



**Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona  
COALITION MEETING**

Tuesday, February 27, 2024  
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. **Kyrene Yazzie** – PIC
3. **Belén Santistevan** – PIC
4. **Kennedy Slowtalker** – PIC
5. **Jolene Fernandez** – PIC
6. **Perise Lauvao** – PIC (In-person)
7. **Ethan Tsosie** – PIC
8. **Loren Bahe** – PIC
9. **Shermaine Nelson** – PIC
10. **Ginny Leason** – Church of Scientology Phx & Drug free World Program
11. **Stephen Gomez Perez** - Waterford Upstart
12. **Clyde Miller** – HEAAL Coalition (In-person)
13. **Loren Gizzard** – HEAAL Coalition
14. **Laboraax Abeita** – Solari Crisis & Human Services
15. **Haley Velluntini** – CASA of Maricopa County
16. **Melanie Begay** – Lukachukai Community School
17. **Celina Meadows** – Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice (CSSJ)
18. **Kristen Celeski** – Rae 6
19. **Essence Stephenson** – Wellness Oasis Resource Center
20. **Kat Jutras** – FREE Arizona
21. **Shannon Hadley** – Girl Scouts of American – Arizona Chapter
22. **Wilka Roig** – Inner Immersion (In-person)
23. **Kelsey Davis** – StepStone Family & Youth Services (In-person)
24. **Nathan Wagner** – Creative Refinery (In-person)
25. **David Begay** – NAC Community (In-person)
28. **Kristy Stanford** – Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice (CSSJ)
29. **Misty Castro** – Tucson Indian Center
30. **Shannon Scheel** - Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
31. **Rachel Sodhi** – City of Phoenix Office of Public Health
32. **Beth Tom** – Northland Cares
33. **Brittany Aquitante** – Maricopa County Judicial Branch ICWA Program Coordinator
34. **Kenard Uber** – Banner Health
35. **Shanna Stewart** – SRPMIC DV Advocate
36. **Quincy Stewart** – Arizona State University
37. **Dougherty Tsalabutie** – National Center of American Indian Health Professions
38. **April Childs** – Native American Connections
39. **Sherry Tsosie** – Scottsdale Unified School District
40. **Amanda Mitchell** – GRIC member/ NACRJ
41. **Brian Yazzie** – SRPMIC Youth Services
42. **Lisa Cadman** – AZDCS Tribal Liaison
43. **Isabel Hoggatt** – AZ Food Bank
44. **Maria Chavez** – Salt River Schools
45. **Marcus M** – Nooksack
46. **Elisia Manuel** – StepStone Family & Youth Services (In-person)
47. **Allen King** – Allen King Consulting (In-person)
48. **Elijah Blackhorse** – Community Member (In-person)
49. **Richard Rodriguez** – US Bank
50. **Trudy Pekala** – Girl Scouts of America – Arizona Chapter
51. **Jose Hernandez** – Inner Immersion (In-person)



26. **Leona Shirley** – Gila River Health Care  
27. **Ryan Martin** – Maricopa County Public Health Native American liaison

52. **Sharon Newkirk** – Native American Connections

### **Meeting Called to Order at 2:00 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. Shermaine and attendees reviewed today's agenda.

### **Review Meeting Minutes from January 23, 2023.**

**Clyde Miller** motioned to approve the January 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 January meeting minutes, the motion is adopted.

### **Community Spotlight Series**

#### **Inner Immersions presented by Jose Hernandez**

Jose spent 20 years opening the way for a new model to address healing, recovery, and self-transformation. Inner Immersion connects culture in the healing process with their curriculum and workshops. Jose related his own near-death experience led him to his journey of working in the Mental Health profession. Inner Immersion uses art, color therapy, breathing techniques and traditional storytelling to heal and transform clients. Inner Immersion trains mental health professionals and works with mental health professionals. Allen King provided a testimony for Inner Immersion of his experience participating with the community. Allen and Jose are looking for mental health professionals who are interested in the training, please contact [allenking.consulting@gmail.com](mailto:allenking.consulting@gmail.com) or go to their website [www.innerimmersion.com](http://www.innerimmersion.com)

Presentation can be found here: [Inner Immersion Outline for UICAZ.pptx - Microsoft PowerPoint Online \(live.com\)](#) Facilitator Certification Training information: [LMHP Recruitment Flyer for First Nations.pdf](#)

### **Coalition Updates**

#### **Gathering of Native Americans (GONA)**

Jolene F. reported out – We finished a great workshop on January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Pasqua Yaqui Tribal Complex with a large attendance. We also finished another workshop on February 24<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with the Fort McDowell tribe. Our upcoming workshop will be March 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Phoenix Indian School Visitor Center from 10am-4pm. Also there will be a Youth GONA on March 21<sup>st</sup> aged 15-24, at the Phoenix Indian Center. For more information about Gathering of Native Americans Workshop (GONA) contact, [jfernandez@phxindcenter.org](mailto:jfernandez@phxindcenter.org) and/or [etsosie@phxindcenter.org](mailto:etsosie@phxindcenter.org)

#### **Living in 2 Worlds**

Jolene F. reported out – L2W is our youth substance abuse prevention curriculum. If you want more information, please reach out to me. Our current collaboration is with Osborn school District, and it is going well. For more information about Living in 2 Worlds contact [jfernandez@phxindcenter.org](mailto:jfernandez@phxindcenter.org) and/or [bsantistevan@phxindcenter.org](mailto:bsantistevan@phxindcenter.org)

#### **Parenting in 2 Worlds**

Ethan T. reported out – The upcoming cycles for Parenting in 2 Worlds, that are completed are cycles 5 & 6. The ongoing cycles are 7, 8 and 9. Parenting in 2 Worlds is our evidence-based curriculum workshop for all caregivers of American Indian youth. If you have interest or know any clients who may please refer



them to Phoenix Indian Center. For recruitment and/or questions about Parenting in 2 Worlds please contact Ethan [etsosie@phxindcenter.org](mailto:etsosie@phxindcenter.org) and/or Jolene [jfernandez@phxindcenter.org](mailto:jfernandez@phxindcenter.org)

### **Safeguarding Medication 101**

Ethan T. reported out – Up next, we have our Safeguarding Medication 101. In this workshop, we bring awareness of safely discarding medications. We had a collaboration with DEA Drug Take Back Day, we had a few participants from the community. For more information about Safeguarding Medications 101 workshops, please contact Ethan [eTsosie@phxindcenter.org](mailto:eTsosie@phxindcenter.org)

### **Community Dispose-A-Med**

Ethan T. reported out – The Community Dispose-A-Med is a time for community members to bring their expired and unwanted medications to our designated location. This is to bring more awareness and have community members safely bring their unwanted/expired medications. We are partnered with Native Health Mesa. Shoutout to Shannon Scheel for assisting with us setting up the event! The FINAL youth council members will be presented Vaping and Marijuana 101. Our team handed out free lock bags and Detera bags at this event. For more information, about Dispose-A-Med/National Drug Take Back Day please contact Ethan [eTsosie@phxindcenter.org](mailto:eTsosie@phxindcenter.org)

### **QPR Gatekeeper Training**

Belén S. reported out – 10 community members were trained in QPR! It went well and they helped reach our grant goals for the year. We will be pausing any QPR trainings for a while now, please reach out if you have questions regarding QPR trainings. For more information about QPR please reach out to Belen [bsantistevan@phxindcenter.org](mailto:bsantistevan@phxindcenter.org) and/or Perise [plavaou@phxindcenter.org](mailto:plavaou@phxindcenter.org)

### **ASIST/SafeTALK**

Kami O. reported out – Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training is a free 2-day workshop to help someone going through a mental health and create a safety plan and how to act. Our upcoming workshop will be on April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> at Glendale Community College please reach out if you are interested. For more information about SafeTALK/ASIST please reach out to Kami [kortiz@phxindcenter.org](mailto:kortiz@phxindcenter.org) and/or Shermaine [snelson@phxindcenter.org](mailto:snelson@phxindcenter.org)

### **2024 Annual American Indian Suicide Prevention Convening**

Kami O. reported out – Mark your calendars for March 29<sup>th</sup>. This is a whole day event devoted to suicide advocacy and awareness. This event will happen at Desert Willow Conference Center. This is a free convening for local organizations. The theme for this event is Journey to Community Healing. Come join us!

### **CADCA Re-cap**

Belén S. reported out – Our FINAL Youth Council members along with advisors, Ethan and Belen traveled to Washington DC for the CADCA conference. We were able to support our relatives who are working in substance prevention work and attend their sessions. It was interesting seeing how other tribal communities are combating substance use in their communities. We also had the chance to see our AZ State Senators Mark Kelly and Kyrsten Sinema to address substance use in Phoenix for American Indian and Alaskan Native residents in Arizona.

### **Training and Workshops Chair Election**

**Clyde Miller** made a motion and **Elisia Manuel** seconded to reopen the Training and Workshops committee chair election process. The open call for on-site nominations was announced, no participants



were nominated. Shermaine read Dalila Guerrero's biography and asked if they would want to share any additional comments on their experiences.

- Kami Ortiz - Dalila has a passion to educate our communities especially youth on the dangers of vaping, marijuana, and tobacco use. She is also mindful of traditional tobacco that Native Peoples use in ceremony and for other holistic healing practices. Kami pointed out that Dalila has been a reoccurring member for a few years now.
- Dalila Guerrero – Was not present to comment on her behalf.

The majority ruled in voting in **Dalila Guerrero** as the newly appointed Training and Workshops chairperson for the remainder of the year.

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

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

Attendees: Kami Ortiz, Perise Lauvao, Nadine Wells, Randa Hightower, Misty Castro, Bryan Yazzie, Ryan Martin, and Sylvie Lee, and Allen King

There were new members, so as the Recruitment and Outreach committee, we did a round of introductions as a meet and greet for the group. We are sorting through our strategic outreach and having more things coming along for the year 2024 and 2025. Support the committee by recruiting other organizations and more representatives of the community. Bring a friend! We are working for an appreciation event, more details to come.

- **Training & Workshops (Report-out provided by Ethan Tsosie)**

Attendees: Jolene Fernandez, Ethan Tsosie, Loren Grizzard, Shannon Hadley, April Childs, Melanie Begay, Sharon Newkirk, and Annette Yazzie

We also talked about the Vaping & Marijuana 101 workshop happening in Tempe, AZ. We also discussed our new projects for the quarter. Maybe focusing on another substance for a community presentation. Our other project idea was building a well thought out resource list for prevention services, regarding the UICAZ mission to get our community better connected with us.

- **Urban Indian Child Welfare (Reported-out by Elicia Manuel)**

Attendees: Loren Bahe, Sarah Meston, Elicia Manuel, Amanda Mitchell, Brittany Aquitante, and Rachel Sodhi

We did introductions and welcomed new members into the space. Loren provided an overview of the past ICWA Symposium, ICWA flyer, and Fostering American Indian Youth workshop. The committee is working on a proposal and a plan for the next ICWA symposium event in 2024. Discussion about ICWA laws, resources, and the court system.

Elicia is recruiting volunteers for Residential Treatment group homes in Scottsdale please reach out to if you are interested. Contact Elicia Manuel, 480-292-3040 if you have any questions.

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

Attendees: Shermaine Nelson, Laboraex Abeita, Marcus Min, Beth Tom, Shannon Hadley, David Begay, and Wilka Roig,



Reviewing tabling pop-up with information about Suicide prevention, at out tabling events for community members to see. Laboraex recommends everyone to think about getting ASIST trained. Everyone resources on grievance were also discussed.

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

- **Three Precious Miracles** is hosting the *May the Fourth Be with You* Powwow and Social Gathering, this will be emceed by Mr. Foster. This event will be held at the Heritage Center on May 4<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for sponsors and partners to come out and help make this amazing! It's not only for kinship but for grandparents raising grandchildren. It's open to the community! For more information, contact Elisia Manuel [elisia.manuel@stepstoneyouth.com](mailto:elisia.manuel@stepstoneyouth.com) or click here: [Programs — Three Precious Miracles](#)
- **HEAAL Coalition** has 3 events coming up. The first one is this Thursday at 3PM. This HEAAL Webinar, "The Newest Drug Dealing Trends" will cover Snapchat overview, Snap Chat/Drug Sales, Online/In-Person Best Practices, Resources, and how to keep our children safe. Registration link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpf-6vqjMqGN0MitjC1qloIXtIHtO-9lka> On March 19<sup>th</sup>, we are very fortunate to be presenting on the spot with PTTC; if you're familiar with CADCA, then you know PTTC, they provide all the training for any member of CADCA or SAMHSA. We'll be presenting with them on the spot on March 19<sup>th</sup> from 2oclock to 3oclock. Log onto their website or HEAAL's to register: [Prevention Spotlight: Help Enrich African American Lives Coalition \(HEAAL\) & Youth Taking Charge \(YTC\) Webinar | Prevention Technology Transfer Center \(PTTC\) Network \(pttcnetwork.org\)](#) On Saturday March the 30<sup>th</sup>, we will have a Bowling for Cereal fest. There is some cost associated with that but only the cost to bowl however we will have all the cereal you can eat especially for your kids. It's a chance if you want to break your lent or diet for the new year you can bowl it off. We always have great giveaway prizes mostly for the kids. The only stipulation is whatever they win is they must be able to take it out of there. We usually giveaway large TV's. That location is at Let It Roll Bowl on 12<sup>th</sup> street and Dunlap from 9 to 1pm. More information: [Home - HEAAL \(heaalaz.org\)](#) or contact Clyde Miller [clydemiller@tcdccorp.org](mailto:clydemiller@tcdccorp.org)
- **NAC Outpatient & Integrated Medical Clinic** just moved out of the building. They're at their new home as of last Friday 2/23. Their new address is on 3<sup>rd</sup> street and Virginia. More information: [NAC Outpatient & Integrated Medical Clinic have moved! - Native American Connections \(nativeconnections.org\)](#) or contact Sharon [S.Newkirk@nativeconnections.org](mailto:S.Newkirk@nativeconnections.org)
- **Phoenix Indian Center** is holding an Art Market this weekend in the Center's parking lot. This weekend, there will a [2024 Indigenous Community Fashion Showcase \(phxindcenter.org\)](#) happening across the street at Brophy College Prep. There are a lot of art markets going on. It is Heard Market weekend so go to that and come up to attend the Fashion Show. More information here: [Spring 2024 Indigenous Art Market & Fashion Showcase \(phxindcenter.org\)](#)
- **Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine Council** is having Recruitment Spring parties. These are taking place all over the valley including the Navajo and Hopi reservations. Our upcoming party will be tomorrow 2/23 in Pascua Yaqui Guadalupe at Frank Elementary School [8409 S Avenida Del Yaqui, Guadalupe, AZ 85283](#). These parties are meant to present what a troop meeting would look like. My goal of course is to focus on the Indigenous groups, girls, members, and adult volunteers. This is open to kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The next event will be at the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Library on March 5<sup>th</sup>. I'm hoping to get word out on the events. I will be there as a host. For more information contact Shannon Hadley [shadley@girlscoutsaz.org](mailto:shadley@girlscoutsaz.org). Click for flyer: [Learn Smore about GS.FrankElem.pdf](#) and [Learn Smore about GS.FtMcDLib.pdf](#)



### **Closing Announcements**

- Shermaine spoke on extending the invitation to member to sign up for outreach opportunities to table at community events on behalf of the coalition. We would like 1 or 2 max to table with a UICAZ staff member. Upcoming dates included the powwow, SPC, and Drug TakeBack Day with the HEAAL Coalition.
- If you are a new to the coalition and want to become a member, please turn in your membership form. We will include the PDF form in the wrap-up email or there are some printed copies here. We welcome all!
- If interested, please subscribe to our PIC events calendar. It's a nice summary of upcoming workshops and trainings. It may get linked to your Google, Outlook Calendar, or your phone calendar.
- The next coalition spotlight is Banner Plans & Networks. So, join us next month for that!
- For the next meeting bring friend! Try to get them involved in the work we're doing as a coalition. We meet every fourth Tuesday of the month joining either in-person at the Phoenix Indian Center or via Zoom.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 PM.

#### **Next Meeting**

Date: March 26, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Phoenix Indian Center – Hybrid Meeting

**2024 meeting registration link:** [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMoc-qspjgHtR7\\_komeE5JvlmdmDtDH1hR#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMoc-qspjgHtR7_komeE5JvlmdmDtDH1hR#/registration)

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