model and its implementation.
 - The DCS also sees many youths with complex medical needs. Finding placements for these children can be challenging. The Department is meeting with the [Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System \(AHCCCS\)](#) to improve its services for children in care with complex health needs, including behavioral health needs.
 - Strategies:
 - Increase the number of kinship providers and community foster families.
 - The DCS is developing tiered registry levels and aiming to implement them by September 2025. It also hopes to make retroactive adjustments, although this is not guaranteed.
 - **Pastor Terry Crist** asked approximately how many people are on the registry.
 - **Deputy Director Lujan** answered that there are approximately 100,000 people on the registry.
 - **Leah Landrum Taylor** stated that because of the overrepresentation of African American youth, she thanked the Department and **Deputy Director Lujan's** leadership for working with the [Arizona Commission on African American Affairs](#) to come up with ways to lessen the number of children in care.
 - **Marie Fordney** expressed relief at the decreasing number of children in care and inquired about the Department's measures to ensure ongoing investigations when necessary.
 - **Deputy Director Lujan** responded that the Department looks at the data when making policies to keep children safe. Specifically, they look at the number of cases within a 12-month and if there are repeat cases after a report. Since implementing the new policies, they have not seen a spike in repeat cases.
 - **Deputy Director Lujan** also mentioned that staff utilize the [SAFE AZ](#) model and that the Department is trying to keep caseloads low.
 - **Paul Mulligan** referenced an article that mentions the rates of foster children not attending school.
 - **Deputy Director Lujan** answered that, from his memory, the Department hasn't seen a high number of absentees in foster care; however, he will look into it further.

Family Resource Center Findings

- **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, introduced **Claire Louge** to present the Family Resource Center (FRC) findings following the Landscape Study's completion earlier this year.
 - **Claire Louge** is the Executive Director of [Prevent Child Abuse Arizona \(PCAAZ\)](#), a statewide nonprofit that protects children by strengthening families. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Cornell University and her Master's of Education from Northern Arizona University (NAU). She is a member of Together for Arizona and is involved in Arizona's Thriving Families Safer Children initiative, which addresses racial disparities in the child protection system for African Americans. **Claire Louge** co-authored Flourishing Families, an activity-based curriculum designed for professionals to teach families how to build protective factors in their lives. She is a Flinn Brown Fellow, an American Express Nonprofit Leadership Academy graduate, a Leading for Change Fellow, and an AmeriCorps Volunteer In Service To America (VISTA) alum. In her free time, **Ms. Louge** organizes theatrical role-play adventure events for teens in partnership with youth-serving organizations. She is also the mother of an active two-year-old daughter named Kira.
- **Claire Louge** started her presentation by explaining that PCAAZ's primary goal is to create a statewide family support system. By keeping children safe, you strengthen families. The organization's vision is for families to have what they need when they need it. She discussed the problems PCAAZ is trying to solve through supporting FRCs:
 - Families are overwhelmed and under-resourced.
 - Providers don't know where to refer families.
 - Families don't know where to access resources.
 - Over-reliance on the Arizona Department of Child Safety.
 - Isolated attempts to coordinate.
 - Inefficient dissemination of resources to those in need.
- **Claire Louge** explained that the solution to the problems above is to establish a "hub and spoke" statewide family support system based on FRCs. These community hubs allow families to access formal and informal support during times of need and daily life.
 - Four eligibility criteria to be an FRC:
 - Place-based (needs a physical location).
 - Offer information, resources, and referrals.
 - Offer parenting support.
 - Provide opportunities for families to build social connections.
 - Why focus on FRCs?
 - FRCs are hubs, simplifying resource navigation.
 - FRCs are community-based and responsive to the needs of families.
 - FRCs have universal designs because every family needs support sometimes.
 - FRCs operate using the [Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework](#), helping to strengthen families, provide optimal child development, and reduce the likelihood of abuse and neglect.
 - What outcomes do FRCs achieve?
 - Social return on investment for every dollar invested: \$4.93
 - Savings for the child welfare system for every dollar invested: \$3.65
 - Reduction in child abuse cases: 63%
 - Reduction of out-of-home placements of children in foster care: 50%
 - The reduction rate of community-level child abuse investigations: 26%
 - Impact
 - First Things First invests \$9 million to support 48 FRCs.
 - In fiscal year (FY) 2024, these FRCs served 21,325 families.
 - Findings:
 - Increase in parental resilience by 64%.
 - Increase in social connectedness by 60%.
- **Claire Louge** stated that the [Arizona Family Resource Network \(AZFRN\)](#) and the FRC Pathway help support and uplift FRCs.
 - The AZFRN's mission is to strengthen and connect FRCs to support Arizona families.

- The FRC Pathway's primary goal is to develop a robust, comprehensive, and sustainable system of FRCs across the state, accessible to all families with children aged 0-17.
- **Claire Louge** explained that the Landscape Study and interviews outlined six strategies that the State of Arizona can implement to support FRCs.
 - Strategy 1: Identify What We Have.
 - Strategy 2: Identify What We Need.
 - Strategy 3: Raise Awareness of FRCs.
 - Strategy 4: Identify sources of funding to build FRC capacity.
 - Strategy 5: Support and expand AZFRN.
 - Strategy 6: Explore connections to other initiatives and strategies.
- **Claire Louge** stated individuals can help by contributing to an FRC's wish list, sponsoring the AZFRN Conference, and connecting with their local FRC before discussing recommendations from the Landscape Study:
 - Develop FRCs in rural counties (see slide 15 for the current distribution spread across the state).
 - Expand FRCs to serve all ages.
 - Advocate and raise awareness.
 - Create a website locating FRCs.
 - Create an FRC Wish List site.
 - Add FRC site to Mandated Reporter Training.
 - Continue to support AZFRN.
- **Deputy Director Lujan** inquired about the gaps in services after completing the study based on the services the FRCs reported.
 - **Claire Louge** responded that First Things First primarily funds almost all of the FRCs in the state. However, these funds cannot be used for children 0-5, creating gaps in service.
- **Berisha Black** stated that [Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church](#) is officially an FRC serving 200 families weekly. They have assisted seniors, refugees, former foster youth, and families suffering from housing concerns.
- To view **Claire Louge's** presentation, [click here](#).

Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Taskforce

- **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, introduced **Master Sergeant (MSgt) Tommy Morga** to speak to the Council.
 - **MSgt Tommy Morga** has been a member of the Arizona National Guard's Drug Demand Reduction and Outreach (DDRO) team for over six years and served in the United States Air Force for over 21 years. His extensive military experience greatly enhances his role as a national and local instructor within the DDRO program.
 - **MSgt Tommy Morga** serves as a team leader within the DDRO and acts as the liaison between the DDRO and the [Arizona High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area \(HIDTA\)](#). At Arizona HIDTA, he collaborates with the Demand Reduction Coordinator to implement prevention strategies and resources statewide and nationally. As an experienced instructor, he delivers various prevention presentations to youth and adults nationwide.
- **MSgt Tommy Morga** explained that the DDRO was established in 2018 and has been consistently working to support community-based prevention organizations. The program collaborates with local, state, and tribal organizations in Arizona to provide strategic leadership, expertise, and evidence-based initiatives to reduce drug demand and substance misuse in communities across the state. Currently, the DDRO team consists of 40 personnel.
 - The team comprises Air Force and Army National Guard members who directly support 45 coalitions and four agencies.
 - Team Breakdown:
 - Instructor Team: Training held twice a week to build resilience in schools.
 - Coalition Team
 - Agency Team
 - Operate as a support role, not direct service.
- **MSgt Tommy Morga** stated that from October 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024, the DDRO:
 - Engaged 24,229 students and 7,960 adults with research-based prevention education, totaling 32,189 direct engagements with prevention education
 - Supported coalitions and agencies at 61 individual events, coordinating prevention efforts with 82

- community partners.
- Provided grant writing support to newly stood-up prevention coalitions, securing \$297,000 in grant funding.
- **MSgt Tommy Morga** explained that the DDRO also participates in Red Ribbon Week, which will occur from October 23 to 31, 2024.
 - In 2023, the DDRO supported 15 coalitions and agencies at 61 individual events, coordinating prevention efforts with 82 community partners.
 - Student pledges signed to live drug-free: 8,050
 - Students educated: 7,824; adults educated: 283
 - Prevention materials distributed: 7,435
- **MSgt Tommy Morga** explained that DDRO supports the [Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family \(GOYFF\)](#), the [Drug Enforcement Administration \(DEA\)](#) Prevention Outreach Team, the [Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area \(HIDTA\)](#), and the [Substance Awareness Coalition Leaders of Arizona \(SACLAZ\)](#).
 - SACLAZ provides a variety of free [toolkits](#) created by substance use prevention coalitions across the state.
- **MSgt Tommy Morga** explained that the HIDTA Program is a grant-funded initiative of the [Office of National Drug Control Policy \(ONDCP\)](#) that assists federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug trafficking regions of the United States.
 - The Arizona HIDTA employs a balanced approach to supply and demand reduction in terms of enforcement, prevention, and treatment. This multi-faceted approach is critical to effectively impacting drug abuse rates, drug-related crime, and drug trafficking in the Arizona HIDTA region.
 - The Arizona HIDTA has expanded community partnerships and enhanced relationships with community coalitions by developing and participating in drug awareness, prevention, and education programs.
- **MSgt Tommy Morga** explained the HIDTA's activities:
 - SPF Application for Prevention Success Training (SAPST) Instruction:
 - Semi-annual class.
 - Intended for community coalition and agency members in the drug prevention field.
 - Introduction overview of the Strategic Prevention Framework.
 - Primary Prevention Advanced Course (PPAC):
 - In partnership with the GOYFF.
 - Practical application of the lessons learned in SAPST.
 - Facilitation instruction for community-based organization (CBO) members.
 - Leave with developed products to bring back to CBO.
 - Projects and Initiatives:
 - Opioid Response Strategy (ORS).
 - Naloxone Leave Behind Project- First responders leave Naloxone with the patient after responding to an overdose call.
 - Annual Drug Summit and Stronger Together.
 - Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP): if they see upticks of overdoses in a community, they will reach out and work together to address the issue.
 - Partnerships:
 - DCS.
 - United States (US) Department of Education (STOP IT).
 - US Department of Justice.
- **Marie Fordney** asked how the Council can best support the DDRO and its efforts.
 - **MSgt Tommy Morga** answered that establishing partnerships is crucial to leverage their services and expand their impact.
- To view **MSgt Tommy Morga's** presentation, [click here](#).

Southwest Behavioral and Health Services | Prevention Programming

- **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, introduced **Michelle Sambrano** to present on [Southwest Behavioral and Health Services \(SB&H\)](#) Prevention Programming.
 - **Michelle Sambrano** serves as the Director of Prevention Programs at SB&H. In this role, she is responsible for developing and implementing prevention programs across the organization's continuum of care. With ten

years of experience as a community organizer and advocate, Michelle also provides consulting services to non-profit organizations, focusing on capacity building, training development, and delivery.

- **Michelle Sambrano** began her presentation by explaining that SB&H offers a variety of programs to meet the unique needs of the communities they serve. These programs include outpatient mental health treatment and psychiatric services (e.g., medication monitoring), assistance for individuals with addictions, intensive inpatient care for those in crisis, residential housing, in-home and supported housing services, prevention services, community outreach, and school-based counseling. They also provide services throughout the lifespan for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and operate four opioid replacement clinics throughout the state, working tirelessly to save lives and help alleviate the statewide crisis.
- **Michelle Sambrano** stated that SB&H continues to foster a whole healthcare model by seeking out opportunities and innovative treatment approaches that focus on integrated care at its core. The organization is committed to achieving its mission of delivering compassionate care to enhance lives and improve communities.
- **Michelle Sambrano** continued by discussing SB&H's mission and values:
 - *Compassion*: They take an empathetic and caring approach to the well-being of one another through personal connections.
 - *Integrity*: They do the right thing by being sincere, honest, and keeping their word.
 - *Quality*: They uphold a standard of excellence that focuses on achieving successful outcomes.
 - *Empowerment*: They champion self-determination, equity, and inclusivity in an environment where their team and community feel valued.
 - *Innovation*: They pioneer change by encouraging team involvement and dynamic thinking that implement progressive solutions.
 - *Trust*: They nurture a culture where individuals can express themselves by building relationships based on respect, reliability, acceptance, and honest communication.
- **Michelle Sambrano** explained the low barrier and whole-person services SB&H offers:
 - The [School and Community-Based Counseling Services \(SCCS\)](#) programs provide the following services:
 - Individualized assessment.
 - Individual/Family therapy.
 - Group therapy.
 - Child and Family Team (CFT).
 - Case coordination.
 - Classroom observation.
 - Attendance, Individualized Education Program (IEP)/504 plan.
 - School break programming.
 - The [InSHAPE®](#) is an evidence-based holistic wellness program for individuals experiencing mental illness that aims to improve physical health and quality of life, reduce the risk of preventable diseases, and enhance the life expectancy of individuals with mental illnesses.
 - Addresses physical health to increase the quality of life.
 - Focuses on preventable diseases to increase life span.
- **Michelle Sambrano** explained that the [Prevention Department](#) uses a strength-based lens to increase the protective factors already in place within the community. They complete asset mapping to identify what is already there and how best SB&H can support it.
 - Caregivers: Engage and educate parents and caregivers about their vital role in preventing youth drug and alcohol use.
 - Active Parenting.
 - Positive Parenting Program (Triple P): Level 2-4 and Fearless.
 - Flourishing Families.
 - Focused Presentations.
 - Parent Care Groups.
 - Students and school-based: Facilitate evidence-based prevention curriculum for middle and high school students.
 - Too Good For Drugs.
 - Toward No Drugs.

- Catch My Breath.
- Health Class: Vaping.
- After-school programming.
- Community and Professional Development: Support the communities served from a holistic and trauma-informed perspective, building trust as the first step to increasing protective factors; partner with community organizations to create awareness of substance use trends for professional development and greater community knowledge. Current partnerships with:
 - The City of Phoenix.
 - ChildHelp.
 - Arizona National Guard.
 - Educators, social workers, counselors, and more.
- **Claire Louge** asked how people find out about the programs they offer.
 - **Michelle Sambrano** stated that capacity building is crucial. Even though the team is small, they are community members and can foster those relationships.
- To view **Michelle Sambrano's** presentation, [click here](#).

Council Member Updates

- **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, invited members to give any updates to the Council.
 - **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, announced that the in-person [Family Reunification Day Event](#) will occur on Saturday, October 12, 2024. Following their first event earlier this year, children and families can celebrate at a local trampoline park. She mentioned that she would provide updates at the next meeting.
 - **Berisha Black** stated she would like to invite all Council members to attend the Children's Action Alliance [Champions for Children Annual Event](#) on Thursday, October 31, 2024. The Pilgrim Rest Foundation is to receive the Organization Leadership Award.

Upcoming Meeting

- **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, reminded members that the next meeting will occur in January 2025. The date is still pending, but members can expect notification within the next few weeks. The meeting will be in a hybrid format, allowing members to attend in person or virtually.

Adjournment

- **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn.
 - **Torrie Taj** moved to adjourn the meeting.
 - **Berisha Black** seconded the motion.
- **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, asked if any further discussion was needed.
- With no other discussion needed, **Colleen McNally, Co-Chair**, called for a vote. At **11:38 AM**, the motion to adjourn the meeting passed with no dissenting votes.

Dated 11 of October 2024
Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment
Respectfully Submitted By:
Amy Peep
GOYFF