

Arizona Mental Health and Criminal Justice Coalition (AZMHCJC)
Meeting Minutes
5/1/2015

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Items & Person Responsible
Welcome and Introductions by Mary Lou Brncik of David's Hope	The meeting was attended by 28 in person and 11 call in participants.	N/A
David's Hope/ Coalition Updates	<p>Mary Lou opened with an update on David's Hope. The Board has started planning for our Second Annual Law Enforcement Awards Dinner. It will be held on the evening of October 9th at St Patrick's Catholic Community in Scottsdale. Mary Lou encouraged everyone to be on the lookout for officers making a difference with people in crisis and to contact her for a nomination form. We're looking forward to another successful event which honors the important work carried out every day by law enforcement.</p> <p>Next she mentioned more agencies and organizations are signing on to our coalition support agreement, Our mission is to reduce the numbers of those with mental health disorders and addiction who are incarcerated. The coalition's vision is prevention, intervention and treatment. We are celebrating the latest endorsement we have received, which is from the Yavapai County Sheriff's Department.</p>	If you know of someone you'd like to nominate, contact Mary Lou



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<p>Updates on mental health/criminal justice collaboration -Our partners from around the state speak.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Kate Lawson-Criminal Justice Manager- Community Partners-Tucson Kate invited anyone who is interested to attend a meeting of the Pima County Forensic Task Force. The next one will be August 21st at 1130 (contact her for more information; everyone is welcome).They are busy winding down the RHBA contract and making connections to work with Cenpatico. The Specialty Court Conference just wrapped up and she did a presentation on the integration between criminal justice and mental health; she's also working on the law enforcement piece and a program to provide training called Blue Link Forensics which includes Mental Health First Aid, Crisis Intervention training, etc.2) Beya Thayer-Criminal Justice Manager-Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority Beya reported the Hope Lives is going into the Coconino County Jail and seeing those referred by mental health staff with the goals of trying to improve re-entry services and reduce recidivism. In Coconino County (and next will be Yavapai County) Foundation funds are being used to improve the process of reentry (getting inmates signed up for AHCCCS, evaluated and transferred to treatment) Navajo County is targeting inmate enrollment in AHCCCS before they're released and also working to increase case management for the SMI population.3) Audrey Dorfman- Mental Health Coalition Verde Valley- Audrey reported on efforts surrounding Mental Health Awareness Week (May 11-16) in Cottonwood and Sedona. The theme involves breaking down barriers and removing the stigma of mental illness. Their group meets the last Monday of the month from 10-12 and everyone is invited; it is also possible to be on their email distribution list. Audrey stated how pleased they are to have the involvement of Sheriff Mascher and Captain David Rhodes of the Yavapai County Sheriff's office.4) Derrick Seawood- Director of the Cochise County Re Entry Coalition- Derrick was unable to participate today.5) Captain David Rhodes- Yavapai County Sheriff's Office A very special welcome to Captain Rhodes, who has been in law enforcement for 21 years. Two years ago, he was transferred to Detention Services where he began by looking at the population and what their needs were. Mental health advocacy became a priority and a mental health unit was started within the jail about three months ago. Changes in attitudes and the environment were made, and services were started. It has been a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, diversion, etc. and Captain Rhodes is working to develop networks and support for continuing this effort. He encouraged	
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	<p>anyone who has questions to contact him, and tours are available for those who would like to visit.</p> <p>6) Natalie Summit-Crisis Intervention Specialist, Scottsdale Police Department Natalie reported on the Crisis Intervention Training with Gilbert, Mesa, Scottsdale, and Tempe- 58 officers were trained and the next training is scheduled for August. She wants to credit Steve Lessard for the idea from our last meeting to include self-care strategies in crisis intervention training adding "It's a true example of community collaboration" Steve Lessard was not able to participate on the phone today.</p> <p>7) Dr. Nicole Taylor- Arizona Department of Corrections Dr. Taylor reported that the DOC is busy complying with the terms of the Class action lawsuit brought by the ACLU last year. She added that they are also looking at programs to bring crisis intervention training to corrections officers, as well as programs for veterans and also specialized programs for the transgender population. She praised the prison staff working with the max custody program, saying that they are working diligently to provide programming for this population. It's a big transition for them and they're doing well in meeting the challenge.</p> <p>Mary Lou thanked Dr. Taylor for all her work and added that while we're all trying to improve public safety with our mission, there is an urgency for more change- "When are we going to do more in the areas of treatment, housing, hospital beds, etc?"</p>	<p>Mary Lou will give Steve's contact info to Natalie.</p>
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<p>Presentation by Judge Elizabeth Finn</p>	<p>We were honored to have Judge Elizabeth Finn from the Glendale City Court present a PowerPoint highlighting her role and her work with Mental Health Court (MHC) clients as well as those who require Rule 11 competency restoration. She introduced her assistant, Cathy Williams and discussed how they work as a team, get to know their clients very well and support them as they go through the process. They started this program in January of 2013 and there are now 84 graduates. There are between 35 and 45 people on their (MHC) docket and Judge Finn stated she sometimes feels “more like a social worker than a judge”. She talked in detail of the rewards and challenges of this work and took questions and comments from those in attendance.</p> <p>Mary Lou asked the question. “Why can’t we have a court similar to Judge Finn’s court at the Superior Court level?” and Judge Finn expressed frustration that communication is lacking between the areas of competency restoration and criminal courts.</p> <p>Elizabeth asked what else can be done as a community to keep those with mental health/addiction problems out of the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Scott thanked Judge Finn for caring so much and working so tirelessly as an advocate.</p> <p>She concluded her presentation by saying she would like to see a model mental health court developed and that we need to bring systems together, citing this coalition as an example of the power of networking and collaboration.</p> <p>Judge Finn again stressing the power of collaboration added that she and Beya have had a lot of success, working together in the area of domestic violence. Mary Lou mentioned that Judge Finn recently had a very informative article on MHC’s published by the American Bar Association and that this piece will be sent out to our coalition members next week.</p>	<p>The coalition will continue to advocate for increased numbers of MHC’s. The coalition will work to create more opportunities for expansion of MHC’s to include diversion and linkages to mental health & substance abuse treatment at the Superior Court level throughout the state of AZ.</p> <p>Mary Lou will send Judge Finn’s article on Mental Health Courts</p>
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<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Before adjourning, Mary Lou introduced Deputy Chief Benny Pina from Peoria. Who shared that he is working to partner with the Peoria Fire Department on crisis calls. He wants to promote more training for first responders and hopes to come to future coalition meetings for networking.</p> <p>Jim announced there will be a public education meeting which will highlight mental health criminal justice collaboration being carried out by the Surprise Police Department and being sponsored by NAMI on May 7th.</p> <p>Elizabeth announced that she is holding a town hall coming up May 9th to discuss public safety and the role of first responders. She also states she has several more similar events planned for later in the year.</p> <p>Mary Lou adjourned the meeting at 11:10am. The next coalition meeting will be Friday June 5th, here in this room (215A) at the Arizona Department of Health Services, 150 N 18th Ave Phoenix, AZ</p>	
	<p>Meeting notes-prepared by Gail Melone. RN BSN</p>	

Thank you to our hosts at the Arizona Department of Health Services!

Please attend our next meeting on Friday June 5th from 9-11am

