



# **YAVAPAI JUSTICE & MENTAL HEALTH COALITION**

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

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

**April 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.)

### **Welcome:**

**Sheriff Rhodes:** Welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. A lot of ideas from when the Coalition was formed several years ago of what we wanted to accomplish are starting to occur. Sheriff Rhodes provided an overview of a few accomplishments that we have achieved because of working together:

- Created Reach Out, which is the Screening upon arrest and re-entry program at the jail. We brought in pre-arrest diversion options, such as the mobile response crisis and crisis stabilization options to the Yavapai County so we can help individuals not return to jail. We can see the positive impact as a result. We were booking about 10,000 individuals a year back in 2015/2016 and last past year (2021) it was about 6,000.
- We have recently concluded our Mental Health First Aide Training Grant. Over 1,000 First Responders and schoolteachers have been trained in Mental Health First Aide.
- We have been able to expand coordinated re-entry to three other counties – Pinal, Coconino, and Mohave.
- We have received over \$3 million from the Arizona Legislators to create Reach Out, Re-Entry Planning, Diversion.
- We have designed the new Criminal Justice Center: 152 bed facility, will have courts, re-entry center, and connection center. The inpatient Title 36 facility will be there and Polara Health will be the provider. This will help the individuals who need the help get the help they need.

We are working together for population health to create better communities, less people addicted to drugs, having more people getting mental health treatment, keeping people from being arrested that don't need to be arrested, and making that contact at the very beginning of the Criminal Justice process impactful.

### **Introductions:**

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

**Review and Approve Meeting Minutes:** January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, minutes were not reviewed or approved during this meeting. Please email Beya Thayer or Antoinette Sablan with any needed corrections.

**Presentation: Accessing Veteran's Administration Services: Julie Garver and Lisa Lahaie, Northern AZ VA Health Care System**

Veterans Affairs Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Veterans Justice Outreach

The best way to access the Veterans Crisis Line:

- 1) 1-800-273-8255 must press 1 (changing to 988)
- 2) VeteransCrisisLine.net for confidential chat
- 3) Text 838255

After accessing the Veteran's Crisis Line an electronic referral is immediately submitted to my office and we respond within 24 hours for additional services and follow-up.

Accessing local VA Mental Health (Prescott):

- Mental Health Clinic: 928-445-4860, ext. 7500
- Same Day Access, Bldg 161, 8 am to 4:30 pm
- VA Emergency Department – 24-hour Mental Health on Call Coverage
- Mental Health Professionals embedded in Primary Care (PACT) for immediate access
- No VA psychiatric unit in Prescott

If a veteran is in crisis, it is best to bring the person directly to the VA's emergency department so the VA can coordinate additional care. If the person is at another hospital, the VA cannot assist in care coordination.

In Prescott, we have the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest death rate by suicide among veterans in the country. At least 90% of the suicides occur by firearms. There is an emphasis placed on firearm safety and the safety planning so when some is in crisis, they don't have immediate access to a firearm. The VA does not remove the firearms from the veterans. The VA involves the family for safety planning, educating them on the how dangerous and risks of being in crisis, consultation, crisis line, and connecting to health care services

Additional services offered for Veterans and Community Providers:

- Community provider toolkit offers a free on-line training on Veteran issues, including military culture, and health care providers.
- Suicide Risk Management Consultation Program for providers who serve veterans. Mainly for direct service providers.

Due to federal laws, the VA cannot participate in any court ordered treatment (such as the Title 36 process). If the Veteran refuses services, the VA cannot force them to participate. Services must be 100% voluntary and not force anyone into treatment. The VA cannot take the Veteran if they do not agree.

Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Program is designed to collaborate with local justice partners to identify Veterans entering the criminal justice system and in need of treatment services. If the Veteran is court ordered to treatment, the VA does not provide court ordered treatment. However, the VA does offer treatment programs to the Veterans and often, those programs will suffice the court treatment. The

VJO can assist those individuals who are in jail with services tailored to specific needs to include residential treatment.

Please see attached PowerPoint for additional details.

### **Strategic Goals**

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

- **Operation Engage:** *Kelly Lee, DEA Contractor/Community Counts AZ & James Tobin, Director of Alcohol & Drug Prevention Strategies Yavapai College*

Operation Engage was brought to Yavapai County last year. We were one out of 11 divisions chosen in the United States to provide programing. We were one of the successful divisions due to our partnerships. We do Youth Programing, Adult Programing, and Workplace Engagement. Upcoming events:

**April 21, 2022:** Yavapai College Town Hall. We are bringing college students together with community stakeholders to come up with some strategies for 18-24 years who are overdosing at a higher rate than the other age groups. Guest speaker: Leslie Horton, Yavapai Community Health Center. Anyone who is interested, please attend.

**April 30, 2022:** Take Back Event. Partnering with local faith-based leaders. The importance of safely disposing of expired and unused medication.

**July 25-25, 2022:** Youth Leadership Training at the Yavapai College in partnership with CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) for high school students, grades: 9-12. Register at Yavapai.Dea.gov.

**August 15, 2022:** DEA Citizen Academy: Last group, we had 14 people graduate. There was a simulation training on our graduation date at NARTA. The DEA Citizen's Academy is a 20-hour training program. There are six (6) sessions, and you must attend all sessions. There will be four (4) classroom sessions, one (1) gunsight session for firearm safety, and a graduation. There are 25 slots, and you can register now.

**October 17-19, 2022:** Team Maze. DEA will be sponsoring this year's event.

- **Suicide Prevention Coalition of Yavapai County:** *Kelly Lee, Community Counts AZ & James Tobin,*

**May 11, 2022:** 5:00 to 7:30 pm at the Yavapai Performing Arts Center – 1100 E. Sheldon Street, Prescott. My Ascension: A Documentary Film and Movement to Spread Hope and Fight Suicide. This event is being hosted by the Suicide Prevention Coalition – Emma who survived her suicide attempt shares her inspiring journey and quest to walk again. Middle School/High School age appropriate. Promoting on Polara website – [www.polarahealth.com](http://www.polarahealth.com).

- **Spectrum Healthcare Mobile Crisis and 911 Deflection Update:** *Paige LeForte, Spectrum*

We have finished our training with the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office and are scheduling our trainings with Prescott Regional Communications and Cottonwood Communications. We are circling through to all the Dispatchers and giving them our training of what we screen for in Mental Health calls, what

needs to be diverted, Law Enforcement, or EMS. In return, they are training us on safety and awareness. The Dispatchers are providing the radio training, which we will be using for an extra safety precaution. We have already gone live with co-response with several different departments. We are getting dispatched at the same time as the officers, and it has saving of up to 47 minutes from the officer's time. Yavapai College is also on board We are seeing a lot of positive movement and our goal is to have it up and running by fire season.

- **Solari Statewide Crisis-line contract**, *Eric Lee*

Beginning 10/01/2022 Solari will become the statewide telephone crisis provider. We will start answering the 988 calls. In June the number will change to 988. Nothing will change with the services provided through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. There has been congressional change to make it an easy 3-digit dialing for crisis care. We will still have the availability to send mobile teams. Change may increase the call volume as it will be a lot easier to access. The 800 number will change to 988 with no extensions. A caller to 988 will be routed the state providers based on the area code of the phone they are using to call from.

- **Crisis Intervention Training** scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> to May 6<sup>th</sup>, in Cottonwood. RSVP to [Antoinette.Sablan@yavapaiaz.gov](mailto:Antoinette.Sablan@yavapaiaz.gov)

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

- **SAMSHA: Mental Health First Aide Grant:** Training shifted to the on-line module due to Covid and the original goal of trainees were less than we had originally hoped for. However, we did train a total of 1064 individuals: -384 First Responders; 99 in CIT; 19 in Applied Suicide Intervention; and 562 School personnel. We have created a sustainable training program and there are both law enforcement and school personnel trained as trainers and will continue offering Y/MHFA. We also have extra books available. Contact Ms. Thayer if you are interested in extra books or would like to schedule a training.
- **July 25 & 26** – Save the date for Youth Mental Health Awareness Conference at the Prescott Resort. The focus will be Youth Mental Health. There will be registration for kids to attend. Any questions, contact Heather at 928.634.6858.

- **Trauma Lens Care Update:**

A project that started out very simple but creative and amazing. This project started in partnership with MATFORCE and County Community Health Services to help children who are at the scene of a bad situation, such as drug overdose by a parent/sibling, suicide, abuse. The APP was created for officers to report immediately when a child is at the scene of a Law Enforcement call. The child is connected directly services in their school. The information is shared with school counselor or teacher to better understand what the child has been through recently and to receive the support and/or services needed.

A new web application is being built. For the Law Enforcement, an APP was developed but had some issues. A new APP is being built to have a drop-down list of information. The APP will give real time resources to offer. A new component has been added. We worked with Juvenile Detention to identify red flags in child(ren) who may have been trafficked or human trafficking. It takes the highest risk

youth that have gone through trauma and helps us to see who shows up time and time again. TLC reports will show us which child(ren) to provide reach out services/resources they need, such as coping skills, counseling, and other services to help them thrive.

Officers will have the #'s automatically to show up for the resources. This will roll out within the next month. We would like to visit the different agencies to provide resources to help officers and provide a brief training of about 15 minutes.

TLC will be rolling out Teachers as Mentors Program in Cottonwood to specifically target youth in trauma.

- **Children's access to care workgroup:**

We are discussing processes for parents who are incarcerated to be on a family team meeting with their child with the behavioral health provider. It would benefit the family. If you would like the meeting invite, please email Ms. Thayer.

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

- **Workgroup update, Tamara Player, Co-chair**

We have been monitoring the Bills at the Legislature and made a recommendation for the Advisory Council to weigh in on some Bills. Our focus has been on the COE application to see how to make it more user friendly. We reached out to AHCCCS through Sheila Polk to help us move forward some changes to the application. We are also working on the voluntary application. The work being done is hopeful for the changes at the State level.

- **Polara Health COE/COT/Contracts and T36 Update, Tamara Player, Polara Health CEO**

Polara Health is delighted to have David Dohm on board as Site Manager for Polara. Polara Health has been hosting many stakeholder meetings to prepare for the start of the T36 contract in July and are thankful for the partnerships. The partnerships have helped our vision come to life. We want to streamline this process, address some key points, and are actively working to include a voluntary application process that allows us to track individuals better.

Next local Stakeholders Meeting is next Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. We are continuing to work on the AHCCCS to care to make it easier to access services.

Tamara and David met with Verde Valley hospital about T36 Program and how it will work for the east side of the county. We are identifying some key points and difficulties to problem solve the issues. Working on hiring nurses and BHTs in the near future.

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

- **Legislative Updates, Sheriff Rhodes**

Some of this Legislation's bills that got traction include SB1310 which addresses individuals who are not competent nor restorable to stand trial yet are extremely dangerous due to their mental illness. This bill would essentially create a path for inpatient hold/treatment at the State Hospital for individuals who were dangerous not restorable in the RTC process. There is a very small group of individuals who are

dangerous, who cannot be prosecuted, sentenced, or incarcerated, causing a continual revolving door, and committing crimes.

SB1210 provides jurisdictions the ability to utilize an ambulance instead of law enforcement for some COE transport needs. When the T36 transport statute was written, it made sense for Law Enforcement to do the transport. What we know now, is that law enforcement has little medical training to support someone with very serious medical issues in handcuffs in the back seat of the vehicle for a transport of an hour or more.

Funding is still centered around Re-Entry Planning at the county level. There has been a lot of funds put towards this planning. The Sheriff's office is working on finishing the Connection Center. Mohave County is starting to build their Connection Center. Coconino is refurbishing space to create a Pathways program, and Navajo County is now working to get on board.

**Updates:**

Ms. Horton: County Health has received funding as it relates to the Marijuana Legalization – Prop 207, an opioid grant from the Hospital, and opioid mitigation funds. Ms. Horton would like to put together a meeting soon to help identify what the priorities and gaps in the community are: whether it's prevention, or to use for Connection Center as it relates to substance abuse in our area, etc. She would like to contract with the other agencies to do the project or hire people in the health department. Finding the right person passionate to do this work is harder. We are open to ideas and will send a message out to Ms. Thayer to see who is willing to meet and to prioritize the funds/projects.

Ms. Player announced that the partnership between Spectrum and Polara, Complete Care Partners, has been awarded a new contract with the courts to provide out of custody Restoration to Competency services. Our goal is to get people connected to services.

Deputy County Attorney Dana Owens updated that the Pre-trial diversion program began addressing misdemeanor charges about two (2) months ago. The majority of the misdemeanor cases coming into Diversion fall into one of the following categories: 1) one off problem, low level of domestic violence and are able connect to services; or 2) severally mentally ill people. We are so excited to intersect with them early on and able to connect them to services.

***Save the dates for upcoming 2022 Coalition Meetings: July 14<sup>th</sup> and October 13<sup>th</sup>***

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

*Alzheimer's Association*

*Camp Verde School Board  
Care 1<sup>st</sup>/AHCCCS  
Catholic Charities Housing*

*Child & Family Support Services*

*City of Cottonwood  
Clarkdale Police Department  
Community and Board Member  
Community Member and Advocate*

*Community Counts AZ/DEA Contractor  
Complete Care Partners  
Coalition for Compassion and Justice  
Cottonwood Police Department*

*Cottonwood Police Department  
Cottonwood Oak Creek School District  
Health Choice Arizona*

*Hope Incorporated*

*First Things First  
Inside/Out Network  
Ledbetter Law Firm  
MATFORCE  
Mohave County  
NAZCARE  
Northern Arizona Peer and Family Coalition  
Polara Health*

*Prescott Police Department*

*Prescott Valley Police Department*

**Leslie Jenkins**

*Christine Stein  
Thomasene Cadona*

**Mario J. Morales**

*Anthony Cruz, Program Manager  
Sarah Rendon  
Elva Cruz*

**Mary Robbins**

**Dawn Rutigliano**

*Catherine Kelly, Judge  
Randy Taylor, Chief  
Jeanne Wellins*

**Wayne Sisson**

*Ellie Finn, Retired Judge*

**Kelly Lee**

*Erin Ortega*

*Steve Gesell, Chief*

*Christopher Dowell, Commander*

*Gareth Braxton-Johnson, Commander*

**Steve King**

**Amy Fehrs Bacon**

**Brianna Barrios**

**Denise Cox**

**Joshua Napoleon**

*Becca King*

**Daniel Haley**

**Lisa Blyth**

**Miranda Campos**

**James Ledbetter**

**Merilee Fowler**

**Don Bischoff**

*Greg Billi*

*Laurie Verdier*

**Jhana Morrow**

**Tamara Player**

**David Dohm**

**Deanna Eder**

*Jason Small, Lieutenant*

*Amy Bonney, Police Chief*

**Timothy Johnson, LPO**

*Nancy Roberts, Sergeant*

*Prescott Valley Police Department  
Pronghorn Psychiatry*

*Return to Honor*

*Sedona Police Department  
Southwest Behavioral & Health*

*Solari*

*Sparklight  
Spectrum Healthcare  
Suicide Prevention – Yavapai County  
Terros Health*

*Trauma Lens Care  
Verde Valley Homeless  
Veteran’s Administration*

*Wexford Medical  
Yavapai County Board of Supervisors  
Yavapai College*

*Yavapai Community Health Services*

*Yavapai County Administration  
Yavapai County Adult Probation*

*Yavapai County Attorney’s Office*

*Yavapai County Public Fiduciary  
Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office*

***James Edelstein, Commander***

***Gwendolyn Swan***

***Don Kirchner***

*Charles Husted, Chief*

*Christine Hayes*

***Bonnie Goosic***

***Kellyanne Smith***

***Eric Lee***

***Jen Hernandez***

***Becky Banks***

***Paige LeForte***

*Kelly Lee*

***Bryan Gest, Director***

***Tracey Cole***

***Tiffany Cole***

***Michael Lawhorn***

***Mikki McCartney***

*Rhonda Bishop, Executive Director*

***Julie Garver***

***Lisa Lahie,***

***Becky Payne***

***Veronica Stepanek***

***Tyran Payne, Chief***

***James Tobin***

***Leslie Horton, Director***

***Lorena Padilla***

***Carol Lewis***

***Jack Fields***

*John Morris, Chief*

*Alex Hope*

***Cameron Doty***

*Kathy Ryder*

*Sheila Polk*

***Dana Owens***

***Dennis McGrane***

***Kathryn Blair***

***Audrey Dorfman, VIP***

***Beya Thayer, Executive Director***

***Brent Kimbriel, Commander***

***Ethan Stover, Sergeant***

***Janice Knapp***

***Jeff Newnum, Chief Deputy***

***David Rhodes, Sheriff***



*Yavapai Education Service Agency*

*Yavapai Juvenile Court*

*Yavapai Regional Medical Center*

*Yavapai Superior Court*

*Gay Lockling, Director*

***Tara Newman***

*Robert Barth, II*

*Carol Freeman*

***Kam Manswell***