



# **YAVAPAI JUSTICE & MENTAL HEALTH COALITION**

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

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

**January 12, 2023, 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.

### **Welcome:**

**Sheriff Rhodes:** Welcome everybody. Thank you all for attending, this is a fantastic turnout. We are well represented among all of the different partners that are involved in this endeavor. We do have a few updates on the legislative session, which is very important for the work that we're trying to do, the impact that we're trying to have on public policy and funding. There are a few updates I know Beya will go over, one of the biggest is a \$17 million appropriation bill filed. This bill was written by Matt Gress, Governor Ducey's former budget director who helped us get all of the appropriations for Reach Out and all the work that we were doing while he worked at the Governor's Office; he got elected to the House of Representatives, District 4, and this work was part of his primary platform. Matt Gress wrote the bill and Doctor Selina Bliss agreed to sponsor it and is already working on it. Dr. Bliss is our freshman legislator in the House. Many of you know her from her time at the college, she is a tremendous ally for public safety, addiction treatment and mental health treatment. The Coalition did not even have to ask for the \$17 million appropriation this time, which shows a shift in the tides of the direction that things are going. The basis of this obviously has to do with the work that we are doing that is spreading to other counties: Mohave, Pinal, Coconino and Pima. This is becoming the way that business is done, and they are recognizing that and the involvement of law enforcement and cross disciplinary measures that we're taking really is what's causing the impact.

A few things that we worked on over the summer included a coalition we were invited to attend in Phoenix, Compassion Coalition for Homelessness, which was convened by former prosecutor Steve Twist. Sheriff Paul Penzone, myself and many other law enforcement representatives, prosecutors, as well as behavioral health professionals were on the coalition. The goal of the coalition is to come up with public safety policy recommendations for homelessness. A large part of it was reentry planning and mobile crisis response, which were the main part of the policy objective created by the coalition and sent to the Governor's Office and the Legislator.

We are also waiting for our initial report from our consultants that we hired to do our own internal analysis of Reach Out. That will have a number of policy recommendations that go with it as well that we will introduce to our legislators.

This coalition has been functioning for years now and the work that you have been doing is bearing fruit. We are starting to see actual legitimate public policy changes, law changes and funding changes at the very top level in that state and that will all trickle down all over the state. This is exciting news; we can see how far we have come and how the line of thinking around how this impacts public safety by reducing recidivism.

Question raised on the status of the Criminal Justice Center:

We are in a wait and see pattern right now. When we put together our staffing plan for the Justice Center operational budget, we were told that we would have access to it in September of 2022. I'm hoping by June that we will have access to it, and maybe get it open this this summer.

### **Coalition Updates:**

- **Yavapai College Behavioral Health Class Offerings Spring/Summer 2023: *Dr. Karly Schauwecker***

Yavapai College is now offering a Behavioral Health Technician certificate, 18-hour credit program. This program is designed to be completed in one year. Classes are 8-week classes, all online. To find more information, go to the Yavapai College website and type behavioral health technician in the search bar. Contact for registration is [gwen.payne@yc.edu](mailto:gwen.payne@yc.edu).

They would like to start an advisory board to further research offering an associate degree Program. Please contact Dr. Schauwecker for more information, email [karly.way@yc.edu](mailto:karly.way@yc.edu).

- **County Attorney Updates:**
  - Welcome to new County Attorney, *Dennis McGrane*
  - Diversion Program, *Dana Owens*

The Diversion Program was started in May 2020. Initially, when we started this program, it was substance abuse that we were focused on with felony offenders. Last year we started looking more closely and we've started diverting many more misdemeanor offenses including domestic violence, disorderly conduct and low-level drug offenders. What we noticed is mental health plays a very big role, particularly in this population it seems. We have been very successful at diverting people and connecting them to behavioral health services that otherwise they would never have gotten. Many of the issues we have seen include homelessness and employment, all of the things that people need in order to create a life that's productive. Identifying these cases early on in the criminal justice system is really showing how many of them are truly a mental health case and that there are underlying issues specific to their case. We have seen a few cases that quite honestly, we probably could not prosecute because the people would be not able to stand trial as they would not be deemed competent, and we were able to connect them to services. Mental health issues continue to play a big role in many of the individuals that are coming through our diversion program.

During the last session the legislature awarded \$10 million overall to be divided between the 13 rural counties for diversion specifically. This has been wonderful and a credit to our partner, Complete Care Partners, which many of you know is an agreement between Polara Health and Spectrum who performs our case management. Due to the effectiveness and successfulness of

this collaboration, Complete Care Partners has contracted with Navajo County to create a similar model. We will also be meeting with Cochise County soon to discuss the diversion program. We hope to provide numbers and statistics at our next meeting.

Question raised on how people are referred into the Diversion Program:

Felonies are selected on pre-determined criteria.

Misdemeanors are referred by prosecutors within the courts.

Question raised on adults in the criminal justice system who have autism, are you looking at contract with specialty providers:

Polar and Spectrum are not the only service providers used. If someone already has a service provider, we will continue with their current provider. We have used providers across the country. If anyone has resources or ideas, please forward them to Dana Owens, they are always looking for new ways to help. Contact email is [dana.owens@yavapaiaz.gov](mailto:dana.owens@yavapaiaz.gov).

- **Reach Out Statistics: *Captain Rich Martin, YCSO***

Our partner, Northern Arizona University Center for Health Equity Research, has completed 3<sup>rd</sup> party evaluation of Reach Out data. Data looked at is from a 2-year period upon release, with an additional 6 months' time frame for reoffending. Captain Martin reviewed PowerPoint (attached to email minutes).

- **Manzanita Outreach: *Ben Burke***

Website started in 2019, [MOhelp.org](http://MOhelp.org). Created for individuals looking for food resources, food assistance, food pantries in the community. We compiled all the information and reached out to food assistance providers and put it into the website. It's very simple to navigate and view in any community throughout Yavapai County, of all the food assistance that's available. Using this concept, we are looking in to how to expand into other basic needs and resources specifically working with Yavapai County Community Health Services, 211 Arizona and Yavapai Library network as we felt that this was a good mix of partners and people that were interested in building such a database. We are in the process right now of building this out to include all basic needs and resources in the community. We are hoping to have sort of a soft launch in May, possibly March or April. If anyone is interested in being on the working group for this project please reach out, [ben@manzanitaoutreach.org](mailto:ben@manzanitaoutreach.org).

- **Peer Support Services with Specialty Courts: *Dan Haley, Hope Inc.***

First, we have a fully executed contract now with Care1st and are ready to start testing claims. However, we still have a snag waiting for licensing to come and license a facility or a room that we're collocating with Spectrum. Hoping that that will be next week or the following week, then we can actively start billing for services.

Introductions of Daryl Butricks and Chris Chavez.

Daryl Butricks: Just wanted to let everybody know that we are very close to being fully staffed. In the Prescott offices we are fully staffed, and just down one employee in the Cottonwood office. We have 8 prospective members that we have been working with in specialty courts, Mental Health Court and Drug Court. Getting information out across the county with marketing and getting to know everyone in the area. Collocated with Spectrum, so working with them on peer referrals.

Chris Chavez: Program manager for our state opioid response grant in Prescott and Cottonwood. Staff is hired and doing their research out in the community. We get to help really identify the members' needs and barriers and get them the services they need. So especially things that were discussed earlier about recidivism, the social skills, the employment, locating resources, homelessness, linking the services, we can help with all of that. It is not the traditional outreach that you think of. Our outreach specialists are really just there to identify barriers, talk with the member, show them those living skills, talk to them about the benefits of things like MAT (medically assistive treatment) services, programming, IOP's (intensive outpatient programs), why they should go to rehab rather than another program and fighting the courts. We are just there to really empower and advocate for these members so that they can get what they really need. It is all about saving lives and reducing the overdose deaths, so we do educate them on things like harm reduction, overdose prevention, we distribute Narcan and naloxone kits into the community. We educate families as well because that is really important because a lot of the times when you get these individuals that are fresh into treatment or they are new into treatments, new into the course, their families don't always know what's going on or what the process is. And that can add additional stress to people's lives. We provide that overall support while encouraging them to still engage with their health, home, and still engage with their providers to show up to that rehab. We can help transport them to the rehab and hopefully during this process we are going to be building rapport with them so they have someone they can trust. Our teams plan to hit the ground probably in the next week or so attending the mental health court and drug court, so hopefully we'll start getting members from them as well and we can start really getting this grant working and benefiting the members that need it the most.

Contact information for Hope Inc.

Chris Chavez	<a href="mailto:chrischavez@hopearizona.org">chrischavez@hopearizona.org</a>
Dan Haley	<a href="mailto:danielhaley@hopearizona.org">danielhaley@hopearizona.org</a>
Daryl Butricks	<a href="mailto:darylbutricks@hopearizona.org">darylbutricks@hopearizona.org</a>

- **Connection Center (Re-entry portion): *Leslie Horton, YCCHS***

As you heard our Sheriff say I think that the Justice Center and Connection Center will probably be opening hopefully in the summer. We are hoping to use some of our opportunity funding, Prop 207 funding specifically, to help build some positions within the Connection Center that can serve the needs of this connection to resources. We are looking at some connection coordinators, but also looking at maybe someone to manage the whole operation there, and have access to various resources to assist navigating the person to. We are working on job descriptions and hoping to hire late spring or early summer.

- **Trauma Lens Care: *Leslie Horton, YCCHS***

Trauma Lens Care (TLC) was started under the Health Department and then partnered with MATFORCE who have taken the program on. We work with law enforcement to try to understand who, where, what and when happened to children that were at the scene of situations where law enforcement was involved and try to get these children help, sometimes counseling or other services, through school to meet them at the point of trauma. The key is to find out right when that trauma happens in their lives and then getting them help and support services through whatever means we can, generally through the school system. The project has gone through a lot of growing changes and has transitioned into a new web application that we're trying to make sure all of law enforcement can get set up and familiar with. We are seeing very new TLC's reported lately, but there have still been a lot of children at the scene. We are working with

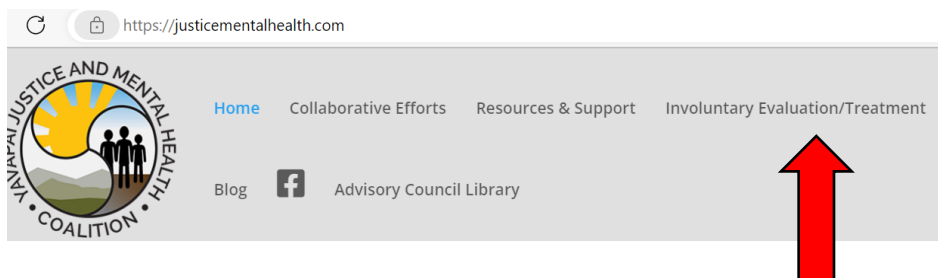
MATFORCE on coordinating training for our law enforcement partners. This program has expanded to several other counties, and they are effectively starting to roll out the program in other counties across the state. We are working with other projects locally, so that as we identify children who might be at risk for all kinds of things, we also have components in that identify possible human trafficking, possible sex trafficking amongst children. We now also have the juvenile justice system involved, so if a child is identified that is already in our system and has been in on juvenile probation or detention, it gives us that information so that we can get connected with the probation officers. We are also trying to work with the milestone program to start identifying these at-risk children early in the criminal justice process. We are doing a lot with this project, the largest area that we need addressed at this time is the reporting from law enforcement.

- **Polara T36/COE: David Dohm, Polara Health**

For the last four months we have had a total of 208 titles done in Yavapai County. That is an average of about 52 a month. Of those, all but eleven were admitted at a Polara facility. Of the 11 that were not admitted, three were determined to not meet criteria and were sent home. Six were assisted with placement and other psychiatric facilities, typically in Phoenix, usually due to medical conditions that we could not take care of. Spectrum assisted with most of those, they were really helpful. Two were safety plans by Spectrum or the hospital and determined to be safe to go home. I think there were a couple others that Spectrum took care of that we actually never contacted, Paige and her group have been really helpful with helping us keep our numbers down as much as possible. I may have missed a few here and there, but of the around 190 that we did admit over four months we have averaged filing court paperwork to continue to keep them involuntary, most of them sign voluntary, but we filed court paperwork on an average of 7 1/2 per month. Of those of that 7 1/2, we continued the court process on an average of five per month. Of those that we continued, we got COTC final court judgments on all of them, except for four. Our numbers have been pretty consistent. However, November was low, we had 20 fewer titles than we had in any other month. December was back up to normal and January has started out rocking. We have been working really hard with the jail and inmate services staff to get some of that backlog of long-term clients that needed help.

- **T36 Info page on Coalition website: Jeanne Wellins, Workgroup Co-Chair / Beya Thayer**

The Coalition has a work group whose goal it is to improve the Title 36 process within Yavapai County. Two great outcomes have come from this working group; an addition to our website and statute revision. First, on the Yavapai Justice and Mental Health Coalition website we now have a new tab labeled Involuntary Evaluation/Treatment.



This page contains a description of the Title 36 process in Yavapai County. The first part of the web page is set up to be kind of an outline, so you can skim through the information and get an overview of it. The second part of the web page goes into a little more detail of what the process is. There are fillable forms as well as crisis information. It is really designed for the general public to be able to have a basic understanding of what Title 36 is, and what an involuntary evaluation is. If anyone has any questions or suggestions on further improvement, please let Beya know.

- **T36 Voluntary Evaluation statute revision: *Jeanne Wellins, Workgroup Co-Chair***

The second outcome involves the voluntary evaluation. Our work group identified a need to improve voluntary evaluation process in Yavapai County. For those of you not familiar with it, when someone writes an application for court ordered evaluation under Title 36, the person has the right to choose a voluntary evaluation rather than involuntary, as long as they do not present a danger to themselves or others. Polara is doing a great job of helping these individuals who are choosing voluntary. But in past years, a problem was occurring in that many people were saying “I want to go voluntary”, and they simply walked out the door. And later many returned as they never got the help that they needed. So, it came to the attention of the work group that the statute, which is ARS 36-522, was unclear as to who is responsible for completing and reviewing the voluntary evaluation and as a result, too many people were unintentionally slipping through the system. And in many cases, falling back into repeated crisis events. So, our goal was to clarify ARS 36-522 as to who is responsible for tracking and reviewing the voluntary evaluation. And I am very happy to report that our suggested redrafted statute is now House Bill 2041, which is being sponsored by Representative Selina Bliss. And thank you to Beya and Sheriff Rhodes for taking this to the Arizona Association of Counties and moving it forward.

- **911 Deflection Crisis Response: *Paige LeForte, Spectrum***

We are wrapping up our first quarter of 911 deflection. Currently, we have 3 participating agencies, all of which who are dispatched through Prescott Regional Communication Center. Those include the Prescott Police Department, the Prescott Valley Police Department and the Yavapai College Police Department. It has been slow to start, which is exactly what we predicted. This was all in line with our conversations and our goals of development as we learn this program, build new relationships, workflows, processes. So, we're very in line with our projections for the quarter. We have our first meeting to review how the quarter went coming up here in the next two weeks and we are actually going to start taking a look at the 911 calls themselves and listening to those recordings, really identifying what goes to law enforcement, what comes to a mobile team. And developing those processes a little more finite. So, we're excited for that opportunity. I am continuing to meet with all of our partners on the east side of Yavapai County and I believe the current plan is a go live date on March 1, and that would be with all of our agencies dispatched by the Cottonwood Police Department. We will then make sure that we expand it to our other agencies in the eastern area. So, I have all of those projects coming up this January.

Just some overall statistics for everyone, as far as our participation with law enforcement. We have done 1000 calls since our last Coalition meeting and of those thousand calls, 323 were initiated by law enforcement. Now, that may sound like a small number, but what that actually is a really impressive number. That means we are capturing people that are not going through the 911 system or the justice system. They are reaching mental health services before it becomes a justice issue. That has been the goal of our implementation this entire time. So, we are seeing really good results with all the work and effort all of us are doing to put mental health resources out to the

community and we're still maintaining that 65% community stabilization rate. So, the majority of every client we see remains in home with supportive or connective resources to meet their needs in an ongoing manner.

- **Suicide Prevention Coalition of Yavapai County: Kelly Lee, James Tobin**

Just a couple upcoming dates. February 14<sup>th</sup>, Valentine's Day is our next Suicide Prevention Coalition at Yavapai College, room 3124 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 pm. February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> we are going to host an assist training, suicide prevention training at the college. This training is fully open for anyone who might be interested. Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> a guy named Dave Simmons is coming up to present. He is the founder of the UBU Project. Dave is a suicide attempt survivor that uses music and comedy to talk about the challenges that he has overcome in his life and building resiliency. This is a community event open to the public March 8, 2023.

- **County Health Improvement Plan (CHIP): Carol Lewis / Lorena Padilla, YCCHS**

For all of you that were at one of our past meetings, I introduced the Community Health Assessment Plan. This is our 2022 plan for the next five years. We are starting to meet both the Quad City group and our Community Health improvement planning process and our Verde Valley group. We had our Quad City group this week and we are meeting next week with the Verde Valley group. We would love to have every one of you sign up, contact emails will be listed below, please contact to sign up. The Quad City group has already set their priorities that we are going to be working on over the next five years. The first priority is access to care and resources, second is transportation and safe active transportation, and third is mental health which includes substance misuse objective included. For the Verde Valley group, the priorities will include access to healthcare, access to affordable housing and access to mental health resources. If you or your organization would participate we would greatly appreciate it, we truly need your participation. If anyone would like a digital copy of the Community Health Assessment Plan, email Lorena as well.

Lorena Padilla [lorena.padilla@yavapaiaz.gov](mailto:lorena.padilla@yavapaiaz.gov)

- **Best for Teens: meeting 1/17/23 4pm The Launch Pad and Zoom:**

We collaborated with many agencies to include Polara, YMCA, Community Counts, CFSS and the Boys and Girls Club to host this free event for teenagers 12 to 17 where they can have fun, have a good time, but also get connected to different resources. The YMCA is hosting, and the Boys and Girls Club is helping with transportation. The event will include dodgeball, volleyball, basketball, arts and crafts, and even a DJ a music room. Dinner will be provided, and there will be raffle prizes free for any kids. It is February 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Flyers handed out.

- **Coalition Member Updates & Announcements**

Community announcement/update: Mental Health Monday in partnership with Northern AZ Peer and Family Coalition 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. "Alcohol: Addiction and the Effects on the Brain" presented by Patty May LISAC, Clinical Director Steps to Recovery Homes. zoom link <https://namiyavapai.org/mental-health-monday/>.

Northern Arizona Peer and Family Coalition meets the third Wednesday of each month from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Steps to Recovery homes, now able to take Health Choice and Care First, and we also take out of network and the Indian Health Service AHCCCS plan. Located in Cottonwood.

Sonoran Prevention Works, somewhat new in the area. We offer syringe services, syringe exchange program. No set location currently, but mobile based. We also offer trainings on harm reduction topics. We offer HIV and Hep-C testing. We are really looking at getting connected with other facilities in the area.

Polara inpatient: we are taking over the behavioral health hospital next to Sonic on Whipple. We'll be in that probably around March and then we've got a new office opening up on Sandretto , and a new office opening up on Gail Gardner. We have an autism support group for parents with children with special needs, that information is on our website. It is a free support group. We are also starting a new community connections group for parents of foster, foster adopt and kinship caregivers. That starts February 7<sup>th</sup> and the information will be on our website.

Question on 988 number, does it geo locate? It works off of your area code, so if you are an out of state area code it will go to that state. If an AZ area code, the call will be routed through Solari.

***Save the dates for upcoming 2023 Coalition Meeting: April 13, 2023, from 1 to 3 pm***

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)*

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Adult Probation</b>	Amanda Hurtt
<b>Community Health Center</b>	Ashley James
<b>VIP</b>	Audrey Dorfman
<b>Hope Arizona, Inc</b>	Becca King
<b>Wexford</b>	Becky Payne
<b>Manzanita Outreach</b>	Ben Burke
<b>YCSO</b>	Beya Thayer
<b>Arizona Complete Health</b>	Bill Mitchell
<b>Prescott Valley Police Department</b>	Bob Ticer
<b>YCSO</b>	Brent Kimbriel
<b>Yavapai County Adult Probation</b>	Cameron Doty
<b>Yavapai County Community Health Services</b>	Carol Lewis
<b>Solari, Inc</b>	Cassie Villegas
<b>Hope Arizona, Inc</b>	Chris Chavez
<b>Cottonwood Police Department</b>	Christopher Dowell
<b>VA</b>	Christopher Liberatore-Lopez
<b>YCSO</b>	Christy Awtrey-Tieman
<b>Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Choice</b>	Cynthia Ross
<b>Hope Arizona, Inc</b>	Dan Haley
<b>County Attorney's Office</b>	Dana Owens
<b>Sonoran Prevention Works</b>	Danielle Treiber
<b>Hope Arizona, Inc</b>	Daryl Butricks
<b>Polara Health</b>	David Dohm
<b>YCSO</b>	David Rhodes
<b>Polara Health</b>	Deanna Eder
<b>VA</b>	Debra Stutz-Middleton
<b>County Attorney's Office</b>	Dennis McGrane
<b>Community member</b>	Don Kirchner
<b>CFSS</b>	Dylan Baynes
<b>Solari, Inc</b>	Eric Lee
<b>New Day Rising</b>	Erin Smith
<b>Communtiy Health Center of Yavapai</b>	Gema Lopez
<b>Sonoran Prevention Works</b>	Ian Ohler-Romines
<b>Yavapai County Adult Probation</b>	Jacque Barnes
<b>Ledbetter Law Arizona</b>	James Ledbetter
<b>Yavapai College Police Dept</b>	James Tobin
<b>Prescott Police Department</b>	Jason Small

<b>Community member</b>	Jeanne Wellins
<b>VA</b>	Joseph Acevedo
<b>Community Health</b>	Kris Skorick
<b>Northern Arizona Peer &amp; Family Coalition</b>	Laurie Verdier
<b>Community Health</b>	Leslie Horton
<b>First Things First</b>	Lisa Blyth
<b>Communtiy Health</b>	Lorena Padilla
<b>Southwest Behavioral Health</b>	Loretta Holdsworth
<b>Child and Family Support Services</b>	Mary Robbins
<b>VA</b>	Oscar Arambula
<b>Spectrum Healthcare</b>	Paige LeForte
<b>County Attorney's Office</b>	Penny Cramer - remove February 1st
<b>Clarkdale Police Department</b>	Randy Taylor
<b>Verde Valley Homeless Coalition</b>	Rhonda Bishop
<b>YCSO</b>	Richard Martin
<b>Spectrum</b>	Shawn Hatch
<b>Yavapai College Police Department</b>	Tyran Payne
<b>Care1st</b>	Virginia Cons
<b>Community Citizen</b>	Wayne Sisson
<b>Community Health</b>	Willa Miller