Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Items & Person Responsible
Welcome and Introductions by Mary Lou Brncik of David's Hope	From around the state joining via conference call: Erika Espinos- Aurora Behavioral Health, Julie Gabos Family member Audrey Dorfman/Elizabeth Keller-Verde Valley Mental Health Coalition; Susan Wanat- St Patrick's, Elizabeth Singleton, Beya Thayer- NARBHA, Kathy Gomez-St. Patrick's, Crystal Hicks-Family member, Derrick Seawood- Cochise County Reentry Coalition. There were 29 participants present as well as twelve calling in on the conference line.	



David's Hope Updates from		
Mary Lou Brncik and Rae		
Hopf		

Mary Lou opened with an update on The Stepping Up Initiative. Their mission statement closely resembles ours. They are asking for individuals and counties to sign on to assist with their goal of helping counties have more effect at the state level to decrease the numbers of people being incarcerated for mental illness and addiction. The Treatment Advocacy Center has ranked Arizona as being second in the nation for the number of people with mental disorders in jail or prison. Maricopa County has signed on to the inititiave. For more information on this initiative, just visit www.stepuptogether.org.

Plans are in progress for the Law Enforcement Awards Banquet to be held in Scottsdale at St. Patrick's Catholic Community on October 9th. This event will recognize officers showing outstanding response to mental health crisis calls. Contact Mary Lou for nomination forms if you know of anyone you'd like to see recognized for their work.

Human Rights are finally coming to the forefront in Arizona and there are committees created legislatively, created to cover all of the state's geographic regions. Senator Nancy Barto successfully brought legislation SB 1400 in 2015 which will strengthen their impact. For anyone considering becoming involved, the state hospital needs members on its committee and the committees in Northern and Southeastern Arizona have not been active for some time now. Contact Mary Lou for more information.

Mary Lou reminded everyone of ASU's Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy's Summer Institute, which will be held in Sedona, July 14-17. Mary Lou encouraged everyone to attend especially on July 15 when Judge Steven Leifman will be the morning keynote speaker and have an afternoon breakout session. Judge Leifman is a leading mental health criminal justice expert who is known for his quote," 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".



Updates on Mental Health/		
Criminal Justice		
Collaboration from Around		
Arizona		

- Beya Thayer-Criminal Justice Manager-Northern AZ Regional Behavioral Health Authority-Coconino and Navajo County have gone to the Board of Supervisors to get approval for a new 15 bed facility in Winslow to serve recently incarcerated clients. The Criminal Justice Coordination Meeting is comprised of mental health providers and law enforcement staff who continue to meet every other month to work on shared issues. Beya also stated that Coconino County has signed onto the Stepping Up Inititative.
- Audrey Dorfman- Mental Health Coalition of Verde Valley- May 11-17 was Mental Health Awareness Week and the theme was "Stronger Than Stigma". There were community events and conversations that about 500 community members attended and Beya Thayer from NARBA also assisted. Their Advocacy Committee will meet in June to determine their future direction. They also plan to continue to reach out to and support Captain Rhodes and his team in Yavapai County.
- Derrick Seawood-Cochise County Re-entry Coalition- They continue to work to provide housing for the "difficult to place" and have been meeting with private housing owners to try to dispel myths associated with felons. Their next meeting will be in June in Sierra Vista with Judge Irwin and two probation officers as guest speakers. Derrick invited anyone interested to attend.
- Natalie Summit- Crisis Intervention Specialist-Scottsdale Police Department-Natalie talked about the history of crisis intervention training in Arizona. She recently participated in a Town Hall with Elisabeth Singleton. There was a lot of input given by Glendale, Scottsdale and Phoenix Police Departments as families discussed issues they have with family members who have mental illness and addiction. The question was raised, "Why does it have to be a police officer who responds to calls for those with mental illness to be taken for treatment?" Natalie replied, "It's a law" and there will be a meeting scheduled in June with Senator Nancy Barto to look into getting this changed.
- Jim Dunn- NAMI- Jim reported on the forum which was recently held with the Surprise Police Department to look at their Crisis Intervention Training program. The turnout was impressive. There was also talk of helping the community learn the importance of using other community resources besides calling 911 to resolve problems with family members displaying mental health/addiction behaviors.
- Department of Corrections- Dennis Dye attended for Dr. Nicole Taylor. He talked about the role of mental health monitors and how they are seeing improvement in the treatment of those with mental illness in our prisons. At the end of the month



There will be a two day training for officers working with inmates who have mental disorders. Kerry Hyatt was also attending for the Department of Corrections and talked about the contract with Corizon. The ADC works with Corizon release planners to enhance re-entry for those who need mental health providers upon their release. It was discovered that oftentimes inmates with SMI's have a lot of anxiety about meeting their probation officer so a process is being created for them to meet their PO before they are released.	



Special Guests-Captain David Rhodes-Yavapai County Sheriff's Office Ginny Hamilton-Yavapai County Sheriff's Office-Jail Program Director Mary Lou introduced our special guests as leaders in the state when it comes to providing innovative solutions for longstanding problems. Captain Rhodes began his presentation by saying that the general public is weary and in need of solutions for people who are arrested (and especially repeatedly) because of their mental illness and addictions. He described the creative approach and detailed process that was necessary to transition a part of the Yavapai County Jail into a place where healing, hope, services and support could occur. A side benefit of this plan was a reduction in the jail population. It also proved to be cost effective since no additional staff were needed to implement the change; the same staff could work in different ways to create a paradigm shift involving treatment, counseling, educational opportunities and referrals compared to the old model of isolation, punishment and release. A program like this serves to shrink the burden on the criminal justice system while increasing public safety. It has been well received in the Yavapai County community.

In the last five months since its inception there have been only a few instances where people have been re-arrested and returned to jail. He introduced Ginny Hamilton who is the Jail Program Director, and talked about the process of establishing trust with the inmates. She outlined the four main goals of the program: socialization opportunities, addressing academic goals, supporting employability skills and instilling a sense of self-confidence so that inmates will seek out the support and resources they need once they are released.

Attendees at the meeting had many questions and positive comments for Captain Rhodes and Ginny. Mary Lou asked them to present their work at the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission with the hope that their program will be adapted and implemented statewide. Per Capt. Rhodes, Sheriff Mascher is interested in bringing change to some of our laws relating to mental health and incarceration and is considering submitting a position paper to the Arizona Sheriff's Association on the topic.



Adjournment	Mary Lou adjourned the meeting at 1100	
	Minutes written by Gail Melone	

Thank you to our hosts at the Arizona Department of Health Services! Please plan to attend our next meeting on Friday July 10th from 9-11am

