



**Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership  
December 4, 2024, 1:00 PM  
Virtual via ZOOM**

A general meeting of the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) convened on December 4, 2024, in a virtual format with notice duly given.

| <b>Members Present (13)</b>  |
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| <b>Sara Salek</b> , Vice Chair, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System          |
| <b>Andrew LeFevre</b> , Arizona Criminal Justice Commission                          |
| <b>Douglas Sargent</b> , Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections                  |
| <b>Tonya Hamilton</b> , Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family                 |
| <b>Merilee Fowler</b> , MATFORCE   |
| <b>Jeremy Bloom</b> , NorthSight Recovery  |
| <b>Shanda Breed</b> , Arizona Department of Adult Probation                          |
| <b>Leah Landrum Taylor</b> , Arizona Department of Economic Security                 |
| <b>Dana Allmond</b> Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services                         |
| <b>Ben Henry</b> , Department of Liquor Licenses and Control                         |
| <b>Dawn Mertz</b> , High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas                            |
| <b>Sheila Sjolander</b> , Arizona Department of Health Services                      |
| <b>Shannon Scheel</b> , Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office                             |
| <b>Members Absent (10)</b>   |
| <b>David Lujan</b> , Arizona Department of Child Safety                              |
| <b>Tobi Zavala</b> , Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners                    |
| <b>David Klein</b> , United States Department of Veterans Affairs                    |
| <b>Ryan Thornell</b> , Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry |
| <b>Lindsey Cantelme</b> , Recovery Community   |
| <b>Vanessa Bustos</b> , Pascua Yaqui Tribe   |
| <b>Jesse Torrez</b> , Governor’s Office of Highway Safety                            |
| <b>Kathleen Grimes</b> , Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition                     |
| <b>Jeffrey Glover</b> , Arizona Department of Public Safety                          |
| <b>Kris Mayes</b> , Attorney General’s Office  |
| <b>Staff (2)</b>   |
| <b>Alfreda Moore</b> , Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family                  |
| <b>Deb Stoks</b> , Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Task Force                     |

**Call to Order**

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, called the December 4, 2024, Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) meeting to order at **1:04 PM**. **Thirteen** members and two staff members were present.

## Welcome/Introductions

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

## Approval of Minutes

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, declared reaching a quorum and requested a review of the **September 26, 2024**, meeting minutes before requesting a motion to approve the meeting minutes as drafted.
  - **Leah Landrum Taylor** moved to approve the meeting minutes as drafted.
  - **Ben Henry** seconded the motion.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, asked for a discussion of the minutes, and no members requested amendments.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, called a vote, and at **1:10 PM**, the motion to approve the meeting minutes as drafted passed with no dissenting votes.

## The Impact of Legal Marijuana Through a Treatment Lens

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, introduced **Jeremy Bloom** and **Brady Byrne** of [NorthSight Recovery](#).
- **Brady Byrne** provided a brief overview of the organization and the trends in marijuana usage across the United States before explaining how the organization serves youth aged 12 to 17 through prevention services.
- **Mr. Byrne** discussed the medical applications of marijuana, noting that studies have shown that young people often use it to self-medicate for anxiety and depression while emphasizing that youth who use marijuana are more likely to experience cognitive development issues.
- **Mr. Byrne** noted that the rate of marijuana use among young adults is increasing before providing an overview of the health implications associated with the excessive use of high-potency marijuana and multidimensional treatment approaches available for substance use disorders.
- **Mr. Byrne** concluded the presentation by stating that more education and interventions are necessary to raise awareness about the risks related to youth marijuana use.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, acknowledged the efforts of **Mr. Bloom**, **Mr. Byrne**, and their team at **NorthSight Recovery**.

## The Intersectionality of Legal Marijuana and Criminal Justice

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, welcomed **Detective Matt Shay** of the [Maricopa County Sheriff's Office \(MCSO\)](#).
- **Detective Shay** provided an overview of the MCSO's role in combating crime related to the legalization of marijuana and its impact on youth before explaining that much of the marijuana sold in Arizona originates from the black market. He discussed the role of social media in facilitating anonymity in drug trafficking among young people while noting that youth are using social media to purchase firearms and smuggle drugs.
- **Detective Shay** highlighted that the portrayal of violence in entertainment has desensitized young audiences to the seriousness of violent acts. He provided information about the specific Delta 8 and Delta 10 products on the black market.
- **Detective Shay** concluded his presentation by emphasizing the importance of education and raising awareness among parents to address the issue of youth violence and the effects of legalized high-potency marijuana.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, acknowledged the work of MCSO and thanked **Detective Matt Shay** for his presentation.

## The Marijuana Expungement Program

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, introduced **Martin Hutchins** of the [Arizona Justice Project](#).
- **Martin Hutchins** discussed the program's mission and his role as a defense attorney for the Reclaim Your Future campaign. He also provided information about Proposition 207 funds that support individuals seeking expungement for marijuana-related cases and incarceration.

- **Mr. Hutchins** outlined the eligibility requirements for expungement, clarifying who is not eligible, and explained the program's benefits, including restoring certain civil rights.
- **Mr. Hutchins** shared details about the various organizations working together as a coalition to offer pro bono services throughout Arizona. He explained the process for participants to file a petition with the courts to request expungement and how the coalition assists.
- **Martin Hutchins** noted that while funding for the program will conclude in a year, the organization's website will continue to provide information about free resources available to Arizonans.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, emphasized that employment reentry services and substance use rehabilitation are crucial for supporting affected individuals.
- **Shanda Breed** inquired about the expansion of the program to include other substances.
  - **Martin Hutchins** responded that the monies from the Prop 207 grant funds are specifically designated for marijuana-related expungement cases.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, encouraged council members to return this information to their agencies and explore potential collaborations.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, thanked **Martin Hutchins** for his presentation.

#### **GOYFF Prevention Toolkit**

- **Deb Stoks** provided an overview of the Arizona National Guard Counter Drug Task Force team members' work in creating a prevention toolkit housed on the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) website.
- **Deb Stoks** explained that the toolkit is an expansion of the Rx Toolkit designed to be more user-friendly. It will include education, awareness, and resources on mental health and trauma-informed care.

#### **Meeting Dates**

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, reminded members of the next ASAP meeting on **February 27, 2025**, at **1:00 PM**.

#### **Meeting Adjourned**

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, adjourned the meeting at **2:58 PM**.

Dated the 6th day of December 2024  
Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership  
Respectfully Submitted By: Alfreda Moore  
Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF)