

YAVAPAI JUSTICE & MENTAL HEALTH  
COALITION

Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2019 – 1:00 p.m.  
Yavapai County Education Service Agency  
Coulter/Giffin/Taylor Training Room

**Present:**

ACE Consortium	Angie Geren
Advocates	Don Kirchner
	Channon Kirchner
Child & Family Support Services	Mary Robbins
Cottonwood Magistrate Court	Catherine Kelley, Judge
MATFORCE	Merilee Fowler, Executive Director
NAZCARE	Greg Billi
Prescott News Network	Tim Wiederaenders
Prescott Police Department	Debora Black, Chief
	Ben Scott, Sergeant
	Jason Small, Lieutenant
Prescott Valley Police Department	James Gregory, Lieutenant
	James Edelstein, Interim Chief
Private Citizen	Jodi Rooney
Pronghorn Psychiatry	Amy Ledesma, CEO
	Robin Spencer
Sage Counseling	Diane Ivan
Sonoran Prevention Works	Karen Broman
Southwest Behavioral Health	Bonnie Goosic
	Christine Hayes
	Loretta Holdsworth
Sparklight	Becky Bank
Spectrum Healthcare	Shawn Hatch
Steward Health Choice	Amy Bacon
	Jermaine Barkley
	Sharie Brock
	Denise Cox
	Jennie McMillin
Suicide Prevention	John Schuderer
Terros Health	Penny Collins
	Bryan Gest
U.S. Vets, Inc	Carole Benedict
Veteran's Administration	Nancy Devine
West Yavapai Guidance Clinic	Tamara Player
Yavapai Apache Nation	Thomasene Cardona
Yavapai Apache Nation	Amanda Honwyte
Yavapai Coalition/Compassion/Justice	A. Lenocker
Yavapai College Police Department	Tyran Payne, Lieutenant

Yavapai County Adult Probation

Yavapai County Attorney's Office  
Yavapai County Administrator's Office  
Yavapai County Comm Health Services  
Yavapai County Schools  
Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

Yavapai Regional Medical Center

Cameron Doty  
Debra Kendall  
Kathy Ryder  
Sheila Polk, County Attorney  
Jack Fields, Assistant County Admin  
Leslie Horton, Director  
Stan Goligoski, Executive Director  
Audrey Dorfman, Peer Advocate  
Nancy Gardner, Program Manager  
Kristie Hambrick, Inmate Services  
Brian Hunt, Captain  
Richard Martin, Captain  
Scott Mascher, Sheriff  
David Rhodes, Chief Deputy  
Brian Silvernale, Lieutenant  
Joseph Stewart, Rehabilitation  
Ethan Stover, Sergeant  
Beya Thayer, Executive Director  
Rob Barth  
Kathryn Foor

Sheriff Scott Mascher opened the meeting at 1:01 p.m. and welcomed the attendees.

All parties were introduced in round-table format. He asked all members of the Board of Directors to identify themselves by raising their hand.

The Sheriff read the Value Statement developed by the Board of Directors:

*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.*

Sheriff Mascher provided a comparison of the crime statistics in Yavapai County to both the State of Arizona and those provided by the FBI for the Nation. Yavapai County's overall crime problem is lower, even though our population has increased by 9%.

Executive Director Thayer reported that the Coalition has contracted with Sparklight to create a new website for the Mental Health Coalition. They will be including resource links and short videos with Board Members. [JusticeMentalHealth.com](http://JusticeMentalHealth.com) will be the name of the website upon completion.

Nancy Gardner reported that they have conducted thirty-three (33) trainings in Mental Health First Aid in the schools and within law enforcement. 451 people have been taught; thirty (30) instructors have been certified since February of 2019. There has been one ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training).

A community meeting for Interacting with Autistic & Developmentally Delayed Individuals was held within the last month. There will be training on Law Enforcement Interaction with Individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities on October 17, 2019.

Schools, colleges, law enforcement and first responder mental health first aid trainings can be coordinated through Ms. Gardner. Community mental health first aid trainings can be coordinated through Barbara Litrell in the Verde Valley and Tamara Player with West Yavapai Guidance Clinic in the Prescott area.

Ms. Thayer talked about the need to change the language from “diversion” to “deflection” to describe pre-arrest connections. The two terms are viewed differently by attorneys and the court system. It is a national-level issue of confusion.

The pre-arrest portion of the database was launched in May. The five dispatch centers have been trained to enter information pertaining to the routing of a subject to an outcome other than jail booking: i.e., referral, mobile crisis, stabilization unit. All law enforcement agencies can receive this information through their dispatch.

Sergeants Ben Scott and Ethan Stover attended the CIT International Conference in Seattle, Washington. Locally, we are approaching the end of the third year of training; Prescott in the Fall, Verde in the Spring. Approximately 125 persons have been trained to date. Classes are a week long and average 25-30 individuals. They thanked Yavapai College for the training space for the upcoming October class.

Sheila Polk reported they are in the process of creating a diversion program in partnership with the Sheriff's Office. Funds were awarded in the last legislative session. This will be for persons arrested or charged with a drug possession offense. The program will allow connection to education, counseling and other services, such as housing or transportation. Successful completion of their guided program will earn dismissal of their charges. A managed care coordinator will do assessments and look at the “big picture” to help individuals be successful. A final selection for a coordinator will be in December. They hope to launch the program by early February.

The Reach-Out program within the Jail continues to operate with screenings and support. Lt. Brian Silvernale reported that approximately 90% of persons booked are screened. They are working to identify those who are participating in medicated assisted treatment. They're communicating with behavior health providers to ensure someone reaches out to the arrested party post release.

The cooperation with behavioral health entities continues to improve. Development of a warm hand-off in the form of a walk-in appointment is in process. 24% of those screened in the jail have a behavioral health problem. The 2<sup>nd</sup> largest need after behavioral health services is employment.

Reach-out is working with MATFORCE, NAZCARE and behavioral health homes to coordinate services with community coaches and peer support as subjects are exiting the jail.

The Reach-out partnership with adult probation has also resulted in securing funds from the Board of Supervisors to place a Probation Officer in the jail two days a week to coordinate probationers being released from custody to a bed. This has saved 4,000 probation jail days since its start in September of 2018.

Forms submitted to the Court through Reach-Out have been modified and are being used more consistently by the Judges. There are more connections being made to services through the Courts.

Judge Catherine Kelley expressed her appreciation of the re-developed release form. They are using it in Cottonwood, even with misdemeanants. She will be forwarding the form with her modifications to Lt. Silvernale for further distribution.

The Sheriff expressed his appreciation for everyone's efforts in reducing total days of incarceration for low-level offenders and those deflected pre-arrest as jail population is still over capacity. Without all the current effort, the jail population would be approaching 700. The pre-trial program in development should also help offset those numbers.

The Suicide Prevention Coalition is now chaired by Kelly Legler with West Yavapai Guidance clinic. John Schuderer was present as an Advocate and wants to see awareness of the problems upstream that people fall into, that lead them to suicide. There will be a Suicide Prevention & Awareness Walk on November 9<sup>th</sup> at Granite Creek Park.

Ms. Thayer advised the Governor's Office has put forward a priority of the State's understanding of adverse childhood experiences. The Arizona Town Hall discussed how 70% of women with substance abuse disorders may also have a PTSD diagnosis.

Ms. Angie Geren reported that the ACE Consortium started eleven years ago through the Phoenix Children's Hospital. The Governor's Office wants the State to become trauma informed. She can provide a 7-module trauma informed training. It allows coalition trainees to take training back into their community, with guidance from a coach, to tailor it to the needs in their area.

ACE training is an overview of ACE's and the link between trauma and substance use. Out of 100 people with zero (0) ACE's, their chances of being a smoker is 1:16, alcohol use is 1:69, IV drug use is 1:480 and attempted suicide is 1:96.

Three ACE's results in smoking/alcohol 1:9, IV drugs 1:43 and attempted suicide, 1:10.

Seven ACE's results in smoking/alcohol 1:6, IV drugs 1:30 and attempted suicide, 1:5.

This does not include the compounded physical health risks. Training includes this review. In Arizona, at least 23% of all children age 0-17 have at least one ACE. Children with 5 or more ACE's can fill State Farm stadium (63,400 seats). Arizona has one of the highest number of children with high ACE scores in the Nation. The body of a child is affected biologically, neurologically and chemically through toxic stress. Adults in crisis are children who fell through the cracks; they don't know how to adapt as adults.

Mr. Schuderer thanked Angie Geren for her information regarding ACE's in the study of causes of suicide.

Ms. Merilee Fowler discussed the MATFORCE Overdose Fatality Review Board, which examines overdose deaths and compiles a report each year. It started in 2016 in partnership with law enforcement, medical providers, behavioral health treatment and the medical examiner's office. The medical examiner supplies a list of accidental or unintentional deaths in Yavapai County and includes a toxicology report. Police reports are reviewed alongside the medical examiner's information.

Representatives from the County Attorney's office and adult probation provide legal history for each individual. Family interviews are conducted with an interventionist to learn drug history; start of use, mental health history, homeless, if prior treatment, jobs, etc.

The goal is to identify overdose trends in Yavapai County. They look at commonalities among deaths and provide recommendations after findings. What actions can we take as a county?

In 2018, there were 47 accidental and unintended overdose deaths. They consisted of persons ranging between 18-72, of which 33 were men, 14 were female. The number one drug found in the deaths is methamphetamine; it tied with prescription opioids.

Thirty-four (34) family interviews found the following commonalities: 26 had mental illness, 24 started using drugs when they were a teen, 25 were unemployed, 21 received inpatient treatment; 16 received outpatient treatment; 15 had been in jail or prison, 12 were on probation or parole, 12 were homeless; 12 had family with a use disorder; 8 came to Yavapai County for treatment, 6 had attempted suicide; 5 had received medication assisted treatment.

There were twenty-five (25) recommendations, including increasing access to evidence based assisted medication treatment, cognitive behavior treatment, enhanced treatment options for clients who have experienced a drug overdose, family follow-up to ensure help was provided to overdose subject, training for law enforcement in substance abuse disorders, partnership between law enforcement and sober living homes, communication between law enforcement agencies, alternatives to pain management, promotion of mental health care, letters to physicians who have patients who die as the result of an overdose, risks of medical marijuana, education on risks of other "harmless" drugs, i.e., kratom, and parental education.

There will be a Fatality Review Board meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss recommendations. Everyone is invited.

Ms. Thayer discussed including Sober Living Homes in our Crisis Intervention Training.

County Attorney Polk queried Ms. Geren about where the numbers regarding children's ACE scores originated. The results came from behavioral health factors studies, including self-reported (parental survey), the Arizona youth survey and from the Town Hall Report. The Arizona youth survey is tailored by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Chief Debora Black discussed the need for parenting programs, as trauma is often generational. Parents with high ACE's often have children with high ACE scores. Start by looking at all of them collectively, asking how we can become better, healthier adults to benefit our children.

Chief Deputy Rhodes reminded everyone of Trauma Lens Care, to provide an intervention at the point where an ACE happens, where law enforcement is involved, to reach those children at school, providing extra care in the class room and/or counseling in the school. Many of those children already had ACE's. It also helps the school and teachers find those children who need additional care and interventions.

Ms. Leslie Horton advised that they are hiring a coordinator for health education after receiving funding from the CDC to provide training to law enforcement and schools. They would like to replicate this program in other communities across the Nation. [TraumaLensCare.org](http://TraumaLensCare.org) has great resources for parents, law enforcement and teachers.

Mr. Jermaine Barkley is the 1<sup>st</sup> Episode Psychosis grant specialist working with the counties and schools as a liaison in community outreach. He will provide support and training. A break with reality can occur in 3% of the population, or 6,000 people in Yavapai County alone. It typically happens between the ages of 15 to 25. Symptoms may include cognitive delays, apathy, trouble speaking, isolation, hallucinations, delusions or agitation.

Identifying when someone is experiencing psychosis is difficult. Apathy and trouble speaking can affect everyone. Many symptoms are subtle. Active symptoms may be hallucinations; prodromal symptoms may include a lack of job performance, poor grades, isolation. Without proper training, it can be difficult to identify actual psychosis. It is critical to get individuals into treatment. Mr. Barkley would like to partner with the many mental health and behavioral care providers in the County. Best practices include the coordinated specialty care model:

- Supported education & employment;
- Case management;
- Psychotherapy;
- Medication management;
- Family education and support.

When psychosis is detected early, the outcome can be changed monumentally. Both West Yavapai Guidance Clinic and Spectrum provide this program. AHCCCS is allowing treatment of youth and young adults for the first psychotic diagnosis even if they are non-AHCCCS eligible. They qualify for services until they become stable.

He can provide training and materials and assist in finding resources for treatment. Please contact him at 928-214-2337 or at [Jermaine.Barkley@steward.org](mailto:Jermaine.Barkley@steward.org)

Sheriff Mascher advised that the County is moving ahead with the jail expansion near the Juvenile Detention Center. The facility will include services for reformation, such as mental health and substance abuse treatment and partner with the County Attorney's Office on pre-trial programs. Yavapai County is taking a leading role in the State for these programs.

Chief Deputy Rhodes reported that Title 36 Court Ordered treatment may be an option in the new jail facility. No decisions have been made on how to make this concept work. The Coalition and all partners will have input into the program. It will not supplant existing services in the County, particularly voluntary crisis services. The design within the jail will simply provide another available mental health treatment resource on-site to benefit those who have been arrested. Currently, local providers don't have a place for screening and the jail doesn't have a place for treatment. This new facility could provide both. Co-location will address those individuals who remain in custody to coordinate care with multiple providers and release to proper resources.

Jack Fields has reviewed the Chinn Report for the jail projections from 2015. He found that they were accurate along the timeline and without the programs that have been put in place to reduce incarceration over the last few years, jail population would be over 650. The Board of Supervisors understands the need for an inclusive jail system that would help people with mental illness, benefitting the community in the long run.

Ms. Thayer mentioned that during the Spring Legislature, Statewide Legislative Polices were putting together a bill for the School Superintendent's office to form a task force around school safety and mental health.

Ms. Dorfman, Ms. Littrell with Verde Valley Mental Health Coalition, John Schuderer and Carol Landaur met with Superintendent Hoffman and provided information on programs in Yavapai County that support our youth. Ms. Landaur will be joining the program task force. She will provide updates to the Coalition.

The Administrative Office of the Courts is creating a policy around recidivism reduction and release to treatment. Yavapai County will be presenting at the Judge's meeting in October. There is great interest in the Yavapai County model. The AOC would like to see the same model developed in other counties around the state. They would like to replicate the cross-data tracking system for state-wide use. They recognize a hurdle in cooperation among leadership in other counties and the need to change, adapt and address local mental health problems.

The National Sheriff's Association is creating a lawsuit at the Federal level that will eliminate the act that prevents Medicaid money from being spent on incarcerated individuals that were pre-trial detainees. The argument is that detainees have not had their civil rights removed under due process of law; health insurance is a property right that cannot be stripped away from them. Members are hoping the change will allow substance use and mental health treatment for the incarcerated.

Chief Debora Black spoke on behalf of Sheila, the Chair of Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (A.C.J.C.) about looking at the data from the criminal justice/state wide perspective. Some data is being misrepresented by entities moving criminal justice reform in a direction which would not benefit the Coalition. This includes probation, Department of Correction, crime and court data. The language between the entities doesn't apply evenly. They are holding meetings to determine how all data can be combined in one location and how it can be uniformly measured. Hearings will be held throughout the year.

Chief Black also advised that there may be property available with the City of Prescott that could be repurposed for a homeless drop-in day center. The City is unable to staff but can maintain the building. It would be a place where homeless could meet with probation officers, charge a cell phone and/or take a shower in a central location.

Ms. Dorfman reported that on November 1, 2019, the Homeless Day Center in the Verde Valley will be open. They will have twenty beds for night.

Christine Hayes with Southwest Behavioral Health is looking for two qualified therapists to engage with the schools. Please direct them to apply with SBH.

Meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.