



# **YAVAPAI JUSTICE & MENTAL HEALTH COALITION**

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

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

**July 14, 2022, 1 pm-2:30 pm**

In Person: Yavapai County Education Service Agency  
2970 Centerpointe E. Drive, Prescott  
Griffin Taylor Training Room  
and  
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Ms. Thayer opened the meeting at 1:00 pm and welcomed all attendees. If anyone was missed on the attendees, please email Ms. Thayer. (For list of attendees see last page.)

### **Introductions:**

**Ms. Thayer:** Welcomed everyone – both in person and on Teams.

**Review and Approve Meeting Minutes:** April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, minutes were not reviewed or approved during this meeting. Email either Ms. Thayer or Antoinette for corrections.

### **Welcome:**

**Sheriff Rhodes:** Welcome. As many of you know we had a Deputy killed in a line of duty a couple of weeks ago and this has been a tough time for our agency. The support we have received from the community and many of you has been overwhelming, greatly appreciated. This has been a tragedy and has not happened in over 49 years. We are thankful for everyone pitching in to help, especially with the troops. One thing I would like to say, it is through this Coalition and through Beya's connections to all of you, we have had the most overwhelming robust CISM response for all the 1<sup>st</sup> responders at a time when we needed it the most.

The resources were coming in from the Valley agencies, CISM Scottsdale, Maricopa, Phoenix Police Department, and we are still working through this tragedy. It impacted a lot of members not only the Sheriff's office, but 1<sup>st</sup> responders from the community, such as the fire department, AzDPS. This is one of the coolest things about the coalition is we know where to go for help. We know how to use it to integrate public safety and to come as one within the community at our time of need. We are appreciative.

### **Strategic Goals**

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

- **Updates: Sheriff David Rhodes**

The legislation had a record session, and the budget was passed. The Re-Entry funding for Yavapai, Mohave, and Pinal was funded again this year for \$10 million which will be split between the three

counties. The funding is to be used primarily for the infrastructure of the buildings for the Re-Entry Centers that are being built, hiring of staff, as well the creation of the statewide data base.

There was another bill passed for individuals who have been found Dangerous yet Non-Restorable. This had been worked on for a very long time and in the past, there had not been any funds dedicated to care coordination for this population. is a very small population, but an important population to pay attention to. This year there was funding attached to legislation in the amount of \$25 million for 5 regional facilities with one in Northern Arizona. We are starting to look further into this legislation and understand what it means. The money will go through AHCCCS.

Many of you know we are building our Re-Entry Center in Prescott, next the Criminal Justice Center. The larger jail for the Sheriff's Office will remain in Camp Verde and our goal is to also remodel the Camp Verde Jail for there to be a Re-Entry Center. Beya worked on another grant through the Attorney General's Office and recently found out we were awarded another \$1 million to retrofit a part of the jail for the re-entry center and inmate programs.

The Legislation ended in June, and we are starting to plan the agenda for this next legislation session. We are working with Ms. Tamara Player, Polara Health, who has some great ideas for the T36 Legislation, which we would like to see, and get submitted through AZ Association of Counties as a part of the County's Legislative Agenda this year.

Lastly, we are in the middle of elections, and it is very encouraging. I had detailed discussions with most of the governor's candidates regarding the re-entry planning, screening, and diversion program from the county level. Criminal justice reform and mental health are key components for all of the candidates and a number of the Legislator's. Matt Gress, Governor Ducey's Budget Director, is running for the Arizona House of Representatives. He was a major influence behind our Reach Out funding and part of his entire platform is to get elected in the Legislature so he can continue to do this work and appropriate money for behavioral health treatment.

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

Ms. Thayer: Update on the T36 process work group. Our work group had decided to look at a portion of the statute that discusses the ability for a patient to elect to a voluntary evaluation and not be held through the COE process. There is nothing in the statute to help the continuity of care process such as accountability of the evaluation referral and confirmation that the individual did get connected to the chosen provider. We have drafted some revision language to address these gaps, and this is the piece that Sheriff Rhodes will bring forth to AACO.

Ms. Denise Cox questioned if there is knowledge of any counties having a process in which there is oversight or tracking of those T36/COE patients who elect to have a voluntary evaluation and if patients are informed that they have the option to seek a voluntary evaluation.

Per Ms. Thayer's knowledge from research, attending statewide taskforces she states there is not a generalized oversight of this part of the process. The entity responsible for the T36/COE/COT process are the individual counties and it is up to the counties (or with contracted partners) to create a tracking mechanism if they choose to do so. Law enforcement partners have expressed frustration when they attempt to connect a person to treatment services, and they see the person within a week or two with the same dangerous behaviors and they have not sought treatment voluntarily although they stated they would during the screening.

- **Polara Health Care contract update. Ms. Tamara Player.**

It has been 14 days since the start of the T36 contract with Polara and it is going well overall. There are still details to work out. One of the challenges is capacity since we need to start at the CSU. We are working with the County to give us the flexibility to use the resources we have available to serve individuals who need it.

Polara Health is tracking the patients who consent to a voluntary evaluation. One of the things we have already identified is engaging our community partners around the voluntary options and the fact that at any point someone could transition to become voluntary and what does that mean. We are having conversations with our community partners, and we are tracking it as the T36 Provider for Yavapai County. One thing we want to make sure of is if the best option for the individual is to go voluntary. If someone has stated that they would once or twice, and they have not followed through, then that is where we get into the piece with the Law Enforcement agencies responding repeatedly to the same issues. We want to make sure we can share the information and reports to help coordinate the best decision for the individual for their health and well-being. Thank you for your support.

Mr. Jack Fields: When we did the request for Request for Proposal and rated the applicants for the T36 contract, there were applicants who bid significantly lower amounts to handle the contract. The kind of things Ms. Player has described in order to make things happen by working closely with community partners is why we selected Polara. We believed those things would happen and did happen. I can't tell you how thrilled I am.

Ms. Player: Polara spent several months leading up to receiving the contract in partnership with many of MH Coalition designing what it would look like as a community. We are now testing the design; we are going to find things that work well and some that don't. Communication will be the key. We will continue our Community Stakeholders meetings monthly to discuss what is working and not working. Do not hesitate to call us.

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

- **Best for Teens, save the date August 23<sup>rd</sup>: Beya Thayer**

This workgroup will be starting a project titled Best for Teens, which will be hosted by our partners at the Launch Pad. We are addressing our objective of trying to increase the knowledge of what is available, safe, and healthy for our teens and families. We will be identifying gaps and ideas to fill the gaps. Our first meeting will be on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 pm, hosted at the Launch Pad. The meeting will also be available through Teams (streaming). We are asking for support for those who work with the younger population. If you know of younger advocates that are youth and teen, please ask them to join.

- **Introducing our new behavioral health partner for adolescent girls: New Day Rising, Dr. Erin Smith, COO**

New Day Rising, formally known as Spring Ridge Academy, was primarily Residential Behavioral Health for adolescent teenage girls. We are moving in the direction to create more affordability and access for families and their children to receive the mental health care they need. We are working from a family systems model. We are not just identifying the patient, but rather looking at the entire system and how that system can change. We are here to support people in their mental health issues, understand families, understand developmental trauma, and how it impacts families. We are very trauma focused.

New Day Rising has a high school on site, and we are recently opening a therapeutic day school in addition to the boarding school. The school has a strong academic component to help address the mental health issues that often manifest within the classroom. We have grades nine (9) to twelve (12). We are in the process of working with different insurance plans, including the AHCCCS health plans. We work with Department of Child and Family Services.

Our specialties are trauma, depression, anxiety, students who self-harm, and substance abuse issues. It is not crisis level care, on-going regular care. We do family, individual, group, and recreational therapy.

We are both residential and outpatient. We want the least restrictive level of care. We can do outpatient in the office and in home. We are in Mayer, and it can be difficult for families to come to us. We are willing to go in home to do family parenting. You can reach out to us by going to our website [ndrising.com](http://ndrising.com)

**Improve cross-system collaboration to reduce involvement in the justice system by people with mental health and substance abuse disorders.**

- **Introducing our latest Peer Run Partners: Hope Inc – Dan Haley, CEO**

Ms. Thayer is excited to introduce Hope Inc. to the Yavapai community as they will be contracting with Care 1<sup>st</sup> this fall and has been discussing bringing their services to our area and working with individuals prior to and upon release from jail and within the specialty courts. Ms. Thayer will coordinate a smaller discussion with providers and justice partners to brainstorm how Hope Inc. can collaborate with the services and resources already in place and offer another support the justice involved population in reaching recovery.

Mr. Haley: Hope Inc. is a Peer and Family Run Organization. We have been around over 30 years, predominantly in the Pima County area. Hope Inc has a long-standing relationship within the Criminal Justice System. Currently, in Pima County we have a peer support staff located in each specialty court. Hope Inc was awarded a grant to provide a peer support to work out to the jail and initial appearances.

Hope Inc provides wrap around services. We try to meet with individuals who are incarcerated to assist in coordination and preparing for their re-entry and discharge plan. We can address housing and employment needs as the individuals are getting released.

Hope Inc. has a relationship with Department of Corrections. Six months prior to individuals being released, we can go and help with the discharge planning to provide a whole continuum of services. We also do what we call a Second Responder Program. When an individual comes out of a crisis situation, such as incarceration, we can use this as an opportunity to start building the peer support relationship. In addition to working with the criminal justice system, we work with crisis centers and hospitals.

Hope Inc. takes about 6,000 calls through their warm line, which has been in operations for over 20 years. Hope Inc does not provide individual or group counseling. We will refer to Spectrum or Polara for those services. Sometimes individuals do fall through the cracks or there are gaps in service.

In January we received a transportation grant from Cochise County. There are underlying services we provide: for example, if an individual is released and needs a cigarette, we get it for them to keep them going. The great thing about this program is we can follow individuals while they are in their treatment. We are their transportation back to the community and it is a time for them to engage with the peer supports. This grant is separate from the Medicaid Program. Medicaid cannot offer peer support and transport at the same time.

- **Pre-Trial Diversion update: Dana Owens, County Attorney's Office - Erin Ortega, Complete Care Partners and Dana Owens, Deputy County Attorney:**

Introduction – a few meetings ago, Ms. Dana Owens and Ms. Erin Ortega gave a presentation on the County Attorney's Pre-Trial Diversion Program through the partnership with Complete Care. We had asked them to come back at a later date to present on the progress of the Diversion Program.

May 2022 ended the second year of the Diversion Program. We started with felony drug cases and now we are accepting referrals for misdemeanor cases.

The Diversion Program has been operational for the past two years. 397 cases have been referred from the Yavapai County Attorney's Office. About 61% of the referrals have participated in the program. The biggest barrier to getting clients to enroll was not being able to reach them. Since the program implementation, over 120 graduates have participated and have experienced a 71% success rate. We are proud of the integrity of the program and knowing the individuals who have graduated really earned that designation. Of the clients who have successfully completed the program, 98.79% have not been rearrested.

Clients are not just taking the substance abuse classes as they are also being connected to services and resources. We look at their social determinants of health needs and complete a comprehensive assessment with our provider agencies Spectrum and Polara. If housing is needed, the client is connected to DES. We try to help identify their true needs. Many clients have been diagnosed with mental health issues in the past. We have had people arrested for felony drug cases and diverted them from the justice system.

There is a technology component as well. iTether is being used as the platform and is configured to customize. It cuts down the intake time. There is a curriculum and educational piece that clients can have on their phones for connectivity. We established a list of words to indicate if there is a problem and if so, we get alerted. We can set goals and milestones to reach the goals. We haven't been using it very long and have not had time to receive feedback from clients. Pinal County is using the same technology and have reported to have a lot of success with it. If a client does not have a phone, we provide them with a phone to use while in the program. Our program is not a cookie cutter approach but focuses on the needs of the clients.

Ms. Owens reported the state passed legislation allocating \$10 million specifically designated for the rural counties.

- **Community Health Services Grant: Leslie Horton, CHS**

The Community Health Services has received several different funds to give out for projects since COVID. In addition, CHS has also started to receive grants and funding to include opioid abatement and Prop 207 marijuana funds. The disbursement is to support specific projects, such as substance use, keeping individuals out of the justice system that maybe had substance offenses and trying to get them into recovery services, reentry, or other services to keep them out of the justice system. The funds are available to support programs/projects in the community. We will also be receiving funding for the Opioid Litigation and that is where some of the pharmaceutical companies were sued for billions.

The Community Health Services will be hosting Opioid Prioritization Meeting on August 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Development Services building, right next door to the health department. If you

are interested in attending, provide your email or email Lorena Padilla at [Lorena.padilla@yavapaiaz.gov](mailto:Lorena.padilla@yavapaiaz.gov). The purpose of the meeting will be to prioritize what the needs in our community are.

- What's being done in the community?
- What resources are available for Substance Abuse/Mental Health?
- What project have been proposed and not funded or need additional funding?
- Bring your ideas

**Trauma Lens Care Update:** The app has been updated and an email has been sent to the Law Enforcement leaders. When there are juveniles or youngsters at the scene of any sort of law enforcement intervention, TLC will be notified of the name of the child, what school they attend, and what happened at the scene of the incident. Services can be provided through the school. If a child is involved with juvenile detention, their probation officer is notified.

- **Justice Involved Curriculum Training Update: Kathy Ryder, Adult Probation**

A curriculum is being developed to provide training to our behavioral health partners and others which will address processes when a person enters the Justice System. Topics to include:

- What are steps they go through when in the Justice System?
- What are the different kinds of probation?
- What are the different requirements for probation?

- **Upcoming CIT Training October 31 – November 4<sup>th</sup>, Prescott.** RSVP to [Antoinette.sablan@yavapaiaz.gov](mailto:Antoinette.sablan@yavapaiaz.gov)

***Save the dates for upcoming 2022 Coalition Meetings: October 13<sup>th</sup> and January 12<sup>th</sup>***

Please contact Ms. Thayer at [beya.thayer@yavapaiaz.gov](mailto:beya.thayer@yavapaiaz.gov) to receive calendar invites for workgroup dates.

**Attendees:** (If you are not shown in the list of attendees, please email Ms. Thayer)

<i>AZ at Work</i>	<b>Alycia Botkin</b>
<i>Arizona Complete Health</i>	<b>Kelly Boyer</b>
<i>Care 1<sup>st</sup>/AHCCCS</i>	<b>Virginia Cons</b>
<i>Catholic Charities Housing</i>	<b>Anthony Cruz,</b>
<i>Child &amp; Family Support Services</i>	<b>Dylan Baynes</b>
<i>Community Member</i>	<b>Aurora Zepeda</b>
	<b>Heather McDermott</b>
	<b>Jane Terhune</b>
	<b>Richard Sandoval</b>
	<b>Wayne Sisson</b>
<i>Community Member and Advocate</i>	<b>Don Kirchner</b>
	<b>Gwendolyn Swan</b>
<i>Complete Care Partners</i>	<b>Erin Ortega</b>
	<b>Christopher Dowell, Commander</b>
<i>Health Choice Arizona</i>	<b>Brianna Barrios</b>
	<b>Denise Cox</b>
<i>Hope Incorporated</i>	<b>Daniel Haley</b>
<i>Inside/Out Network</i>	<b>Miranda Campos</b>
<i>Mohave County</i>	<b>Don Bischoff</b>
	<b>Tammy Thompson</b>
<i>NAMI</i>	<b>Kathy Bashor</b>
<i>New Day Rising</i>	<b>Erin Smith</b>
<i>Northern Arizona Peer and Family Coalition</i>	<b>Laurie Verdier</b>
<i>Polara Health</i>	<b>David Dohm</b>
	<b>Deanna Eder</b>
	<b>Tamara Player</b>
<i>Prescott Police Department</i>	<b>Amy Bonney, Police Chief</b>
<i>Prescott Valley Police Department</i>	<b>Javier Martinez</b>
<i>Return to Honor</i>	<b>Don Kirchner</b>
	<b>Gwendolyn Swan</b>
<i>Sedona Police Department</i>	<b>Charles Husted, Chief</b>
<i>Southwest Behavioral &amp; Health</i>	<b>Christine Hayes</b>
	<b>Bonnie Goosic</b>
<i>Solari</i>	<b>Kellyanne Smith</b>
	<b>Eric Lee</b>
	<b>Jen Hernandez</b>
	<b>Cassie Villegas</b>
<i>Spectrum Healthcare</i>	<b>Paige LeForte</b>
	<b>Sadira DeMareno</b>
	<b>Shawn Hatch</b>
<i>Steps to Recovery</i>	<b>Damien Browning</b>
<i>Suicide Prevention – Yavapai County</i>	<b>Kelly Lee</b>
<i>Terros Health</i>	<b>Tracey Cole</b>

*Veteran's Administration  
Wexford Medical  
Yavapai County Board of Supervisors  
Yavapai Community Health Services*

*Yavapai County Administration  
Yavapai County Adult Probation*

*Yavapai County Attorney's Office  
Yavapai County Education Service Agency  
Yavapai County Public Defender – Verde  
Yavapai County Public Fiduciary  
Yavapai County Sheriff's Office*

*Yavapai Juvenile Court  
Yavapai Regional Medical Center  
Yavapai Superior Court*

***Christopher Liberatore-Lopez  
Becky Payne  
Veronica Stepanek  
Leslie Horton, Director  
Lorena Padilla  
Carol Lewis  
Gema Lopez  
Jack Fields  
Cameron Doty  
Kathy Ryder  
Dana Owens  
Marvy McNeese  
Jillian Bachman-Underhill  
Kathryn Blair  
Beya Thayer, Executive Director  
Brent Kimbriel, Commander  
Jeff Newnum, Chief Deputy  
David Rhodes, Sheriff  
Richard Martin, Captain  
Tara Newman  
Robert Barth, II  
Kam Manswell***