

YAVAPAI JUSTICE & MENTAL HEALTH  
COALITION

Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2020 – 1:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Present:** *(If you are not shown in the list of attendees, please email Beya)*

Administrative Office of Courts	Stacy Reinstein
Ariz Department of Corrections	Kerry Hyatt
Ariz Department of Economic Security/RSA Care 1 <sup>st</sup>	Alycia Botkin
	Virginia Cons
	Chris Duarte
	Mario Morales
	Linda Poller
Child & Family Support Services	Mary Robbins
Clarkdale Police Department	Randy Taylor, Chief
Coalition for Compassion/Justice	Jessi Hans
Cottonwood City Prosecutor	Mik Jordahl
Cottonwood Magistrate Court	Catherine Kelley, Judge
Cottonwood Police Department	Steve Gesell, Chief
Crisis Network	KelleyAnne Smith
	Whitney Hensiak
David's Hope	Mary Lou Brnick
	Audrey Dorfman
Governor's Task Force/Suicide Prevention	John Schuderer
Grossman & Grossman	Davin
	John Grossman
Health Choice	Amy Bacon
	Sharie Brock
MATFORCE	Merilee Fowler
Mental Health Coalition Verde Valley	Carol Landauer
NAMI Yavapai	Kathy Bashor
Northern Arizona University	Brad Mattingly
NAZCARE	Daryl Butricks
	Laurie Verdier
Prescott Police Department	Debora Black, Chief
Prescott Valley Police Department	James Edelstein, Deputy Chief
Private Citizen	Jodi Rooney
	Jeanne Wellins
Pronghorn Psychiatry	Amy Ledesma, CEO
Return to Honor Coalition	Don Kirchner
Sana Behavioral Hospital	Pamela Pierce
Sedona Police Department	Charles Husted
Sonoran Prevention Works	Karen Broman
Spectrum Healthcare	Shawn Hatch
Terros Health	Bryan Gest
	Michael Lawhon
West Yavapai Guidance Clinic	Kelly Legler
Wexford/YCSO	Becky Payne
Yavapai Coalition/Compassion/Justice	Jessi Hans
Yavapai College Police Department	Tyran Payne, Lieutenant
Yavapai County Adult Probation	Cameron Doty

Yavapai County Attorney's Office	John Morris, Chief Sheila Polk, County Attorney Dennis McGrane, Chief Deputy County Attorney
Yavapai County Board of Supervisors Yavapai County Comm Health Services	Jack Fields, Assistant County Administrator Leslie Horton, Director Lorena Padilla
Yavapai County Schools	Stan Goligoski, Executive Director Shari Sterling
Yavapai County Sheriff's Office	Audrey Dorfman, VIP Nancy Gardner, Program Manager Kristie Hambrick, Inmate Services Brian Hunt, Captain Richard Martin, Captain Scott Mascher, Sheriff Jeff Newnum, Captain David Rhodes, Chief Deputy Brian Silvernale, Lieutenant Beya Thayer, Executive Director
Yavapai Regional Medical Center	Rob Barth III Carole Freeman

Sheriff Mascher opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. and welcomed the attendees. He shared that Chief Deputy Rhodes will be retiring on April 16, but to the benefit of the Sheriff's Office, he is running unopposed for Sheriff of Yavapai County, and therefore will be returning in January.

Ms. Thayer took roll call and advised she was looking for feedback on the community response to COVID-19.

Sheriff Mascher reported that calls for service are down.

Ms. Thayer reported that people are in crisis but not reaching out for help. A new message, "Yavapai – Stronger Together" is going to be scattered throughout the County in response to COVID-19. Please share this message through your social media accounts to send a message of community and togetherness. The Coalition website will also be updated with this information.

Mr. Goligoski advised they are encouraging leadership to promote connections to mental health services.

Ms. Horton stated they are trying to keep their information through the Emergency Operations Center and the Community Health Center of Yavapai simple and factual. They continue to see an increase of 2-5 cases daily. They are hoping for the best, but continuing to prepare.

The first death directly from COVID-19 in Yavapai County did have underlying health conditions. Three suicides are directly connected to the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of stressors and job loss. We currently have twice the average rate of suicides in the State of Arizona.

Ms. Thayer posed a question to the group: "How can we reach the most vulnerable?"

Ms. Fowler reported there will be a Town Hall on Friday with Mayor Mengarelli and Ms. Horton regarding mental health. Participants can call in or connect via video. She asked that we please share resources to be spread in the wider community.

Ms. Horton noted an increase in suicide attempts and overdoses as a result of stress.

Chief Black stated Prescott Police Department has seen overdoses double, but a decline in deaths because others are now at home. Some overdoses are occurring in public places.

Captain Martin advised that calls for service initially fell, but are now increasing with domestic and drug activity.

Captain Newnum thanked law enforcement agencies for the reduction in physical bookings and thanked the County Attorney's Office for taking more long-form charging. The Arizona Department of Corrections has restricted incoming inmates, requiring their detention in county facilities for an extended time.

Chief Taylor reported that his officers are responding to more domestic disturbances within families.

Chief Husted has noticed an uptick in simple assaults and disorderly offenses. There is also an increase in calls for intoxication and drug use.

Ms. Hans advised they are seeing a consistent volume, with 32-34 beds used nightly. They are operating as a 24-hour shelter, with meals and showers, and have outdoor restrooms open. They require a temperature check and handwashing before entry. They have coordinated with U.S. Vets for a 14-day quarantine for individuals with pending test results.

Ms. Benedict is seeing an increase in anxiety, stress and substance abuse. They are limiting access and trying to protect their personnel.

Ms. Broman reports an increase in overdoses, which she thinks may be relapse, due to the closure of three sober living homes in Prescott. Many 12-step programs are happening virtually, but this is challenging for many.

Chief Rhodes reports that bookings are down but Reach-Out continues in the jail. They are working with the courts and public defenders in this new reality. The current jail population remains steady. Diversion strategies are slowing because less are seeking treatment. Calls for help are declining. Although the message from the Governor's office is criminal justice reform needs to occur on the front end, the philosophy is on hold right now due to the circumstances.

Ms. Reinstein reports that they are limiting in-person appearances in the courts right now. There are no juries being assembled. There are some sessions of Return to Competency and Telehealth. Mental Health Training of the Judiciary online is being considered. The Arizona Court Cares website is up and running.

Ms. Polk reported the program of connecting individuals with services through Pre-Trial Diversion would be ready to launch on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The County Attorney's Office is working with West Yavapai Guidance Clinic and Spectrum with the Complete Care Partners. Eligible persons will be given the option to participate and if they successfully complete the program, will have their charges dismissed. Telehealth will be used to maintain connection and supervise. Qualified persons will typically be drug offenders (no dealers) and there can be no victim.

Ms. Polk further advised the County Attorney's Office is seeing an increase in domestic violence and drug offenses. They will be hosting a donation site with MATFORCE on Tuesday, April 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Supplies such as games, tools, basic food staples and personal hygiene items will be provided to sober living homes. The drop off will be at Sedona United Methodist church. A flyer will be sent out.

Ms. Thayer advised that domestic violence sexual assaults relates to mental health and 80-90% of women in the justice system have a history of this trauma. Trauma and mental health providers connect this issue back to childhood and sexual abuse trauma. There are strong concerns about child abuse right now because of the lack of regular observation by teachers.

Judge Kelly advised all courts are open, but you may require special access. Many persons need Orders of Protection but are not computer literate or have a computer access (libraries are closed). They are working with defendants online and via email.

Mik Jordahl in seeing an increase in theft charges, with people stealing survival gear.

Ms. Hatch reports seeing an escalation in Telehealth services. Some people continue to be seen in person. There has been a slight increase in contacts for service. They are testing for COVID-19 at the Prescott and Verde locations. They have conducted 40 tests; 3 were positive. She asks for a phone call in advance of testing; they will meet you in the parking lot. Results are received in 1-3 days.

As part of the diversion program, and in partnership with West Yavapai Guidance Clinic, they are looking to employ a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).

Ms. Legler reports their numbers for crisis treatment are not increasing. They are seeing irrational mass panic, but no calls for help. Approximately 75% of their services are through Telehealth. They are trying to reach the community through postcards and radio ads.

The Suicide Prevention action planning session has been moved to early May.

Ms. Thayer advised they will revise and compile resources and send them out.

Ms. Verdier reports the warm-line at NAZCARE, 1-888-404-5530, available from 11:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. is receiving a higher volume of calls of people just wanting to talk to someone. They are directed to other resources and connected to Telehealth. There is an increase in calls from the elderly.

Ms. Botkin encouraged referral to the online site for food stamps and other resources. There is an increase in unemployment filings. Arizona Job Connection is a great resource. She can be reached at [abotkin@azdes.gov](mailto:abotkin@azdes.gov) or 928-228-9321.

Please forward resources and items to be shared with the Coalition to Beya at [beya.thayer@yavapai.us](mailto:beya.thayer@yavapai.us)

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.