



**Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona
COALITION MEETING**

Tuesday, November 28, 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. **Allen King** – Whispering Creek Health (IN-PERSON)
2. **Allison Tobon** – notMYkid
3. **April Childs** – NAC
4. **Belén Santistevan** – PIC
5. **Bob Dalpe** – Veterans Medical Leadership Council
6. **Brian Yazzie** – SRPMIC Youth Services
7. **Brittany Aquitante**
8. **Calvin Worthen** – Desert Soul Media/KRDP 90.7FM
9. **Celina Meadows** – Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice (CSSJ)
10. **Cheri Clark** – Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County
11. **Cinthia Garcia** – Chicanos Por La Causa
12. **Clyde Miller** – HEAAL
13. **Cristina Ancieto** – Chicanos Por La Causa
14. **Dalila Guerrero** – Maricopa County Public Health Tobacco Prevention & Cessation
15. **Daniela Alvarez** – ACESDV
16. **David Beeksma** – Bureau of Indian Affairs
17. **Debbie Garcia** – ASU student
18. **Ethan Tsosie** – PIC (IN-PERSON)
19. **Jolene Fernandez** – PIC
20. **Kami Ortiz** – PIC (IN-PERSON)
21. **Kennedy Slowtalker-Begay** – PIC
22. **Kyrene Yazzie** – PIC
23. **Loren Bahe** – PIC (IN-PERSON)
24. **Maya Diaz** – PIC (IN-PERSON)
25. **Perise Lauvao** – PIC
26. **Shermaine Nelson** – PIC
27. **Dougherty Tsalabutie** – National Center for American Indian Health Professions/AT Still University
28. **Dustin Griswold** - Hushabye Nursery
29. **Elisia Manuel** – Three Precious Miracles / Stepstone Family Youth Services
30. **Elvira James** – Amanah Health
31. **Essence Stephenson** – Wellness Oasis Resource Center
32. **Haley Velluntini** – CASA of Maricopa County
33. **Janice Talas-Denny** – Trauma Recovery Services of Arizona, PLLC
34. **Joyce Givens** – CASA of Maricopa County
35. **Kellie MacDonald-Evoy** – Maricopa County Public Health
36. **Kim Gleason** – Two Worlds
37. **Kristopher Seydel** – City of Phoenix College Depot at Phoenix Public Library
38. **Laboraex Abeita** – Solari Crisis & Human Services
39. **Lauren Widemen** – Human Services Consultants
40. **Loren Grizzard** – HEAAL
41. **Marcus M** – Nooksack
42. **Michael Wydra** – Maricopa County Public Health
43. **Mindy Weisbrod** – The Mahoney Group
44. **Patti Wesley** – Arizona Automotive Institute in Glendale
45. **Quincy Stewart** – CAP-LTER (ASU)
46. **Sharon Banda** – Gila River Indian Community Courts
47. **Tauna Groomsmith** – Fremont County Prevention Program

Meeting Called to Order at 2:00 PM by Kami Ortiz.



- Kami 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: *Attend a sports game or Native craft fair?* Kami 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, Kami welcomed them to type their answer in the chat along with an introduction.
- Kami and attendees reviewed today's agenda.

Review Meeting Minutes from October 24, 2023.

Laboraax Abeita motioned to approve the September meeting minutes. **Loren Grizzard** 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

The Mahoney Group

It was presented by Mindy Weisbrod. The Mahoney Group is a brokerage firm that covers risk management, insurance, employee benefits, and surety bonds. They provide customized, comprehensive insurance and are employee owned. The Mahoney Group has a Native American Practice Group that works with over 300 tribal governments and enterprises. They are the largest provider of risk management and insurance services in Indian Country in the west. They have a Native American Schools program. If coalition members have any questions about The Mahoney Group reach out to Mindy Weisbrod or Randa Hightower or visit <https://www.mahoneygroup.com/>

Presentation can be found here: [TMG 2023 Presentation-Overview to PIC and UICAZ.pptx](#)

Whispering Creek Health

It was presented by founder and CEO Allen King. Whispering Creek Health has an exclusively Native American program called Native Informed Training. This is a 6-month program with a 6-month aftercare program, totaling 1 year. The program is broken up into three phases: cleansing, skill building, and aftercare. Whispering Creek is a certified wellbriety facility, Native owned, and has an all-Native staff. They provide housing for clients. Staff participate in ceremonies and experience the impact of culturally influenced programming. 10% of proceeds are donated to a nonprofit dedicated to Native American resources. For more information, please reach out to contact@whisperingcreekhealth.com or log onto <https://www.whisperingcreekhealth.com/>

Coalition Updates

Gathering of Native Americans (GONA)

Ethan T. reported out – There was a GONA for Red Ribbon Week and 13 youth completed. Two GONAs were held at Blue Sage Healing where a total of 31 community members completed. The team is currently planning for the next workshop this Saturday, December 2nd with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. If a coalition member's organization is interested in hosting a GONA, please reach out to Ethan T. or Loren B.

Loren B. reported out – Prevention Specialists Ethan T. and Loren B. conducted their first facilitation of GONA on November 4th and November 8th. The facilitations were successful and represented UICAZ in the community.



Living in 2 Worlds

Maya D. reported out – Living in 2 worlds had their Kickoff at Osborn Middle School and will be starting lesson 1 this upcoming Thursday. There is going to be an L2W Cultural Camp. This will be a 2-week camp from December 27th through January 5th. The layout of the camp will include the L2W curriculum in the morning, lunch, and a cultural workshop or youth GONA in the afternoon. L2W is an evidence-based curriculum to help middle school youth to get out of risky situations. Prevention Specialists teach REAL strategies. It is culturally biased and provides the opportunity to discuss risky situations and teach middle school youth how to say “no” and get themselves out of these situations.

Parenting in 2 Worlds

Loren B. reported out – Parenting in 2 Worlds cycle 3 ended and there was a great outcome of parents. 17 participants completed and this was the largest group so far. Cycle 4 P2W will be held Wednesday evenings starting November 29th with registration closing on December 13th. Cycle 5 will be held on Thursday evenings. Cycle 6 registration closes today, November 28th.

Kennedy Slowtalker-Begay reported out – Kennedy is a Program Manager for Prevention and specifically oversees the L2W and P2W curriculums. Prior to the pandemic, a lot of P2W classes were held in person but due to pandemic classes have been virtual. Transitioning to virtual instruction allowed the team to reach a diverse group of parents with less barriers. However, the team wants to start having classes in person again. Prevention service is able to provide food, bus passes, etc. to in person attendance parents. If you have an organization that wants parenting classes, please reach out to Loren B., Maya D., Jolene F., or Ethan T. The team has been conducting outreach with flyers. Last year the team received a request from the Global Center for Applied Health Research because they want to implement P2W across the US. They are conducting research study with one site being the Phoenix Indian Center. Prevention is looking for participants that self-identify as American Indian, live in urban area, and are a primary caregiver to youth between the ages 12-17. Participants are able to receive up to \$200 in gift cards. A participant may be randomly selected to either participate in GCHAR or P2W. Reach out to Dari N. if you know anyone who may be interested in participating.

QPR Gatekeeper Training

Kami O. reported out - The next QPR will be this Friday, December 1st. This training is a great introduction to suicide prevention. It teaches you how to recognize signs of suicide and get a person in crisis help. Participants are able to learn about the resources available in the valley.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST) Training

Kami O. reported out – There was an ASIST training on November 2nd and 3rd at Glendale Community College for a behavioral health class. The Prevention team is always looking to train more community members. If any organizations are interested, reach out to Kami O.

Navajo Shoe Game Series

Jolene F. reported out – The first session of the four-part Navajoe Shoe Games series was held on Monday, November 27th. The instructor is Talibah Begay who is going through the Navajo philosophy of the games. The series includes reviewing songs, working on pronunciation, and learning what the songs are sung for. In the first session, participants were taught three introductory songs. The series is in preparation for shoe games on January 5th and 6th.



Safeguarding Medications 101 (Rx360)

Ethan T. reported out - Rx360 teaches community members how to safely dispose and lock up prescription medications. An Rx360 was held during Red Ribbon Week for F.I.N.A.L Youth Council members. Another Rx360 was held at Phoenix Indian Medical Center for Drug Take Back Day. The next Rx360 workshops will be held on December 13th and December 19th.

DEA Drug Take Back Day

Loren B. reported out – During Drug Take Back Day, Prevention had staff present at HEAAL's medication drop off site at Walgreens. Prevention Specialists gave away tote bags that incentives including a medication lockbox, Deterra bags, medication envelope mail outs, pill organizer, and resources. Specialists Loren B. and Belen S. were at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center's Health Fair distributing tote bags as well. The layout of the medication drop-off allowed for confidentiality for community members. The Indian Art Market and Health Fair brought a large crowd to PIMC. The team is now planning for community Dispose-A-Med in January. More information to come.

Kami O. reported out– Drug Take Back Day is dedicated to community organizers to host dump sites to dispose of prescription medications. Community members can dispose of medication for free.

Youth Coalition

Ethan T. reported out– Youth Council hosted a Family Game Night for council members and their families. The Youth Council had dinner together and played board games. Prevention Specialist Jolene F. facilitated a traditional native game. The families and council members had lots of fun.

Red Ribbon Week

Kami O. reported out– For Red Ribbon Week (October 23rd-31st), UICAZ participated in theme days to bring awareness to substance prevention. Monday's theme was band together against drugs, rep your favorite band/music group. Tuesday's theme was live paws-sitively drug free, take pictures with your pets. Wednesday's theme was I have the power to say no to drugs, dress as your favorite superhero. Thursday's theme was celebrating Red Ribbon Week by wearing red. Friday's theme was don't let drugs sneak up on you, wear your sneakers. Monday, October 30th's theme was hats off to being drug free, wear your favorite hat. To conclude Red Ribbon Week on Tuesday, October 31st, the theme was drugs are scary, don't do them! Show off your Halloween costume.

Youth Mental Health Art Contest

UICAZ is holding a youth mental health art contest. The winner of the art contest will receive a polaroid camera and their art will be on a t-shirt for the Suicide Prevention Convening. The goal of the art contest is to get youth involved and see what they're passionate about and what they think about mental health in their cultural and age demographic.

Zoom poll to change December hybrid meeting date

The next coalition meeting was previously scheduled for December 26th however, with it being the day after Christmas, a poll was given to coalition members with alternative meeting times for December. The majority voted to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, December 19th from 2-4PM.



Subcommittee Breakout Sessions/Subcommittee Debrief

- **Recruitment & Outreach (Report-out provided by Allen K.):**

Attendees: Brian Yazzie, Calvin Worthen, Celina Meadows, Cinthia Garcia, Essence Stephenson, Kami Ortiz, Perise Lauvao, Quincy Stewart, Tauna Groomsmith, Clyde Miller, Daniela Alvarez, Lauren Wildeman

Recruitment & outreach discussed strategies for the committee. They agreed that they will need more time to meet externally. They will begin to meet biweekly as a committee in the new year. The Chair would like to reach out to community members in other fields (fire departments, sheriffs, etc.).

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

Attendees: Dalila Guerrero, Elvira James, Kristopher Seydel, Loren Grizzard, Sharon Banda, Ethan Tsosie, Maya Diaz

- Dalila is available to attend/help facilitate – MD send calendar invite
- Dalila will invite new Tempe mobilizer
- Bring incentives/ raffles for parents
- Include “how to talk to your kids” from HIDTA, FDA or Truth initiative
- Dalila can order/ bring flyers/ brochures
- Info for Maricopa & Tempe policies
- AI youth survey info
- Possibly add a Kahoot! To keep parents engaged
- Do we need a survey?
- MD: schedule meeting with subcommittee – Ethan, Dalila, Loren, Elvira, Sharon

Events:

- In-person Vaping & Marijuana Workshop on Wed. Jan 24 from 6:00pm-7:30pm at Tempe Bustoz Learning Center

- **Urban Indian Child Welfare (Minutes provided by Elisia M.)**

Attendees: Brittany Aquitante, Cheri Clerk, Elisia Manuel, Michael Wydra, Loren Bahe, Jolene Fernandez

Topics we talked about:

- Updating some goals.
- Shared StepStone Native video.
- Our next major goal that we want to work on is social media and events we can attend.
- We would like to think about another symposium.

- **Suicide Prevention Committee (Report-out provided by Laboraex A.):**

Attendees: Laboraex Abeita, Patti Wesley, Shermaine Nelson, Belén Santistevan, Mindy Weisbrod, Haley Vellutini, Allison Tobon, Cristina Ancieto, Marcus M, Debbie Garcia



The chair introduced himself. They reviewed what was discussed in the last meeting where the committee wanted to develop holiday resource cards. They want to include 988 national crisis line and are considering adding the statewide numbers but want folks traveling to have resources. The goal is to distribute the resource cards at Round Dance in hopes community members will share with friends and family. The chair provided messaging options for the card. The committee decided to move forward with one message and edited word choice and design. They brainstormed ideas for the main cover art.

Coalition Member Announcements/Community Calendar

- **Amanda Health** is a treatment facility located in the West Valley on camelback and 51st avenue. Their organization is hosting a virtual lunch and learn on November 30th at 12PM. Dr. Brenda Combs is hosting the event; she is a co-founder of the organization. Cover topics will include overcoming challenges in life and how to achieve personal growth! Click to [Launch Meeting - Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 898 0311 7090 Passcode: Lunch) Flyer can be found here: [Virtual Lunch & Learn.pdf](#) For more information contact Elvira James james.e@amanahhealth.org or visit www.amanahhealth.org
- **Phoenix Indian Center/UICAZ** is starting the planning phases of the annual Rainbow Gathering and Two Spirit Powwow. If you're wanting to join the planning committee, please reach out to Ethan at etsosie@phxindcenter.org Rainbow Gathering, an education summit for LGBTQ2S+ community. The next day will be a celebratory powwow!
- **HEAAL** has an upcoming monthly webinar: A New Look at Naloxone. The webinar will cover how to administer naloxone and discuss the importance of naloxone on November 30th at 3PM: [pMeeting Registration - Zoom](#) On December 16th, HEAAL is holding an annual Cereal Fest invite youth 5-17 years old to bowl. They can eat as much cereal as they want. Each child will get a Christmas gift! There will be a presentation on substance misuse. This event will take place from 9:00AM to 12:00PM at Let It Roll on 12th Street. For more information visit [TCDC PHX | Instagram, Facebook | Linktree](#) or email Clyde Miller at clydemiller@tcdccorp.org
- **ACJC Arizona Criminal Justice Committee** announced public meetings for feedback for victims' compensation and victims assistance. They want more Native voices! The Native input and perspective is very important because they only receive public feedback every 5 years!
 - Tucson: Thursday, December 14, 2023
Tucson Police Department – Operations Division West Auditorium 1310 W. Miracle Mile Rd Tucson, AZ 85705
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 - Phoenix: Monday, December 11, 2023
1110 W. Washington Suite 245 Phoenix, AZ 85007
10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.Flyer can be found here: [RulesMeetingAnnouncement Public \(2\).pdf](#) For more information, contact Celina Meadows at cmeadows@safeandjust.org or visit [Alliance for Safety and Justice | We Believe In A #JustSafe Future](#)
- **KRPD radio** is a community radio station for Arizona's Capital City that is Black owned and operated. The station interviewed Clyde Miller about the HEAAL's upcoming webinar. Check it out tomorrow at Noon. Listen here: [KRPD Community Radio \(Jazz 90.7 FM & Indie Online\) – Talk.Sing.Connect. \(listen2krdp.com\)](#)
- **Maricopa County Department of Public Health of Tobacco Prevention & Cessation** shared short survey to get an idea of what community organizations and/or coalition members are currently implementing in the areas of Tobacco Cessation and or Prevention. Please submit your feedback here: [Qualtrics Survey | Qualtrics Experience Management](#)



- **Phoenix Indian Center/UICAZ** is seeking childcare workers— contract work available for Tuesday and/or Wednesday evening workshops. For more information, reach out to Dari Nichols at dnichols@phxindcenter.org.
- **Phoenix Indian Center** is hosting its annual Round Dance on Saturday, December 16 from 5:00 to 10:00PM at South Mountain Community College gymnasium. There will be food trucks, community resources, and an art market. More information here: [Winter Round Dance \(phxindcenter.org\)](http://phxindcenter.org)

Closing Announcements

- Submit your membership forms. Please fill it out [UICAZ Membership Agreement - Updated 6.20.23.pdf](http://phxindcenter.org) and email it to us at uicaz@phxindcenter.org.
- If you want to volunteer for us, we have a form on our website: [Volunteer \(phxindcenter.org\)](http://phxindcenter.org)
- You can subscribe to our [Upcoming Events \(phxindcenter.org\)](http://phxindcenter.org) calendar. You can see all our workshops, it will link to your Google Calendar, Outlook Calendar, or your phone.
- The next organization spotlight is Childhood Department of Safety. 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.
- There will be a new Zoom Registration link for 2024 UICAZ meetings! Please click to register for meetings in the new year: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](http://phxindcenter.org)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 PM.

Next Meeting

Date: December 19, 2023

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Phoenix Indian Center – Hybrid Meeting

2023 Meeting

Registration Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlucOqtpj4rHdVJeLjNYIKNYxgqbwDJAznk>

Note: Registration only needs to happen once. Once registered, you will have access to all future UICAZ meetings until December 2024.