



**Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona  
COALITION MEETING**

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Phoenix Indian Center, Inc.

Hybrid Meeting

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**MISSION**

Create a sustainable coalition that addresses prevention of suicide, underage drinking and use/abuse of marijuana and prescription drugs through the foundation of cultures to improve the overall well-being of Urban American Indian youth and families.

**MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES**

1. **Kami Ortiz** – PIC (IN-PERSON)
2. **Shermaine Nelson** – PIC (IN-PERSON)
3. **Kyrene Yazzie** – PIC
4. **Kennedy Slowtalker-Begay** – PIC
5. **Maya Diaz** – PIC (IN-PERSON)
6. **Loren Bahe** – PIC
7. **Belén Santistevan** – PIC (IN-PERSON)
8. **Ethan Tsosie** – PIC
9. **Jolene Fernandez** – PIC
10. **Dari Nicols** – PIC (IN-PERSON)
11. **David Reyes** – PIC (IN-PERSON)
12. **Allen King** - Whispering Creek Health (IN-PERSON)
13. **Alyssa Dreiling** – Tucson Indian Center
14. **Annette Yazzie** – DES/Office of Tribal Relations
15. **April Childs** – NAC
16. **Brian Yazzie** – SRPMIC Youth Services
17. **Cheri Clark** - Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County
18. **Corina Blackwater** – Chinle IHS
19. **Clarenda Begay** – Aramark Destinations (IN-PERSON)
20. **Dalila Guerrero** – Maricopa County Public Health Tobacco Prevention & Cessation
21. **Dougherty Tsalabutie** - National Center for American Indian Health Professions/AT Still University
22. **Elisia Manuel** – Three Precious Miracles / Stepstone Family Youth Services
23. **Essence Stephenson** – Wellness Oasis Resource Center
24. **Elvira James** – Amanah Health
25. **Haley Velluntini** – CASA of Maricopa County
26. **Jordanna Saunders** – TRSAZ
27. **Jacob Atendo** – Beechtree (IN-PERSON)
28. **Karenina Paredes** – Southwest Behavioral & Health Services
29. **Laboraex Abeita** – Solari Crisis & Human Services
30. **Lauren Wideman** – Human Services Consultants (IN-PERSON)
31. **Marcus M** - Nooksack
32. **Michael Wydra** – Maricopa County Public Health
33. **Misty Castro** – Tucson Indian Center
34. **Monique Reveles** – Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, Arizona State University.
35. **Notiosha DAddabbo** – Notiosha Ministries International
36. **Patti Wesley** – Arizona Automotive Institute in Glendale
37. **Randa Hightower** – The Mahoney Group
38. **Rechelle Jackson** – Blue Sage Healing
39. **Robbie Begay** – Coconino County Health & Human Services
40. **Sheina Yellowhair** – Arizona Complete Health
41. **Travis Hamilton** – Holt Hamilton Films (IN-PERSON)
42. **Victoria Sanchez** – The Excel Center
43. **Will Jones** – Tucson Indian Center



**Meeting Called to Order at 2:01 PM by Shermaine Nelson**

- Shermaine welcomed attendees and prompted all virtual attendees to type their name and organization into the Zoom chat box. In person attendees passed the microphone for introductions.
- Icebreaker introductions were completed popcorn style with the question: *What's your favorite Halloween movie?* Shermaine started off the icebreaker question with an introduction and answering the question. The attendees in-person went first and then passed to the virtual attendees. For those who did not get a chance to participate in the icebreaker question, Shermaine welcomed them to type their answer in the chat along with an introduction.
- Shermaine and attendees reviewed today's agenda.

**Review Meeting Minutes from September 26, 2023.**

**Laboraax Abeita** motioned to approve the September meeting minutes. **Haley Vellutini** seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. There was no discussion regarding the meeting minutes. The majority voted in favor of approving the September meeting minutes. The motion has been adopted.

**Organization Spotlight Series**

**Touch the Water - Holt Hamilton Films presented by Travis Holt Hamilton**

Travis Holt Hamilton reported on his latest film, Touch the Water. His first Native American feature film 'Turquoise Rose' was one of the first films to play digitally in theatres around Arizona and New Mexico in 2006. Other films of his include More than Frybread, Legends from the Sky and Touch the Water which opens on 12 screens in New Mexico and Arizona starting November 3. Hamilton is also an Army Combat Veteran, who served during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom where he also wrote 'Turquoise Rose'. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> movie coming out. Hamilton is trying to get the word out. Travis has asked to share it with friends and family. It will be showing in Farmington, Gallup, Flagstaff, Harkins, Arizona Mills, Show Low and other places. The film is rated PG (children friendly).

The trailer can be viewed here [Touch the Water | Official Trailer \(2023 Movie\) | Holt Hamilton Films - YouTube](#)

**Coalition Updates**

**Gathering of Native Americans (GONA)**

Maya D. reported out – Our team was at Salt River last month with their staff to hold a GONA. On October 7<sup>th</sup> there was a community GONA held at PIC. It was a small intimate group. We had our Training for Trainers from Oct. 2-5; we trained 16 new facilitators. On October 28<sup>th</sup> we will hold a Youth GONA at PIC on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. It is open to 15–24-year-olds. We will also have a costume contest on the 28<sup>th</sup>! GONA is a full day 9am-3pm. It is like a talking circle set up. We go through 4 concepts: Belonging, Mastery, Interdependence and Generosity. There is a lot of healing. It can be emotional but in a good way.

**Living in 2 Worlds**

Maya D. reported out – L2W is an evidence-based curriculum to help middle school youth to get out of risky situations. We go through REAL strategies. We go through risky situations and teach middle school youth how to say no and get themselves out of these situations. We are starting our second Cycle for L2W with Osborn Middle School on 11/9.

**Parenting in 2 Worlds**



Loren B. reported out - We ended Cycle 2 (Thursday evenings). We had 7 parents complete Cycle 2. Our Tuesday class is our star child, we had 24 parents start off, 17 consistent parents. This cycle is a super exciting and interactive group. Our Wednesday classes will be starting 11/29. Our classes next Thursday will start Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>; registration will close Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>.

Kennedy S. reported out – In addition to P2W, we received a grant from the Global Center for Applied Health Research. With this grant we are going to be testing the overall effectiveness of P2W in comparison to Healthy Families in 2 Worlds. Dari Nichols is our GCAHR Coordinator. For this project, we must recruit a minimum of 20 families to be randomly selected to go into P2W or Healthy Families. We are working on our flyer and looking for childcare workers (w/ Fingerprint clearance card). If anyone is interested, please contact Dari, if you want to participate in the project. Her email address is [dnichols@phxindcenter.org](mailto:dnichols@phxindcenter.org)

### **DEA Drug Take Back Day**

Loren B. reported out - This weekend on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding our National DTBD from 10am-2pm at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center. It will be on the west side of the hospital. Many different organizations will be holding DTBD events throughout the Valley. On the flyer and website, it will give locations. We hold events for the community to bring in their unwanted or expired medications. A lot of time we might have individuals who accumulate a lot of medications over time, and they don't know how to get rid of them. HEAAL will also be hosting DTBD hosting at the Walgreens off Bethany Home & 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. Our UICAZ staff will be on-site giving out tote bags, with pill organizers, lock bags, and incentives. For a drop off location click here: <https://dea.gov/takebackday>

### **QPR Gatekeeper Training**

Belén S. reported out – We had a request for a QPR for Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. The Prevention team went to ASU downtown campus for their student organization, American Indian Social Work Student Organization (AISWSA). ASU Social Workers wanted to train their students and opened it up to their campus. We were able to train undergraduates and graduate students. Let us know if you would like a QPR training!

### **Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training**

Kami O. reported out – All these trainings are free! We have an ASIST coming up, it will be a private event, November 2-3<sup>rd</sup>. We like to go into the community, especially partnering with our surrounding colleges, to train students and faculty. Shermaine and I will be training a behavioral health professionals' class. If you are interested in this training, please let one of the Prevention members know.

### **safeTALK**

Shermaine N. reported out – SafeTalk is a half-day training in suicide alertness. It helps participants recognize a person with thoughts of suicide and connect them with resources who can help them in choosing to live.

### **Safeguarding Medications 101 (Rx360)**

Ethan T. reported out - Rx360 workshop brings awareness to harmful effects of prescription medication. We recently did a lunch-and-learn and a private event for Creighton Academy parents' Native American program. While DTBD is happening at PIMC, we will be having a free workshop during the health fair. We are also hosting another lunch-and-learn on November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12pm to 1pm. This Rx360 will be open to the community.



### **Network Support Roundtable**

Shermaine N. reported out – The team just wrapped our NSR at the end of suicide prevention month. Thank you everyone for attending.

### **Youth Coalition**

Belén/Ethan reported out -- This week is Red Ribbon Week! We are participating as a team as well as our Youth Council. Tonight, Ethan will be training their parents on Rx360. On Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a game night with our youth. Youth-led events like these promote having fun on a Friday night without substances. We are all really looking forward to it!

### **FY22-23 Subcommittee Chair Appreciation**

Kami O. reported out – The coalition and UICAZ staff recognize Elisia Manuel for all the amazing events she led and participated in. Thank you for all the work you have done. She showed great leadership and great representation for the coalition. She completed one year and wrapped another term as the Indian Child Welfare Committee Chair.

Elisia reported out – Thanked the committee and everyone that helped her make it happen. It was a team event. Thank you for allowing her to be a part of the committee.

### **2023-2024 Chair Elections**

#### **Recruitment & Outreach Nominees**

Shermaine read each nominee's biography and asked if they would want to share any additional comments on their experiences.

- Notiosha D'addabbo: Osha is my nickname. Thank you for the opportunity to be a candidate.
- Rechelle Jackson – Unable to comment.
- Allen King – I have been in the community a little over 20 years. At the end of this month, I will hit 13 years of recovery. I've been involved in the community and trying to make change. We have to talk about what's not comfortable to talk about. The goal is to work with the community, to find those humble solutions and sit down and get to the problem. We get misguided. We're told we were not allowed to speak how we feel. I want to bring that back and bring that motivation back. We are resilient people. Working and volunteering in the community, I am now a business owner. We can't heal our environment or our community without healing ourselves first.

The majority ruled in voting Allen King as the new Recruitment & Outreach chair.

#### **Urban Indian Child Welfare Nominees**

Shermaine read the new nominee's biography and asked if they would want to share any additional comments on their experiences.

- Notiosha D'addabbo – Thank you so much for the opportunity – for allowing people the opportunity to recover and regain that sense of self. Shout out to the Parenting in 2 Worlds.
- Incumbent, Elisia Manuel – Stepped away from the camera.
- Rechelle Jackson – I am a mom of 4 daughters and a grandmother. I believe in ICWA. We need to build bridges more with the outside community. We are one nation no matter what.

The majority ruled in voting Elisia Manuel as the new Urban Indian Child Welfare chair.



Shermaine read the new nominee's biography and asked if they would want to share any additional comments on their experiences.

- Rechelle Jackson - Unable to comment.
- Laboraex Abeita – Thank you for being nomination! Suicide Prevention and providing those resources has been important to me for the vast majority of my life. Just in the past year it has really opened itself and how I can best do that by joining Solari, the coalition and PIC to connect with our indigenous community. I hope to continue to work in this field and provide resources for people in need.

The majority ruled in voting Laboraex Abeita as the new Suicide Prevention chair.

### **Training & Workshops Committee -**

Shermaine read the new nominee's biography and asked if they would want to share any additional comments on their experiences.

- Rechelle Jackson – Unable to comment.
- Dalila Guerrero – I appreciate being nominated and I have enjoyed working with the prevention team so far. Thank you!

The majority ruled in voting Rechelle Jackson as the new Training & Workshops chair.

### **Subcommittee Breakout Sessions/Subcommittee Debrief**

- **Recruitment & Outreach (Report-out provided by Kami O.):**

Attendees: Kami Ortiz, Randa Hightower, Allen King, Lauren Wideman, Brian Yazzie, Elvira James, Monique Reveles, Notiosha DAddabbo, Dari Nichols, and Jacob Atendo

The group went around and got to know one another. We went through what recruitment and outreach is and went over expectations. We talked about outreach and spreading the word about what the committee does. Allen talked about collaboration and that we are not competitors we are all working to the same goal.

- **Training & Workshops (Report-out provided by Maya D.)**

Attendees: Maya Diaz, Ethan Tsosie, April Childs, Dalila Guerrero, David Reyes, Marcus M., and Rechelle Jackson

Reviewed our flyer and talked about marketing. We made suggestions on how to improve the number of participants for their Vaping 101 workshop. We talked about an in-person workshop for parents. There was talk about incentives. Hoping for a big number if in person. If there was another Vaping workshop, the committee can attend and see how else it facilitated. Brainstorming for a couple things in the future.

- **Urban Indian Child Welfare (Report-out provided by Loren B.)**

Attendees: Loren Bahe and Jolene Fernandez



It was discussed potentially reediting our ICWA flyer. We are hoping to recruit more native parents to become foster parents. The flyer was sent to DCS for edits. Hopefully down the road we will reedit it to get more people interested.

- **Suicide Prevention Committee (Report-out provided by Belen S):**

Attendees: Laboraex Abeita, Alyssa Dreilling, Karenina Paredes, Patti Wesley, Shermaine Nelson, Belén Santistevan and Will Jones

We talked about what to do next, and what our next project is. We came up with the idea, holiday card, digital frame, or boarder. It would include info about resources. Lab has seen calls go down during the holidays though the suicide numbers go up. We talked about suicide convening in the spring, call for presenters. Planning to have external meeting to work on holiday border.

### **Coalition Member Announcements/Community Calendar**

- **Native Health** is hosting their annual drive-thru Trunk or Treat event at both of their locations: Native Health Central Phoenix (5:00-8:00PM) and Native Health Mesa (4:00-7:00PM). The Phoenix Indian Center will be on site at the Central and Indian School location giving away goodie bags and candy. More information: [Events - Native Health of Phoenix \(nativehealthphoenix.org\)](https://www.nativehealthphoenix.org)
- **Phoenix Indian Center/UICAZ** is hosting a picture post challenge in recognition of Red Ribbon Week. Please take part in this social media campaign by tagging us on social media using @UICAZ on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and Twitter (X).
- **Phoenix Indian Center/UICAZ** Youth Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) is happening this Saturday on October 28<sup>th</sup>! This talking circle is open to youth and young adults ages 15-24. Since it's a few days before Halloween, there will be a costume contest, free food, and safe place to share and heal together. Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youth-gona-tickets-705468795157?aff=oddtcreator>
- **Maricopa County Department of Public Health of Tobacco Prevention & Cessation** shared the [Native American Men Conference | South Mountain Community College \(southmountaincc.edu\)](https://southmountaincc.edu) on October 27 from 8:00AM-3:00PM at SMCC Student Union Conference Center 7050 S. 24th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85042. This is a free event!

### **Closing Announcements**

- Submit your membership forms. Please fill it out [UICAZ Membership Agreement - Updated 6.20.23.pdf](#) and email it to us at [uicaz@phxindcenter.org](mailto:uicaz@phxindcenter.org).
- If you want to volunteer for us, we have a form on our website: [Volunteer \(phxindcenter.org\)](#)
- You can subscribe to our [Upcoming Events \(phxindcenter.org\)](#) calendar. You can see all our workshops, it will link to your Google Calendar, Outlook Calendar, or your phone.
- Next month, the Mahoney Group House & The Excel Center as our spotlight speakers. If someone could email us your presentation that'd be appreciated.
- Follow us on our social media platforms! Like our posts, like our stories. If you want us to reshare your posts, just tag us and we can repost on our page. All the information about upcoming events and workshops can be found on the UICAZ website: [www.uicaz.org](http://www.uicaz.org).

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 PM.

### **Next Meeting**

Date: November 28, 2023



Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Phoenix Indian Center – Hybrid Meeting

**2023 Meeting**

**Registration Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/tZlucOqtpj4rHdVJeLjNYIKNYxgqbwDJAznk>

**Note: Registration only needs to happen once. Once registered, you will have access to all future UICAZ meetings until December 2023.**

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