



Arizona  
Substance Abuse  
Partnership

**Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership  
December 14, 2023, 1:00 PM  
Arizona State Capitol Executive Tower**

A general meeting of the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) convened on December 14, 2023, in a hybrid format, notice duly given.

Members Present (11)
<b>Sara Salek</b> , Vice Chair, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
<b>Andrew LeFevre</b> , Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
<b>Sheila Sjolander</b> , Arizona Department of Health Services
<b>Raymonda Matheka</b> , Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (Proxy for Director Doug Sargent)
<b>Tobi Zavala</b> , Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners
<b>Dawn Mertz</b> , High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas
<b>Tonya Hamilton</b> , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family
<b>Merilee Fowler</b> , MATFORCE
<b>Kathleen Grimes</b> , Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition
<b>Shanda Breed</b> , Arizona Department of Adult Probation
<b>Leah Landrum-Taylor</b> , Arizona Department of Economic Security
Staff (2)
<b>Nicole Valenzuela</b> , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family
<b>Chantel Hutchinson</b> , Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family

**Call to Order**

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, called the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) meeting to order at **1:07 PM** with 11 members and two staff present.

**Welcome/Introductions**

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, welcomed everyone to the December 14, 2023, meeting and conducted a roll call of the members in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes**

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, stated reaching quorum and requested a review of the May 3, 2023, and the September 5, 2023, meeting minutes.
  - **Andrew Lefevre** moved to accept both meeting minutes.
  - **Leah Landrum-Taylor** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

**PAX Good Behavior Game (GBG)**

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, introduced **Carmen Irving** from the PAXIS Institute.
- **Carmen Irving** shared an overview of the implementation of PAX in Arizona from 2019 to 2023.
  - PAX is being implemented across care systems as it utilizes evidence-based strategies to teach self-regulation and positive behavior as a skill set.
  - Since 2019, 3,599 Arizona educators have received PAX Good Behavior Game (GBG) training, impacting 89,957 students yearly.
  - PAX has programming for all settings, including schools, human services, caregivers, community educators, and youth workers.

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, asked how implementing this program with youth impacts home life with families and adults.
  - **Carmen Irving** explained that PAX teaches how to regulate emotions through multiple strategies that support building nurturing relationships with the child and their parents/caregivers.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, commented that the PAX concepts and strategies are practical tools that change behavior in a pro-social way.
- **Carmen Irving** shared that a PAX peer review will be released in March 2024.
- To view **Carmen Irving's** presentation, [click here](#).

### Program Implementation and Dually Adjudicated Youth

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, welcomed **Dr. Raymonda Matheka** and **Dr. Angela Fischer** from the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC).
- **Dr. Raymonda Matheka** provided an overview of the implementation of PAX for human services and the focus on working collaboratively for youth.
- **Dr. Angela Fischer** continued by sharing the story of CJ (the name and face of the young man changed to protect his identity) and his path through the justice system in Arizona. **Dr. Angela Fischer** went step by step, explaining the care, action plan development and execution, progress, and celebration of CJ's success.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, acknowledged the hard work and dedication of **Dr. Raymonda Matheka** and **Dr. Angela Fischer** in reducing recidivism and expressed her gratitude for Adobe Mountain's efforts.
- To view **Dr. Raymonda Matheka** and **Dr. Angela Fischer's** presentation, [click here](#).

### Addressing Trauma Through Traditional Methodologies

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, introduced **Maria Alvidrez**, Amistades, Inc. Program Manager, and **Maciel Moreno** from the Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Task Force - Drug Demand Reduction and Outreach Team.
- **Maria Alvidrez** explained that Amistades, Inc. is a Latino-led, Latino-serving non-profit committed to race and equity issues in Southern Arizona. Amistades, Inc. utilizes a cultural approach through Chicano history teachings, community-centered healing practices, intergenerational education, Latino best practices, social justice, and substance misuse prevention.
- **Maria Alvidrez** further explained five programs offered to the community through Amistades, Inc.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, asked about funding to support the programs.
  - **Maciel Moreno** responded that Amistades, Inc. has grant funding through the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF), Unidos, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- **Andrew Lefevre** asked if their organization uses Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) data to assess their community needs and implementation of their Latino-focused programs.
  - **Maciel Moreno** responded that they use AYS data to assess community needs. They also use the data in their presentations for parents and the community, offering availability in Spanish to support the community best.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, shared that it's great to have community-led efforts around current trends that best support the actual needs.
- To view **Maria Alvidrez** and **Maciel Moreno's** presentation, [click here](#).

### Arizona Opioid Litigation Settlement Updates

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, introduced **Leslie Cooper**, Division Chief Council of the Arizona Attorney General's Office.
- **Leslie Cooper** provided a status of the Opioid Settlements, which included those of distributors such as Johnson and Johnson and Mallinckrodt, Pharmacies (CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart), Teva and Allergan, Purdue Pharma, Endo International, Kroger Pharmacy, and other opioid cases in the works.

- **Leslie Cooper** explained the One Arizona Agreement and the settlement allocations. All 15 counties (including all 91 cities and towns) agreed to the One Arizona Agreement. Counties, cities, and towns have autonomy in spending their allocated funds and may pool resources.
- **Leslie Cooper** further explained that approved uses of funds include expenses related to treatment of opioid use disorder, support for people in treatment and recovery, and support for people who have opioid use disorder or are at risk for developing opioid use disorder.
- **Leslie Cooper** shared the allocated funds' first year and annual reporting, information on the AGO website and distribution dashboard, and the allocation of Teva: Naloxone.
- **Leslie Cooper** shared continued plans of the One Arizona Agreement, including Naloxone distribution, payments to defendants, resolution of matters in bankruptcy, compliance with annual reporting obligations, and development of plans representing demonstrated needs and available resources.
- **Andrew Lefevre** asked how the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) can support efforts by including ACJC in topics around the areas of need within the state.
  - **Leslie Cooper** responded she would take this back to the team to discuss ways to partner.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, commended **Leslie Cooper** and her group's work in partnership with the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS).
- To view **Leslie Cooper's** presentation, [click here](#).

## Workgroup Reports

### Substance Abuse Epidemiology (Epi) Workgroup Workgroup

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, welcomed **Matthew Bileski** and **Dr. Marisa Domino** to provide an update on the Substance Abuse Epidemiology (Epi) Workgroup.
- **Matthew Bileski** provided an overview of the six dashboards created using Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) and Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) data.
- **Dr. Marisa Domino** shared that the dashboards were created and vetted through the Epi Workgroup in collaboration with the Arizona State University (ASU) Center for Health Information and Research (CHiR), ACJC, AHCCCS, and GOYFF (funded through the Partnerships for Success (PFS) Grant).
- **Sheila Sjolander** acknowledged the work of those in the workgroup and those who collaborated on the project, as she expressed the dashboards are an excellent resource for the community.

### Approval of the Substance Abuse Epidemiology (Epi) Workgroup Dashboards

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, requested approval to house the Epi Workgroup Dashboards on the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) website.
  - **Merilee Fowler** motioned to approve.
  - **Sheila Sjolander** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

### Prevention Workgroup

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, welcomed **Merilee Fowler** to provide an update on the Prevention Workgroup.
- **Merilee Fowler** provided an overview of the workgroup's prevention focus through coalition development with funding support from the State Opioid Response Grant through the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS).
  - Focusing on evidence-based and evidence-informed prevention strategies, identifying prevention desert areas, and building coalition mentorship programs.
  - Partnering with the Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Task Force to update the prevention desert map to assess and continue building prevention coalitions in needed areas.
  - Since the last update, the following coalitions have been established with prevention efforts in place: Redeem Neighborhoods, REACH North Phoenix, Southwest Valley Community Alliance (SVCA), The Barbell Saves Project Drug Prevention Coalition,

and Mayahuel Prevention Consortium II.

- Coalition expansion efforts continue in Avondale, Tolleson, and Goodyear.
- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, thanked **Merilee Fowler** and the workgroup's efforts, expressing her appreciation for grassroots efforts of building community coalitions.
- To view **Merilee Fowler's** presentation, [click here](#).

### **Council Member Updates**

- **Andrew Lefevre** shared concerns about the Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) in the coming years as schools remove their participation due to parental consent issues. He requests support from coalitions and those who work with schools to ensure they participate in the AYS, as the data is crucial to knowing and understanding the needs of youth and schools in Arizona.

### **2024 Meeting Dates**

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, reminded members of the next ASAP meeting date of **February 8, 2024**, at **1 PM**, offered in a hybrid format. Members are welcome to attend in person or virtually.

### **Adjournment**

- **Sara Salek, Vice Chair**, adjourned the meeting at **2:55 PM**.

Dated the eighteenth day of December 2023  
Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership  
Respectfully Submitted By: Deb Stoks  
Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF)