



# **YAVAPAI JUSTICE & MENTAL HEALTH COALITION**

*Building a healthy and safe community through partnerships and collaboration.*

[www.justicementalhealth.org](http://www.justicementalhealth.org)

## CHARTER

### ***Mission and Statement of Purpose***

The mission of the Yavapai Justice and Mental Health Coalition is to build a healthy and safe community through partnerships and collaboration.

The Yavapai Justice and Mental Health Coalition values the opportunities that our supporting justice partners, service agencies and individual members offer to our community. We acknowledge the challenges that some people face when struggling with unmet mental health and substance abuse needs and understand that these challenges have the potential for people to intersect with the criminal justice system. We have come together as a coalition because we want our community to know that we have hope. It is our pledge that our holistic, collaborative efforts will provide multiple opportunities for lives to transform; that, together, we are building a foundation for the future and stories of success. We know that collectively we are building a healthy and safe community.

The purpose of the Yavapai Justice and Mental Health Coalition Advisory Council is to bring expertise and resources to the complex issue of behavioral health and criminal justice. The Advisory Council will increase each coalition member's and participant's impact in preventing, intervening, mitigating, and addressing criminal justice involvement within our communities and increasing the overall health of our community.

### ***Advisory Council Membership***

It is important to best utilize the Advisory Council positions to create a diverse representation of community leaders and stakeholders who can affect change and best support/address the target population. Advisory Council positions are to be available to at least include:

- Adult Probation
- Behavioral Health
- Community member/advocate/lived experience
- County Attorney
- Emergency/Transitional housing
- Jail/Detention
- Juvenile Probation/Courts
- Law Enforcement
- Legal
- Superior Court Presiding judge or designee
- Public Defender
- Schools
- Sheriff (can also represent Law enforcement and jail)
- Social Service provider

- Yavapai Justice and Mental Health Coalition Executive Director

It was determined by the Advisory Council the importance that law enforcement and behavioral health maintain a balance within the Council. Not more than four professional representatives from behavioral health or law enforcement each shall serve at one time and the Advisory Council will seek to maintain a balance of both.

The above list is not exhaustive of membership. Individuals interested in serving on the Advisory Council will be asked to apply and a decision will be made by the full Advisory Council on an individual basis.

If an Advisory Council member has two (2) consecutive absences that are unexcused with no attendance and no communication, they may be removed from the Advisory Council.

The Yavapai County Sheriff is the Chair of the Advisory Council.

Use of Proxies: Advisory Council agreed to the use of proxies for Advisory Council members who cannot attend Advisory Council meetings. A proxy may not attend more than 3 (50% of) meetings over a twelve-month period.

### ***Responsibilities***

The responsibility of the Advisory Council is to create and oversee the implementation of the Yavapai Justice and Mental Health Coalition's Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan shall be reviewed, developed, and approved by the Advisory Council annually. The Strategic Plan will be the road map for Yavapai County's criminal justice, behavioral health, and social determinants of health stakeholders to identify and address gaps within our systems. Facilitating stakeholder discussions, creating written procedures, emphasizing collaboration, and enhancing community awareness on a collective level will build consensus, pool resources, reduce duplication of efforts, create alliances, bolster, and unify efforts, and create systemic change and criminal justice reform.

Goals include:

- Improve cross-system collaboration to reduce involvement in the justice system by people with behavioral health disorders.
- Increase behavioral health access to children, youth and families within the schools and the juvenile justice system.
- Improve the T36 /COE / COT process to better serve the needs of the Yavapai community.
- Maintain understanding of statewide legislation and policies that could affect or contribute to building a healthy and safe community.

The members of the Advisory Council have the responsibility to identify barriers to system improvement in the intersections of behavioral health and criminal justice and to utilize their leadership and skills to create collaborative and meaningful changes to mitigate the barriers. Advisory Council members are responsible for formally participating in workgroups that address the above goals of the Yavapai Justice and Mental Health Coalition. Workgroups will be chaired/co-chaired by Advisory Council members and are open to coalition and community members.

The Yavapai Justice and Mental Health Coalition Advisory Council may offer an opinion of support or no-support on legislative bills that affect the mission and the goals of the Yavapai Justice and Mental Health Coalition. This action must be approved by a unanimous vote of a quorum of the Advisory Council. Due to the pace of legislative committee hearings, the Executive Director may email the Advisory Council for an email vote regarding formally voicing an opinion on a bill.

The Advisory Council will utilize the position of the Yavapai Justice and Mental Health Coalition's Executive Director to oversee these efforts, report back to the Advisory Council as needed, and support in accomplishing the objectives and tasks of the strategic plan.

### ***Meetings***

The Advisory Council will meet at least every two months and more often as needed, but a minimum of six (6) meetings per year. Meetings may be held in person, via tele-conference, via-video conference, or a hybrid of all of these. A majority of the Advisory Council members shall constitute a quorum. The Executive Director will keep a copy of the committee meeting minutes and maintain minutes and other Advisory Council documents on the [justicementalhealth.com](http://justicementalhealth.com) website. The Executive Director may invite any director, officer, staff member, expert or other advisor who isn't a member of the Advisory Council to attend meetings, but these individuals have no voting power.

Workgroup meetings will meet as determined by the needs within the objectives and action steps of each goal.

The Executive Director and the Advisory Council will report to the full Yavapai Justice and Mental Health Coalition action items needing input and updates on tasks towards the Strategic Plan at the quarterly coalition meetings.

The Advisory Council will review its charter at least annually and recommend and discuss any proposed changes to be approved by the quorum.

This charter was written by Beya Thayer, Executive Director and approved by the Advisory Council on May 26, 2022. This charter is to be reviewed by June 30, 2023.