



**Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona
COALITION MEETING**

Tuesday, March 26, 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. **Shermaine Nelson** – PIC (In-person)
3. **Loren Bahe** – PIC
4. **Belén Santistevan** – PIC
5. **Ethan Tsosie** – PIC
6. **Jolene Fernandez** – PIC
7. **Perise Lauvao** – PIC
8. **Cristian Canales** – PIC
9. **Laboraax Abeita** – Solari Crisis & Human Services
10. **Kendall Kee** – Sage Healing
11. **Richard Rodriguez** – US Bank/ Indigenous People Ambassadors
12. **Sarah Meston** – StepStone Family and Youth Services
13. **Eddie George** – 2SLGBTQI+ advocate/Two spirit powwow chair
14. **Quincy Stewart** – Central Arizona Phoenix Long Term Ecological Research
15. **Heather Mignacca** – ASU MSW Intern
16. **Genises Yin Vargas** – Rep. Ruben Gallego's Office
17. **Brittany Aquitante** – Maricopa County Judicial Branch
18. **Kimberly Yellow Robe** – Banner University Health Plans
19. **Ryan Martin** – Maricopa County Public Health Native American Liaison
20. **Allen King** – Allen King Consulting (In-person)
21. **Nadine Wells** – Community Member (In-person)
22. **Vicci Begay** - Smiling Spirits (In-person)
23. **Sophia Reyes** – Smiling Spirits (In-person)
24. **Desiree Carra** – Smiling Spirits (In-person)
25. **Marcus M** – Nooksack
26. **Shanna Stewart** – SRPMIC/RPHC Victim Advocate
27. **Rachel Sodhi** – City of Phoenix Office of Public Health
28. **KC Uber** – Banner University Health Plans
29. **Jenifer Brown** – Phoenix Union High School District
30. **Tanya Fujishiro** – Banner University Health Plans
31. **Leona Shirley** – Gila River Healthcare
32. **Ariana Granger** – Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care
33. **Misty Castro** – Tucson Indian Center
34. **Lisa Cadman** – Department of Child Safety
35. **April Childs** – Native American Connections
36. **Brian Yazzie** – SRPMIC Youth Services
37. **David Begay** – NAC Camelback Pointe Resident
38. Tremayne Nez – NOA
39. **Summer Hassan** – Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care
40. **Essence Stephenson** – Wellness Oasis Resource Center
41. **Dalila Guerrero** – Maricopa County Public Health
42. **Sharon Newkirk** – Native American Connections
43. **Shannon Scheel** – Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
44. **Elisia Manuel** – StepStone Family & Youth Services
45. **Elvira James** – Smiling Spirits
46. **Fatima Jaber** – Student (In-person)
47. **Leandia Marris** – PXU NAEP (In-person)
48. **Kevin Maulson** – Blue Sage Healing (In-person)



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: *Are you a morning person or night owl?* Kami started off the icebreaker question with an introduction and organization. Those 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 mentioned to type their answer in the chat along with their name and organization. Kami and attendees reviewed today's agenda.

Review Meeting Minutes from February 27, 2024.

Elisia Manuel motioned to approve the February meeting minutes. **Laboraax Abeita** seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. There was no discussion regarding the meeting minutes. The majority voted in favor of approving the February meeting minutes, and the motion has been adopted.

Organization Spotlight Series

Identity Theft & You presented by Kimberly Yellow Robe, KC Uber and Tanya Fujishiro, Banner Health Plans and Network

Identity theft can come in many forms and at any stage of life. This could be a Driver's License/Identification Card, Tribal ID Card, Medical Insurance Cards (Medicare, Medicaid, and Tribal Healthcare Facilities). This organization has looked into the 3 credit bureaus (Experian, TransUnion, Equifax). If you have felt like you've been a victim of Identity theft, please request an updated credit report to check for discrepancies or questionable activity and/or request your accounts to be locked to avoid ID thieves from establishing credit. If needed, please file a police report. Be aware of phone scams, card scams, and agency scams (IRS, SSA, Education Loan Scams). Always be aware of credit card fraud. Please create a strong password, use multi-factor authentication, and pick security questions only you can answer. Healthcare/Insurance Fraud was the most common in 2022. Several months ago, AHCCCS alerted members about targeting activity. This was targeted to American Indians/Alaskan Natives who reside on tribal reservations, transporting them to Phoenix and recruiting them to sober living or behavioral health residential facilities. AHCCCS gave an urgent message for their members to be very cautious. A lot of people had family members affected by this fraud. Please make sure you are on the correct website that uses ".gov" or ".org" for their organization. This presentation is to create awareness, recognize the risk, establish your boundaries, and make sure to keep your safe space safe, your community and your tribe.

Resources for Consumer Protection: <https://www.consumerresources.org/consumer-topics/common-scams/>

Resources for Healthcare/Insurance Fraud: <https://transunion.com/blog/health-insurance-fraud-most-common-government-benefit-risk>

Click for presentation: [BUFC Identity Theft \(002\).pptx](#) For more information, contact the Kimberly Yellow Robe Kimberly.YellowRobe@bannerhealth.com or KC Uber kenard.uber@bannerhealth.com

Coalition Updates

Gathering of Native Americans (GONA)

Jolene F. reported out – The prevention team will be having a couple of upcoming opportunities. The GONA follows the curriculum of 4 concepts of Belonging, Mastery, Interdependence, and Generosity. It is set up in a talking circle style and uses traditional medicine from all cultures in Arizona. We explore and embrace community wellness and healing. We also identify what issues are facing different communities. The prevention team had a great workshop on March 16th at Phoenix Indian School Visitor Center with a



good turn out with good relatives. Our next one is coming up April 6th at Salt River Indian Community Social Services. This will be open to all community members 15 years old and older. We will also be hosting one on April 20th at the Phoenix Indian School Visitor Center. Please come out to our GONAs, the Prevention team puts these on twice a month all around the valley. If you are looking to meet new relatives, healing or wanting to know more about what GONA is please come join us.

Living in 2 Worlds

Jolene F. reported out – Our Living in 2 Worlds is currently in one middle school right now. On Wednesday's we go to Madison Middle School #1. We are about halfway through the curriculum right now. L2W is our 12-week evidence-based curriculum that we do with middle schoolers talking about risky situations and how to avoid them or get out of them. We are also tying in culture is a preventative factor and can pull from these when they are in a risky situation. We are in Madison but will be starting in Bogle Jr High School soon. Please keep a look out for our summer camp flyer soon!

Parenting in 2 World

Loren B. reported out – We have multiple cycles constantly going on. This is a 10-week workshop that focuses on the communication aspect in the family. There are currently cycles on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. We tried an experimental timing for our workshop on Wednesday afternoon, but it had a low number of enrollments. The team started a new in person cycle that takes place on Monday evenings with Chandler Unified School District parents. If you are interested in P2W please go onto our website and register! It is open to all caregivers in the home (parents, grandparents, foster parents).

Global Center for Applied Health Research (GCAHR)

Loren B. reported out – We just completed cycle 1 for our project. The study is comparing the effectiveness of the Parenting in 2 Worlds workshop. This project is implemented in 4 locations nationally. We are recruiting parents to participate. They have to self-identify as American Indian or Alaskan Native and live in an urban area. It is also required to be a primary caregiver of AI/AN youth ages 12-17. Families could be eligible to receive up to \$200 in gift cards. The tentative day of the week would be Thursday evenings. If you are interested, please keep a look out and contact Loren lbahe@phxindcenter.org

Safeguarding Medications 101 (Rx360)

Ethan T. reported out – PIC provides a safeguarding medication workshop that helps prevent the overdose of prescription medication. Medicine is a healing instrument but can be misused and lead to long term problems. The Prevention Team just finished a virtual lunch & learn on March 19th. We are partnering with Burton Barr Library's Spring Fair on April 13th. Check out our website and RSVP. Each workshop gives out free lock bags and tools!

SafeTALK

Kami O. reported out – There is a Safetalk taking place on April 26th with Smiling Spirits to train their staff. We are looking forward to that training. This is our 4-hour suicide training.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

Kami O. reported out – Our ASIST workshop is a 2-day training. We have a workshop coming up next month on April 17th and April 18th. If you are interested in getting ASIST trained, there are a few more spots available. You can register on our website! We are always interested in collaboration. Please reach out to a coalition member if you are looking to get your staff trained or collaborating with a Native community, we are always open to working with new people.

2024 Annual American Indian Suicide Prevention Convening (SPC)



Kami O. reported out - We are super excited for people to join us on Friday! This is our mini conference for suicide prevention awareness and advocacy. Our theme this year is "Journey to Community Healing". This is a safe space, just like our coalition meetings, to talk about suicide and how to prevent it in our youth, families and tribal communities. If you are registered, we will see you on Friday at the Desert Willow Conference Center. Our online registration is closed, there might be a possibility of on-site registration. If you have questions about any of these workshops, please contact any of the Prevention staff.

Subcommittee Breakout Sessions / Subcommittee Debrief:

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

Attendees: Kami Ortiz, Perise Lauvao, Brian Yazzie, Jenifer Brown, Quincy Stewart, Allen King, and Nadine Wells

We discussed the volunteer leader appreciation breakfast. The goal for the date is sometime at the end of April or tentative to PIC's move date. The whole agenda and curriculum for the day is set. Allen wants to invite the chair members to this event to collaborate. We had new members join our committee. We're excited to keep going. The theme of the breakfast is "New Beginnings."

Minutes: [R&O Meeting 3.26.24.docx](#)

- **Training & Workshops (Minutes provided by Dalila Guerrero)**

Attendees: Jolene Fernandez, Dalila Guerrero, Elvira James, Ariana Granger, Kimberly Yellow Robe, Richard Rodriguez, and Sharon Newkirk

The group discussed our community guide or resource list for the community. We talked about scheduling an outside meeting to continue talking about planning. The community wants to start looking at resources for people in treatment or people who struggle staying in treatment.

Minutes: [UICAZ subcommittee-TRAININGANDWORKSHOPS - DalilaG- 3.26.24.docx](#)

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

Attendees: Loren Bahe, Cristian Canales, Brittany Aquitante, Essence Stephenson, Leandra Marris, Genises Yin Vargas, Lisa Cadman, Elisia Manuel, Rachael Sochi, and Sarah Meston

Shoutout to ICWA for having 10 people in the subcommittee. Elisia introduced the new members. The committee talked about a date for them to talk and plan out the symposium. The main point was to talk about what ICWA is and getting more families involved. The state reports about how many Native kids we have in foster care, but the numbers are greater for the number of tribes who don't report the numbers.

Topics we talked about:

Dates for a next meeting: 4/15/ 1:00pm

We talked about our next meeting and planning the symposium.

Shared out about goals of the group.

Minutes: [UICAZ subcommittee March 2024 -ElisiaM - ICWA.doc](#)


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



Attendees: Shermaine Nelson, Belén Santistevan, David Begay, Laboraex Abeita, Marcus M, Vicci Begay, Sophia Reyes, Desiree Carra, Fatima Jaber, and Kevin Maulson

We discussed marketing materials and awareness for the suicide prevention team. We talked about marketing messaging focusing on engaging conversation and opportunities to speak with others. We want to focus on having broad terms so we can use this format for a long time. The goal is to look for a pop-up banner to use this going forward to connect to our community. The group had a good discussion and conversations, getting to know each other. The group is excited to work on these marketing materials and get them out to the community.

Coalition Member Announcements/Community Calendar

- **Three Precious Miracles** is hosting the *May the Fourth Be with You* Powwow and Social Gathering. This event will be held at the Heritage Center on May 4th. Anyone is invited! We wanted to honor the importance of family, children, and foster care group homes. Last week, I was contacted by the Peter Mayhew Foundation, which is Chewbacca, the gentleman that played Chewbacca. He's past on but his foundation will be donating some Star Wars toys. We will be having a Star Wars Best Dressed contest, the first-place winner will get a prize from the Peter Mayhew Foundation. The last day to do some sponsorships is April 5th so we can get all the documents out. We are looking for sponsors and partners to come out and help make this amazing! If you're interested in sponsoring feel free to reach out by contacting Elisia Manuel elisia.manuel@stepstoneyouth.com
 - Kami O. shared a flyer via the PowerPoint:  [3PreciousMiraclesPowwow.jpg](#)
 - Kami O. shared a flyer via the PowerPoint
- **Smiling Spirits Treatment Center** is hosting a grand celebration opening on March 30th from 10am-4pm at 1007 E Warner Rd #110 Tempe AZ 85284. There will be vendors, dancers, and music - a little bit of everything. We'll introduce who we are, things we'll offer, sharing about the services to come and being able to see our 12-room clinic and treatment center. Basically, a welcoming committee, letting the community know what we're putting out there and the future things from Smiling Spirits and Smiling Generations. We are two separate entities; we have a separate billing department that can oversee the relationships between the houses and the clinics we've established relationships with. Then we have our actual treatment center that provides services. More information: [Smiling Spirits | Revenue Cycle Management | Tempe, AZ, USA \(smiling-spirits.net\)](#)
 - Kami O. shared a flyer via the PowerPoint
- **Trauma Recovery Services of Arizona** is calling all veterans! TRSAZ is partnering with Televeda to offer a virtual Veteran Support Circle. Support groups will be held weekly on Thursday evenings at 6pm. The first session starts March 28th, 2024. Reserve your spot today by going to live.televeda.com/signup and use Referral Code:
 - Kami O. shared a flyer via the PowerPoint
- **ASU** is starting a project that will be focusing on examining the healthcare model in Maricopa County and its impact on Black and Indigenous women survivors' experiences of secondary victimization in healthcare following sexual assault. If you are interested in participating, please scan the QR code at the bottom of the flyer or reach out to Dr. Ruiz at ashley.m.ruiz@asu.edu
 - Kami O. shared a flyer via the PowerPoint
- **Inner Immersion** is recruiting Indigenous mental health professionals. If interested, please contact Allen King, the liaison for this area.
 - Kami O. shared a flyer via the PowerPoint
- **Phoenix Area IHS** is hosting a Behavioral Health Conference on April 16-18th. See attached for more information or contact HP/DP & Health Education Consultant – Area Urban Coordinator, Taryn Watson Taryn.Watson@ihs.gov



- Kami O. shared a flyer via the PowerPoint
- **Midwestern University Dental Institute** is offering a free dental day for veterans on Friday, March 29th from 8am-2pm at 5855 W Utopia Rd Glendale AZ 85308. There are more resources available for veterans living here in Maricopa County.
 - Kami O. shared a flyer via the PowerPoint
- **HEAAL Coalition** is hosting a Community Forum on Saturday, April 13th. Next, they are hosting an “Addressing Stigma” webinar on Wednesday, March 27th at 3pm. In addition, the coalition is hosting a DEA Prescription Take Back event on April 27th. Finally, TCDC presents their annual Easter Cereal Fest on Saturday, March 30th from 9am-12pm at Let It Bowl. More information: [Home - HEAAL \(heaalaz.org\)](http://Home-HEAAL(heaalaz.org)) or contact Clyde Miller clydemiller@tcdccorp.org
 - Kami O. shared 3 HEAAL flyers via PowerPoint

Closing Announcements

- If you haven't filled out a membership form, please do! I always email out the template document following the meeting. Please fill it out and send it back to us.
- I will send out the Wilder survey. Please give us your thoughts about the coalition.
- Like Allen had mentioned earlier, we are in the process of moving the Phoenix Indian Center. The April meeting might be held virtually next month but for sure announcement will be made via Constant Contact and on our social media platforms. Please keep a lookout for that if you're not following us on social media, we'll likely post on the official announcement.
- The next organization spotlight is open. If your organization is interested in presenting, please let us know.
- Some news is I accepted a position within the Phoenix Indian Center to be the new Language and Culture coordinator so I will be leaving the Prevention team. The new UICAZ coalition coordinator is Shermaine. Please reach out to her with all things' coalition, she'll make sure things are taken care of.
- We do meet every fourth today of the month usually hybrid but then again, we'll be sure to update you about the April meeting.
- To close us out, follow us on our social media platforms! Like our posts, like our stories so you stay up to date with us! All the information about upcoming events and workshops can be found on the UICAZ website: www.uicaz.org.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 PM.

Next Meeting

Date: April 23, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Phoenix Indian Center – Hybrid Meeting

2024 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.