



YAVAPAI JUSTICE & MENTAL HEALTH COALITION Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: *(If you are not shown in the list of attendees, please email Beya)*

Ariz Dept of Economic Security/RSA	Alycia Botkin, Supervisor – Vocational Rehab
Ariz Peer & Family Coalition	Kathy Bashor*
Care 1 st /AHCCCS	Linda Poller*
Catholic Charities Housing	Sarah Rendon*
Child & Family Support Services	Mary Robbins*
Chino Valley Police Department	Josh McIntire, Lieutenant*
Coalition for Compassion/Justice	Jessi Hans, Executive Director
Community and Board Member	Jeanne Wellins*
Community Health Center of Yavapai	Penny Collins*
	Daniel Gennaro*
Crisis Response Network	Kellyanne Smith*
David's Hope	Mary Lou Brncik*
Health Choice Arizona	Amy Fehrs Bacon*
	Brianna Barrios*
	Sharie Brock*
	Denise Cox*
Ledbetter Law Firm	Jim Ledbetter*
MATFORCE	Merilee Fowler*
Prescott Police Department	Amy Bonney, Chief*
	Jason Small, Lieutenant*
Prescott Valley Police Department	James Edelstein, Commander*
	Nancy Roberts, Sergeant*
Pronghorn Psychiatry	Robin Spencer*
Sage Counseling	Diane Ivan, Clinical Supervisor*
Sedona Police Department	Kevin Hudspeth*
Southwest Behavioral & Health	Bonnie Goosic*
	Christine Hayes*
Spectrum Healthcare	Shawn Hatch*
Terros Health	Bryan Gest*
	Michael Lawhon, Clinical Manager*
Veteran's Administration	Julie Garver*
	Lisa Lahie, Suicide Prevention Coordinator*
West Yavapai Guidance Clinic	Kelly Legler, Chief Clinical Officer*
Wexford	Becky Payne*
Verde Valley Homeless	Rhonda Bishop, Executive Director*
	Carol Quasula*
Vive Hope Lives	Troy Grover, Program Manager*
Yavapai College	Tyran Payne*
Yavapai County Administration	Jack Fields*
	Cynthia Gentle*
Yavapai County Adult Probation	Alex Hope, Officer*
	Cameron Doty*
	Kathy Ryder*
Yavapai County Attorney's Office	Dana Owens, Drug Diversion Coord*
	Sheila Polk, County Attorney*
Yavapai County Comm Health Services	Willa Miller*

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

Milan Abbi*
Audrey Dorfman, VIP*
Brian Hunt, Captain*
Richard Martin, Captain *
Jackie Mullen, AmeriCorps*
David Rhodes, Sheriff*
Joseph Stewart, Medical*
Ethan Stover, Sergeant*
Beya Thayer, Executive Director*

Ms. Thayer opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed all attendees. January 14, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

Sheriff Rhodes was grateful for everyone's continued enthusiasm even with Covid-19 setbacks.

Sheriff Rhodes updates: The new criminal justice facility is under construction, the biggest piece of which is the Connection Center. The Coalition will have the biggest influence over its operation in ensuring the continuation of coordinated release and warm handoff programs. Yavapai County is leading criminal justice reform in the state, especially in discussions around re-entry planning. This program makes sense, wherein you invest in people who are early in the criminal justice process to reduce incarceration. This type of program has become a major driver in public policy change.

A new session of Crisis Intervention Training is coming up in the Verde Valley May 3 – 7th.

The Sheriff's Office is working on a grant with the National Justice Institute to study counties nationwide on re-entry planning at county jails and avoiding long-term incarceration by reaching out to people early in the criminal justice process.

Ms. Thayer identified several goals in the agenda:

Improve cross-system collaboration to reduce involvement in the justice system by people with mental health & substance use disorders

Dementia, Crisis, and the Justice System Workgroup: The Coalition is working with Leslie Jenkins with Alzheimer's Association out of Prescott and putting together a work group to support the population living with dementia. Individuals are being encountered by law enforcement and the jail whose actions can be related back to dementia. It's hard to provide support to this population. Some have family support who need additional resources. How can we support 1st responders and stakeholders working with this population?

There will be a presentation on April 29th at Noon regarding elder law; legalities on guardianship, medical powers of attorney, language and terminology to gain support for those working with this population. Let Ms. Thayer know if you want to be included in this conference.

Resource Guide for People Living with Dementia is housed on the Yavapai Justice & Mental Health Coalition website – the guide has been and will continued to be updated.

Peer support workgroup: The mental health needs for persons in recovery drug court and reentering from jail seem to have greatly risen. Persons in jail are being referred out to services as well as those in probation, but many don't stay engaged in those services for multiple reasons.

Peer support specialists are trying to increase levels of engagement for high needs individuals post release. This is another tool included with counseling and mental health treatment.

The workgroup is creating processes for justice involved individuals to have increased opportunity to connect with a peer support specialist in hopes of service engagement.

Jail release coordinators - meeting with mental health providers in to ensure connection of people to services.

Pre-trial Diversion Program: Ms. Owens provided an update on pretrial diversion programs through the County Attorney's office.

In May, the program will have been operating for one year. Thirty-five persons have graduated from program, with attendance ranging from 3 months to 1 year. Many participants have mental health issues. Prop 207 resulted in some participants, in treatment within the program, falling out when cannabis became legal. There has been discussion regarding implementing misdemeanor domestic violence cases through diversion program. Ramifications of domestic violence conviction affect ability to own weapon, get fingerprint card or even employment. Serious offenders will not be allowed to participate: 1st offenders in misdemeanor cases only. The victim must be willing to have offender participate. Yavapai County Attorney's Office is collaborating with Pinal County on program.

Misdemeanor cases: Captain Martin announced the Detention Center will resume taking misdemeanor bookings on April 11th. Work release, work furlough and out of county court commits will be restricted. They will be following CDC guidelines and open other programs later as Covid-19 numbers decrease. Thank you to everyone for their cooperation. In the last year, only 15 inmates tested positive; more than 60 staff tested positive for Covid.

Ms. Thayer reported that over the past year, Release Coordinators are spending more time on those with felony charges. These persons are in jail longer, which allows Release Coordinators more time to try and coordinate care to supportive and behavioral health services. However, those with misdemeanor populations will receive post screening reports in their file for Initial Appearance. Hopefully, judges will then utilize these to connect the individual to services upon release. A judge can release upon agreement for the individual to follow their release plan. With the oncoming increase in people arrested on misdemeanor charges, Release Coordinators will be reaching out to community partners to reconnect persons to service.

Spectrum TIP service is providing connection to services and a warm hand off. Other services include taxi vouchers, contracts with transitional housing, Coalition for Compassion & Justice in Prescott, Catholic Charities women's transition housing in Prescott, and Angie's house in the Verde. Angie's house has only taken two persons since Covid-19 started. The highest need is emergency housing in Verde and Prescott. Shelter in Camp Verde had emergency housing for overnight in low temperatures but is normally a daytime drop-in center. Persons with homelessness are most likely to come back to jail on any charge. Misdemeanor charges are typically related to trespassing, loitering, shoplifting food, and hitchhiking. There is a need to increase housing options in the County.

The Collective Impact Group meets every other month hosted by United Way regarding housing solutions for those in need.

Ms. Dorfman reported that Manzanita Outreach is providing food bags to inmates being released from the jail. The program is coordinating with Release Coordinators to connect those in need

Mental Health Awareness Training: Sergeant Stover reported that Crisis Intervention Training is May 3rd through 7th for personnel affiliated with law enforcement, dispatch, detention, etc. The annual CIT conference will be in Phoenix in August. Video production with the City of Prescott partnered with other CIT entities to create videos on information they're going to put on their websites and cable channel.

Nancy Gardner continues to promote the Mental Health 1st Aid Training program for law enforcement and first responders. Lt. Payne has incorporated Mental Health First Aid training in the curriculum at Yavapai College. Let Ms. Thayer know if you're looking for training.

The Arizona Coalition for Healthcare and Emergency Support will meet on April 15th and 16th. Great opportunity to network and connect with other resources for behavioral health providers. Discussion will include critical incidents and how to collaborate on statewide level.

Improve the T36/COE/COT process to better serve the needs of Yavapai Community

AHCCCS and Care1st have created a statewide workgroup to develop curriculum on statewide training regarding Title 36 and the COE process. Coalition Board member Jeanne Wellins is looking at Title 36 in other counties. There are huge differences in how each county handles Title 36. The workgroup is trying to coordinate a standard practice in Arizona. Some counties have expanded the packet and want witness statements. Approved applications take away some rights from persons. Most applications want current information from the most recent past and want to show imminent danger/ immediate need. Applications are better written by law enforcement personnel and behavioral health personnel than by family members.

Ms. Spencer with Pronghorn Psychiatry, who holds the Yavapai County Title 36/COE contract, advises they hold quarterly meetings and the next is May 18th. Community stakeholder meetings will provide updates on statistics, trends, and who is coming into the facility. Email Amy Ledesma at amyl@pronghornpsych.com for meeting information.

Yavapai County Administration is developing a request for qualifications (RFQ) for the upcoming Title 36/COE contract, utilizing the facility that will be built by the County. Jack Fields provided thanks to those with from the behavioral health system who recently participated in a planning meeting. Many changes will have to be considered such as the fee structure. Also considered is requiring if evaluations to determine if a person has a Serious Mental Illness should be required as part of the process after a person has been ordered to Court Ordered Treatment. The County want to have a smooth interface between community crisis providers and the Title 36 process. Transportation and medical screenings are important too. Working through discussions of who will manage the mental health center on a day-to-day basis for connection to services and/or Title 36. Hoping to have requests for quotes out in 30-60 days.

Maintain understanding of statewide legislation and policies that could affect or contribute to building a healthy and safe community.

Legislation: Captain Hunt provided an update on legislation. He is the current liaison for the Sheriff's Office, working on priorities such as diversion funding. Many are moving to the floor of

Legislature, 80 days into a 100-day session. They appear to be approaching budget discussion, very favorable, with broad bipartisan support.

Sheriff Rhodes reports we are in a good position with the Legislature, with attention focused on mental health treatment and criminal justice reform. They discouraged SB1064, which wanted early release without connection to treatment. Want to prove that re-entry planning at the county jail worked. Diversion at County Attorney level, with opportunity for accountability, also reduced recidivism. Need transition planning. Meaningful impact encourages people to stay engaged in services.

Showed the data from the success with Reach Out to the Legislature and asked for another appropriation to share with other counties statewide. HB2189 would provide a three-year appropriation to allow different county governments to apply to Arizona Criminal Justice Commission for money to start coordinated reentry planning, create release coordinator positions and report findings to the legislature. Want to make good public policy.

We will have the ability to bring persons to the future connection center to hand off to services when released from jail. Hope to show results statewide and reach people before they commit serious crimes and return to jail. Lots of support from the Governor's office. This group of people are advocated for and getting noticed, gaining traction for future programs.

Sheila Polk – SB1064, is not dead. It was originally HB2713 which would have released persons early from their prison sentence, regardless of threat or if services available to support them. Convinced legislature they need to be released to services after assessments. Bill is back up for consideration with opposition. Does not provide screening of person, showing their history.

Lots of good news on HB2334, a statutory process in secure treatment for those in the criminal justice system who are found incompetent, non-restorable and dangerous. Individuals who cannot be restored due to dementia or personality disorder are currently not eligible for treatment under Title 36. Those who are incompetent and non-restorable would be able to secure treatment through this bill. Treatment must be court ordered, whether in community or in-house. Bill has passed Senate and House. Citizen from Yavapai County testified.

A Diversion Funding bill will provide funding to all fifteen county attorney's offices over the next three years to continue the program. It passed the House and Committee: now in Senate. Expected to pass.

Bill 2163 is a responsible backend reform program that lets qualified inmates out of prison 90 days early and into transition services. Program extended for nine additional years.

Hb2067 was signed into law, which allows an offender off probation, out of jail/prison, with a judgement of guilt set aside, and a judge issuing a Certificate of Second Chance, so when applying for housing and employment individuals can show proof from a judge they've been rehabilitated.

Increase behavioral health access to children, youth, and families within the schools and the juvenile justice system:

AZ Youth Survey: Last week MATFORCE hosted an online drug summit. The Director from ACJC discussed the Arizona Youth survey. This shows a reflection of youth at risk and in vulnerable circumstances. Merilee fowler discussed data. Arizona Youth survey helps MATFORCE

determine strategies to help convince kids not to use substances. Fewer youths in 2020 took survey due to COVID-19. Yavapai County received data from 1368 students comprised of 8th, 10th, 12th grade to reflect 30-day use. The main substances kids are using: E-Cigarettes, Alcohol and Marijuana.

In 2010 many kids were using prescription pain relievers, but there has been a 78% reduction in the past ten years. Yavapai County is #2 in the state for alcohol and e-cigarette use; #5 in marijuana use; #7 in prescription pain reliever use. We are seeing a 20% increase in marijuana use over the last twelve years

The top three reasons kids use is because, #1) It's Fun; #2) To Feel Good; #3) Stress in Home/School.

Reasons provided for not using are because they're not interested or because it could harm them, and they don't want to disappoint parents.

Risk factors for kids in Yavapai County are higher than state average in relation to one or more parent being: an alcoholic-36.9%; drug users-22.9%; incarcerated-32.1%; divorced or separated-40.6%; parents fighting-18.6%; disparaged by parent-32.6%.

The report on the youth survey can be found at: Azcjc.gov.

Youth Resources: Ms. Thayer advised development of a workgroup focusing on connecting kids to safe physical places. The Coalition has started a reference book. Working on adding more information.

Please provide resources available for students, not just behavioral health providers. We need places where kids can interact and not be isolated. If you have teens, or clientele, please send ideas to Ms. Thayer so that they can fill resource book for distribution. Will have a link on the coalition website.

Announcements:

Jackie Mullin is the new AmeriCorps member working with Coalition. She is creating a communication plan for the Coalition. She will be reaching out to interview Coalition members regarding what collaboration looks like working within the community. She will be putting together a newsletter for monthly distribution. Tim Wiederaenders with The Daily Courier will assist. Please send forward ideas on stories, successes, and ideas. She is posting on Facebook and Linked In and would like to have everyone like/share.

April is Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Awareness month. May is Mental Health Awareness month.

Ms. Rendon from Catholic Charities announced they have a shelter in Prescott for women and now have a reentry house in Williams for men. Cost is \$300 per month for those released from jail or prison.

Ms. Fowler will oversee the overdose fatality review board on Wednesday, April 14th, at 10:00 a.m. reference the 2020 report. Got to the MATFORCE website and register to participate.

Ms. Brncik with David's Hope appreciates the legislative updates.

Sheriff Rhodes reported he was appointed to the Arizona Peace Officers Standardized Training board, which oversees licensing, accountability, and training for law enforcement personnel. There has been a tremendous undertaking to update training standards for the state and they increased training hours at the academies from 585 hours to 720 hours, to include de-escalation training, defensive taking tactics, use of force training, all to reduce the number of conflicts with persons with mental health conflicts. The first class to reflect this increase in Yavapai County will start in July. Also seeing a statewide increase in law enforcement for de-escalation and alternative approaches, working with crisis negotiators to avoid use of force and/or death as a result of circumstances. Unfortunately, there will still be some unfortunate incidents, but everyone is working to learn, improve tools and training, and develop alternative approaches, to preserve life. Thanks to everyone for their involvement in the work of the mental health coalition.

Ms. Barrios would like to continue the conversation regarding crisis personnel in dispatch centers, hoping to establish quicker care to persons in need in community. They will work to meet the needs of dispatch centers and members of community. She will connect with Commander Edelstein at Prescott Valley Police Department.

Ms. Lahie with Suicide Prevention at the VA Hospital offered thanks to Sergeant Stover for inclusion with CIT for officers regarding the veteran experience. They are looking for other opportunities where the VA Hospital can be of help. They are seeing a sharp increase in suicidal behavior over the last four months. They continue to watch veterans closely and screen for suicide.

There will be a Suicide Prevention Coalition meeting from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., hosted by Kelly Legler at West Yavapai Guidance Clinic via Zoom. Ms. Thayer can forward the invite upon request.

Thanks to everyone for the willingness to collaborate and work together even with different backgrounds. The next meeting is on July 8th. Location or platform will be announced as we get closer to the date.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.