

Arizona Mental Health and Criminal Justice Coalition (AzMHCJC)
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2015

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Items & Person Responsible
<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 both those present and on the phone. There was an invitation to our partners to join publicly with the coalition through a letter of support which can be found on our website. Endorsing organizations will be listed on http://davidshopeaz.org.</i></p> <p><i>It is planned that next month's meeting will be available through the "Go To Meeting" format so anyone with a computer can join from home or wherever they are. Instructions for that will be given next month.</i></p> <p><i>Speaker line-up: Next month's guest speaker will be Dr. Dawn Noggle, Mental Health Director of Maricopa County Jail. She is a great advocate and visionary who started this coalition.</i></p> <p><i>In September, Dr John Toma, who is a forensic psychologist and has done competency restorations for twenty years, will be our guest. Mary Lou spoke about the difficulty she has had in trying to find out how much our state spends on competency hearings. No one she has contacted knew the answer yet it's very important since this process is very expensive, yet provides for no real mental health treatment. Per reports from families and professionals many individuals are deemed to have been restored and are prosecuted criminally who remain extremely ill and in need of hospitalization and or court ordered treatment: there will be more discussions on this in the future.</i></p>	



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<p>David's Hope Updates from Mary Lou Brncik and Rae Hopf</p>	<p><i>Mary Lou reminded everyone of ASU's Center for Behavioral Health's Summer Institute, which will be held in Sedona July 14-17. Judge Steven Leifman will be a keynote speaker and one of his famous quotes is, "There is something terribly wrong with a society that is willing to spend more money to incarcerate people that are ill than to treat them". Competency restoration is an area of interest of his and he has studied the amount of money his home state of Florida spends on it. It is a goal for us that we know how much Arizona spends.</i></p> <p><i>The Law Enforcement Awards Dinner will be held on October 9 in Scottsdale at St Patrick Catholic Church. 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 15th.</i></p> <p><i>Thursday, July 23rd there will be a Re-Entry Job Fair in Gilbert, sponsored by Maximus. The morning will consist of conference topics being presented, and the afternoon will be a Job Fair with employers present. A flyer will be sent out.</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 on the Stepping Up Initiative and the drive to get more counties to sign on to the petition. Navajo County will be signing on, Coconino signed on and Maricopa County and Yuma have also signed on.</i></p> <p><i>Ginny Hamilton—Yavapai County—Ginny reported things are going well for the Mental Health Unit at the jail and that they are having positive results from their own RTC Unit. They are saving both time and money. They will also start having mental health assessments done in the jail for anyone not already in the public mh system. There will be a meeting in August to start their own mental health/criminal justice coalition and put together CIT teams in order to focus on diversion instead of incarceration. Mary Lou clarified with Ginny that inmates have to first be stabilized and /or on meds before they are transferred from jail to their mental health unit.</i></p> <p><i>Audrey Dorfman -Mental Health Coalition of Verde Valley-Housing is their major focus; there are very few affordable places to live in Prescott or Cottonwood and they only have a budget of \$5000 to help people coming out of jail find a place to live. They are focused on finding resources and may try to collaborate with Valley Interfaith Project.</i></p> <p><i>Amanda Stamps- CIT Coordinator and police officer from Mesa who has recently replaced Tom Gussie—There is a lot of refresher training in mental illness going on in the East Valley. They may be developing a mental health court from a model in Tucson. She also talked about the Community Care Specialist teams of fire personnel being paired with social workers or counselors to respond to both medical and mental health calls. Thanks to a grant, they have 2 more units to operate from noon till 10 p.m.</i></p> <p><i>Natalie Summit- Crisis Intervention Specialist-Scottsdale Police Department. East Valley CIT is starting in August and a representative from MMIC is coming; there will be a full day in-service on July 21. Natalie also mentioned she finished volunteering with her 7th NAMI class and what an amazing resource NAMI is for families.</i></p> <p><i>Department of Corrections- Dr. Nicole Taylor and Dennis Dye- Dr. Taylor mentioned there have been two full days of officer training in such topics as de-escalation and suicide prevention, with lots of participation and good discussions. She also stated they are beginning to look at the practice of giving tickets to inmates with mental health issues. Veterans are another focus in Tucson. They're also looking at a peer support program that is a pilot in Tucson. She also talked about the Kingman riot and how the DOC has been focusing on dispersing the inmates to other facilities.. The prison has been in the news lately. Dennis reported that higher ranking staff in DOC are becoming more attuned to mental health issues and this is very encouraging. There is not as much stigma with mental</i></p>	<p>.</p>
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	<p><i>health and having to take meds. Something new is the addition of contact info for Nursing Supervisors listed on the DOC website; family members who have concerns can now contact them. Dr. Taylor concluded by saying she will be presenting at a conference in Long Beach about their techniques of working with max custody inmates. They created a process to assess inmates' risk levels to allow them to receive programming, recreation, etc. Both she and Dennis feel there are a lot of positive changes going on in the culture of DOC and are very encouraged by what they are seeing. She did add that while the trend across the country is for states to decrease their inmate populations, Arizona actually increased theirs by 1000 and that 26% of Arizona's prison population has a mental health diagnosis. Mary Lou gave an overview of the role and function of Human Rights Committees in Arizona; she is serving on the one having to do with the state hospital. She has met with Senator Nancy Barto who was involved with SB 1400, which created changes to the structure and functioning of the committees, making them stronger. Mary Lou encouraged anybody interested to sign up as a volunteer member; they are particularly needed in the counties of Mohave, Pinal, Gila and in southeast Arizona. Maricopa County and the Arizona State Hospital also still needs members.</i></p>	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p><i>The meeting was adjourned at 1105 am and everyone is invited to attend next month when our featured guest will be Dr Dawn Noggle, Mental Health Director of the Maricopa County Jail.</i></p>	



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	<p><i>Notes prepared by Gail Melone RN BSN</i></p>	

Thank you to our hosts at the Arizona Department of Health Services! Please plan to attend our next meeting on Friday August 7 from 9-11am .

