

**Arizona Mental Health and Criminal Justice Coalition (AzMHCJC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 7, 2015**

<b>Agenda Items</b>	<i>Discussion</i>	<b>Action Items &amp; Person Responsible</b>
<p>Welcome and Introductions by Mary Lou Brncik of David's Hope</p>	<p><i>Mary Lou opened the meeting at 0905 and introductions proceeded with the thirty-two people present and nine who joined by phone. ADHS staff assisted with the gotomeeting format, but there were technical difficulties with the visual component.</i></p>	
<p>David's Hope Updates from Mary Lou Brncik</p>	<p><i>Mary Lou began by sharing the status of David's Hope. Work has been going on for about seven years now with three basic needs still being unmet: a permanent source of funding, paid staff and office space.</i></p> <p><i>The Law Enforcement Awards Dinner will be held on October 9 in Scottsdale at St Patrick Catholic Community. We are still looking for corporate sponsors and also for nominations of officers who have responded in a positive way to those in mental health crisis. If you would like to nominate someone, please have your nomination in by August the 15<sup>th</sup>. We would like to remind everyone that this is a fundraiser and we also need people to attend, so please tell your friends and co-workers. The cost is \$55 per person; we will be sponsoring the nominated officers and one of their guests.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you to the Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy for the Summer Institute in Sedona July 14-17. It was a great conference! Judge Steven Leifman was a keynote and got a standing ovation for his work in Miami-Dade County, Florida for promoting treatment instead of incarceration for those with mental illness. There will be related videos for viewing on <a href="http://www.davidshopeaz.org">www.davidshopeaz.org</a> website.</i></p> <p><i>Mary Lou mentioned the Stepping Up Initiative and their website, <a href="http://stepuptogether.org">stepuptogether.org</a>. Judge Leifman, as the architect of the initiative, has assisted in putting together the tools to fix our broken systems. Counties around Arizona and the nation are in the process of signing on.</i></p>	



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<p>Updates from Around the State</p>	<p><i>Beya Thayer-Criminal Justice Manager- Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority- Beya reported that Navajo County has been working with AHCCCS to get those who are incarcerated enrolled for health insurance. Coconino County mental health criminal justice partners are becoming leaders in the state for collaboration and coordination of services; their Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's Behavioral Health Subcommittee will meet next Tuesday.</i></p> <p><b>Ginny Hamilton</b>—Program Director for Yavapai County Jail—Ginny began by thanking Beya for working together with them and for her assistance. Southwest Behavioral Health is now coming into the jail to do assessments and will assist with re-entry. On Monday there will be a meeting with the Sheriff's Office and top level officials which will address CIT issues in Yavapai County. All the players will be at the table and Mary Lou also plans to attend.</p> <p><b>Audrey Dorfman</b> -Mental Health Coalition of Verde Valley- They are moving forward with their mental health summit to be held on September 25<sup>th</sup> from noon till 5 p.m.. Groups and key leaders are identifying topics and issues to be presented. The coalition's meeting location is changing since the church is now under construction.</p> <p><b>Amanda Stamps</b>- CIT Coordinator and police officer from Mesa- CIT school will take place in the East Valley and 30 people will be attending. Mesa also hosted a statewide CIT meeting and refresher training is also occurring. They are working with the Arizona Post on the curriculum. She also mentioned an update on the Mental Health Court in Mesa.</p> <p><b>Natalie Summit</b>- Crisis Intervention Specialist-Scottsdale Police Department. Natalie could not attend today so <b>Tracy Wilkinson</b> reported for this area. There was a meeting regarding Gilbert's and Glendale's CIT coordination. Scottsdale police officers who are CIT trained now have a pin to wear and Police Crisis Intervention is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year.</p> <p><b>Shelly Curran</b>- Mercy Maricopa Integrated Health-Shelly announced that the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors is on board with the Stepping Up Initiative and decreasing the recidivism rate. There were other interesting new developments as well. Community Bridges will transition into an Urgent Psychiatric Care facility and also the Youth Crossover model will expand to the East Valley. The City of Phoenix Mental Health Court will expand its effectiveness and Hope Lives is now getting referrals from MMIC within ninety days of inmates' release so their staff can go into the jails and prisons to provide re-entry services. Shelly had identified a barrier in the treatment plan so Hope Lives will now get involved immediately working with Adult Probation and mental health providers, so that services will start even though the inmate is not on AHCCCS yet.</p>	<p>.</p>
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	<p><b>Nicole Studer-</b> Department of Corrections- There are now four staff dedicated to the needs of the SMI population. The DOC's biggest challenge is in not knowing where inmates will be released to and which RHBA will be serving them. Oftentimes the inmate doesn't know themselves and there are not many options. Halfway houses are their biggest one and they are generally unacceptable. Nicole added that it's a real challenge for the PO's to find enough time to go into the prisons for the interviews and then to find housing for the approximately 1200 who are released every month.</p>	
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Guest Speaker-Dr Dawn Noggle- Mental Health Director, Maricopa County Jail

*Mary Lou introduced Dr. Noggle as “a bright light” and one of the founders of this coalition. Her vision was the work that is now being done and we are so grateful to her. She talked about her history with the jail and how the link between criminal justice and mental health has helped the jail evolve over the past seven years.*

*She began with some statistics: over 130,000 people are booked into the jail every year—many are released within days- forty percent are gone within 24 hours. The mean stay is twenty-one days. About 300 are booked in every day. The three main priorities for the staff are to assess the person’s mental and physical status, continue any care for existing or chronic conditions and then to begin re-entry planning. People arrive often times in crisis or shock, many are intoxicated or on drugs, and many either don’t know or won’t talk about any medical or mental health problems they have. Eighty-five percent have a positive mental health history and they are seen within the first eighteen hours.*

*She continued on with the challenges (as well as some successes they are having) and coalition members will receive an emailed copy of her PowerPoint, which she was not able to show because of technical problems*

*She gave a word of warning about what she feels is now a major public health crisis. The numbers of people who are on so-called designer drugs (such as spice, bath salts, etc) are incredibly high and we should all be concerned about this. The problem is that these do not clear out of a person’s system and are causing all kinds of serious disorders. There is even word that these substances are available to the public in areas within close proximity to the jail.*

*She concluded by saying that our work should be more about diversion and ways to keep people out of jail and it is her hope that this area gets more continued focus and effort. She ended by taking questions/comments.*



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Adjournment	<p><i>Mary Lou closed the meeting at 11 and the next one is scheduled for Friday September 4<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 here at ADHS. A special thanks to the staff ( and coalition members) who assisted with the technical difficulties experienced with transitioning to the gotomeeting format.</i></p>	

**Thank you to our hosts at the Arizona Department of Health Services, OIFA! Please plan to attend our next meeting on Friday September 4 from 9-11am .**

