

YAVAPAI JUSTICE & MENTAL HEALTH  
COALITION

Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.  
Yavapai County Education Service Agency  
Coulter/Giffin/Taylor Training Room

**Present:**

Advocates	Kathy Bashor Don Kirchner
Child & Family Support Services	Dawn Rutigliano
Clarkdale Police Department	Randy Taylor, Chief
Coalition for Compassion & Justice	Jessi Hans
Cottonwood Police Department	Steve Gesell, Chief
MATFORCE	Merilee Fowler
NAZCARE	Greg Billi Jacob VanBuskirk Laurie Verdier
Northern Arizona University	Ricky Camplain George Pro
Prescott Police Department	Debora Black, Chief Ben Scott Jason Small
Prescott Valley Police Department	James Gregory Nancy Roberts
Pronghorn Psychiatry	Amy Ledesma Meghan Ross Robin Spencer
Southwest Behavioral Health Spectrum	Christine Hayes Amie Sheldon Lisa Sherrill
Town of Camp Verde	Chris Duarte
Yavapai Coalition for Compassion & Justice	Jessi Hans
Yavapai College	Tyran Payne
Yavapai County Adult Probation	Debra Kendall John Morris, Chief
Yavapai County Attorney's Office	Dennis McGrane Sheila Polk
Yavapai County Administrator's Office	Jack Fields, Assistant County Admin
Yavapai County Board of Supervisors	Jack Smith
Yavapai County Community Health Svcs	Leslie Horton
Yavapai County Juvenile Detention	Scott Mabery, Director
Yavapai County Schools	Tim Carter, Superintendent Stan Goligoski Shari Sterling
Yavapai County Sheriff's Office	Audrey Dorfman Nancy Gardner, Program Manager Kristie Hambrick, Inmate Services

Yavapai Regional Medical Center

Richard Martin, Captain  
Becky Payne, Wexford  
Brian Silvernale, Lieutenant  
Joseph Stewart, Rehabilitation  
Beya Thayer, Executive Director  
Rob Barth  
Carole Freeman

Beya Thayer opened the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Ms. Thayer extended apologies from Sheriff Mascher and Chief Deputy Rhodes, who were unable to Chair today's meeting.

All parties were introduced in round-table format.

The Coalition reviewed the Minutes from the September 18th, 2018 meeting and a motion to approve was offered by Audrey Dorfman. All ayes approved.

Ms. Thayer informed the Coalition that letters of interest were accepted for positions on the Board of Directors. The executive members are Scott Mascher, David Rhodes, Sheila Polk, John Napper, Randy Taylor, Leslie Horn, Jack Smith and Audrey Dorfman. The director members are Tyran Payne, Debora Black, Chuck Burbank, Christine Hayes, Scott Mabery, Stan Goligoski, Jessi Hans and Debra Kendall.

The Board has held two strategic planning meetings since the last Coalition meeting in September. The goal was to brainstorm with the chosen mission statement and build a roadmap using the Sequential Intercept Model for Yavapai County for those who need mental health or substance abuse aid in order to divert them out of the criminal justice system.

The Board, using suggestions from the Coalition, developed a key mission statement of "Building a Healthy and Safe Community through Partnerships and Collaboration". This statement seems to encompass all the help, ages and communities within Yavapai County and the members of the Coalition working together.

Ms. Thayer discussed the database developed by the Wellington Group. The creation started when the Sheriff's Office received the Bureau of Justice grant for the post arrest diversion of low-level felony and misdemeanor offenders with mental health and substance abuse needs. They partnered with behavioral health providers, who would develop a treatment plan for those with mental health and/or substance abuse issues. These plans would be shared with prosecutors and defense attorneys for review and release of subjects to pre-trial services. The database has been tracking recidivism rates among those individuals affected by the Reach-Out program.

Ms. Thayer then showed the data program operations via a large screen projector, explaining the steps of the Reach-Out screening, discussing the screening questions used and diversion services available for connection. Reach-Out coordinators can enter all screening info, booking info and specialized notes. They have been working with behavioral health providers, adult probation, transportation and housing providers to ensure release plans are in place upon release of an inmate.

Behavioral health care providers with an established Release of Information (West Yavapai, Southwest Behavioral and Spectrum) can go into the database and update results at 30 and 90 days after an inmate has been released with a care plan to confirm continued involvement and care.

Pre-arrest diversion will also be a tracking option.

The Coalition can have limited access to information within the database. Once logged in, you will select "Coalition Resources" and be able to review past meeting Minutes and a list of active members. Those who wish to have access need to note their interest on the sign-in sheet for today's meeting. All members of the Board are currently registered for access.

The SIM (Sequential Intercept) model is available on the website as well. Ms. Thayer reviewed the SIM model developed for the Reach-Out program for Yavapai County by the Coalition, discussing the identified strengths and weaknesses through all intercepts.

The handout for the 2019 Coalition Plan discussing strategies, projects and progress indicators was reviewed. It was developed through goals identified over the last two years and taking information directly from the SIM regarding gaps and challenges. Ms. Thayer requested updates and feedback from Coalition members.

Lieutenant Brian Silvernale addressed the Reach-Out program, which began with two people in March of 2018. Since then through the end of 2018, they have interacted with 3,328 people; over 65% of them identify with some form of risk. These included mental health, substance abuse, socio-economic deficiencies (homelessness, transportation and employment) and adverse child experiences. Numbers have remained consistent since they began; they are reviewed quarterly. Approximately 16% of all persons fully decline any interaction with screeners.

Screeners are civilian employees. They dress in standard clothing (not uniformed) and work within a "soft" office environment. Inmates do not face additional charges by sharing their drug history. The goal is to connect them to services that encourage personal success.

Lt. Silvernale reviewed a pie chart. Only 6% of the persons being screened upon entry in the jail are identifying without any risk factor. Of the 3,328 screened, over 2,100 were identified at risk. Of those, 1,133 declined all services. 450 were voluntarily connected to services. 368 were screened with risk factors but not connected to services. This number is expected to drop over the next year. The hope is to screen 95% of those booked in 2019.

The biggest identified risks are mental health, substance abuse and adverse childhood experiences. Others risks include physical health, veterans, housing, transportation, employment, community support and children at home. The needs of children need to be addressed to benefit both parent and child and mitigate adverse childhood experience factors in the children.

There are providers to address some of these risk factors. More partners are needed for transportation, housing and employment. A partnership with the Department of Economic Security is working with at risk persons to help them find employment.

Jessi Hans asked if our at-risk population was presenting with multiple issues or if the overall risks were spread thinly among the many. Lt. Silvernale advised that most of the at-risk persons present with multiple risk problems.

Sheila Polk asked if every person booked into jail was being screened, including those who may not be leaving the jail facility anytime soon. Lt. Silvernale said yes, the goal was to screen everyone who comes through the door, because an offender being held long-term may have children who would benefit from Big Brothers Big Sister or Trauma Lens Care. Identifying children who may be affected by their parents' offenses, and connecting them to services, may mitigate future law enforcement contact with grown children.

Dr. Joseph Stewart asked if mitigation factors are considered against the identified risks. Lt. Silvernale advised they look at both to see what services are there to best support the inmate. In some cases, mitigating factors may be able to provide a needed service. Dr. Stewart was concerned that false-positives may affect actual need. Lt. Silvernale recognized that although there may be a mitigating factor, the need remains and the goal is to address those needs in the best way to put people back on a road to success.

Chief Debora Black asked how many of the persons screened with risk factors were released to homelessness. Lt. Silvernale advised that 523 identified as homeless; 137 were referred to services; 126 were connected to services and 8 declined services. For the remainder, there was no connection made and they were released into a homeless environment.

The representatives from Northern Arizona University, Dr. George Pro and Dr. Ricky Camplain, will begin reviewing the mass quantities of data to determine recidivism, connection to services and bridges to services. They will identify how services are being provided on an individual basis to ensure maximum success. They hope by summer to have clear and accurate stats that can be released to the public.

Dr. Pro and Dr. Camplain study criminal justice and mental health at Northern Arizona University. They will assess which interventions are benefitting which inmates and show our recidivism rates over time among different groups of people, i.e., older, white male vs. young, LGBTQ male. They hope to review all group characteristics and how they relate to recidivism and the Reach-Out program over time.

They are currently working out the data use agreement with Yavapai County Sheriff's Office and the Northern Arizona University Institutional Review board. They are also working on the protections for the persons within the data before they begin recording the statistics in each group.

Chris Duarte asked how the variables in each data set would be used. Dr. Pro is initially looking at substance abuse history, substance abuse treatment, mental health history, adverse childhood experiences and recidivism.

Dr. Pro advised they would be using three definitions of recidivism; new crime only, violation of probation/parole only, and new crime with violation of probation/parole. Dr. Camplain said they are working on identifying the predictors. The timeline will begin in March of 2018 when the Reach-Out program started and look at different markers; 6 months, 12 months, etc. The majority of persons recidivate within two years.

Once information is provided to N.A.U., initial data results can be sent to the Coalition for feedback and additional wants/needs.

Chief Black asked if all the positions for Reach-Out screeners had been filled. Lt. Silvernale advised that several people with master degrees had filled the entry-level jobs. The level of response by candidates has been exceptional.

A question was raised about other options for connections for children besides Big Brothers Big Sisters. Suggestions were made for Boys-to-Men and Launch Pad. Kristie Hambrick advised additional connections for children are needed. Currently, BBBS is the primary contact and anything else requires a Google search and numerous phone calls.

Ms. Thayer discussed peer-support options, i.e., utilizing those persons who have had personal, relatable experience with our inmates.

Ms. Thayer introduced Kathy Bashor, currently retired, but formerly a statewide administrator with Department of Behavioral Health Services and AZ Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). Ms. Bashor discussed the importance of relatable peer support; someone who shares a similar experience and can serve as a role model. People need to feel safe and as if they have a measure of control. Many families have been traumatized by family members with substance and/or mental health issues and also need support.

There are three peer and family support systems in Northern Arizona. They are Family Involvement Center, NAZCARE and Hope Lives. Hope Lives is only available in Coconino County. Ms. Bashor has just started the Yavapai Parent Family Coalition.

Audrey Dorfman is our community liaison with peer support. She was brought on board five years ago by Sheriff Mascher to work within peer support on how Yavapai County views and understands mental health and substance abuse. The goal was to encourage change, starting in the jail. The family peer piece is crucial.

Ms. Thayer advised that Spectrum, Southwest Behavioral Health and West Yavapai Guidance have peer support services available.

NAZCARE advised they also have peer support available and a "warm line", which is open 24//7. They have wellness centers in Prescott and Cottonwood. They have multiple services such as life skills, housing and transportation. They partner with many of the clinics in the area.

Nancy Gardner is the Project Manager for the \$375,000.00 3-year SAMSHA Grant. The goal is to teach 8-hour blocks of Mental Health First Aid within the schools and to first responders such as the fire department, law enforcement and probation. They're hopeful to teach over 1,800 people in 50 schools through 25 districts. The primary focus will be middle and high schools. They will also instruct at 11 law enforcement agencies with approximately 1,300 people. They are recruiting instructors who will then teach all personnel. The first training for instructors occurred last week with school personnel. They will begin scheduling the 8-hour blocks of training within their departments. This week, instructors will be taught from 9 of the 11 law enforcement agencies. Brochures are available for youth and public safety mental health. A brochure for the 18-24 year age bracket is forthcoming.

Ben Scott advised the next 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training has been tentatively scheduled for the last week of April. It will be held at Spectrum in the Verde Valley. He encourages attendance by law enforcement, dispatchers, adult and juvenile probation officers and detention officers. A flyer will be forthcoming.

Stan Goligoski thanked the Coalition for the inclusion of schools. Counselors and administrators attended the mental health first aid instructor training. They are grateful for the tools to share with their personnel because most schools don't have counselors to assist students in crisis.

Many students in the county have incarcerated parents and/or mental health issues and the coordination with other Coalition members has provided valuable resources. They continue to see problems with mental health stigma, parental reluctance and under-insured individuals. There is a general population throughout our schools and communities who don't qualify for mental health assistance because they make too much money to qualify for AHCCCS but don't have an insurance plan that will cover the cost of mental health care.

Scott Mabery advised there are typically 5-7 kids within juvenile detention who need mental health care who don't actually belong in a detention environment. There is a shelter preparing to open in Prescott Valley who will be able to help these types of children. Unfortunately, it will be only for boys, but they are hopeful to have a safe shelter for girls eventually.

Leslie Horton provided a Trauma Lens Care update. She will be sending out an e-newsletter in the near future. This program assists children who are exposed to trauma when law enforcement personnel contact TLC. Ms. Horton or Stacy Gagnon then reach out to schools to wrap that child in programs which provide care and support instead of discipline. The program is being expanded and was presented at the National Governor's Association. The CDC reached out to Ms. Horton to advise they want to send her and Ms. Gagnon to Atlanta, GA to present at the prescription drug summit. Merilee Fowler has provided funding through MATFORCE to help with continued expansion of the program, including an app and website for report submission. Training sessions for law enforcement are still available.

Ms. Thayer asked everyone to complete an anonymous, 5-minute survey to meet one of the conditions of a grant.

Ms. Thayer reported that the Title 36 Town Hall hosted by Sheila Polk in both Prescott and the Verde Valley on November 5<sup>th</sup> was quite successful. A report was generated and sent to everyone who attended. If you need a copy, please contact Ms. Thayer and she will forward a copy to you. Nine areas were identified as needing attention. The State and Legislature would need to support many of them. The definition of "mental health" is being discussed at the Arizona Office of the Courts. They are working to redefine what a mental disorder is; the current definition is approximately 40 years old. Everyone on the Coalition email list has been sent the current definition and has been asked for input and feedback. Please provide your response before the end of the day on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

The next Coalition meeting is tentative planned for the end of May.

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.