



**Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona  
COALITION MEETING**

Tuesday, May 28, 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.

**ATTENDANCE**

1. Almalia Berrios-Payton – Native Americans for Community Action, Inc.
2. Allen King – Allen King Consulting
3. April Childs – Native American Connections
4. Ariana Granger – AACIHC
5. Ayden Clytus – PIC
6. Belen Santistevan – PIC
7. Beth Tom – Northland Cares, Prescott, AZ
8. Brian Yazzie – SRPMIC Youth Services
9. Cheryl Honnie – Community Member
10. Clyde Miller – TCDC/HEAAL
11. Cristian Canales – PIC
12. Dalila Guerrero – Maricopa County Public Health
13. Darien Fuller – Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care
14. Dougherty Tsalabutie – NCAIHP
15. Dushawn John – AZ Land
16. Elvira James – Amanah Health
17. Ethan Tsosie – PIC
18. Haley Vellutini – CASA of Maricopa County
19. Jolene Fernandes – PIC
20. Kennedy Slowtalker-Begay – PIC
21. KC Uber – Banner University Family Care
22. Kristy Stanford – CSSJ Crime Survivors For Safety and Justice
23. Kyrene Yazzie – PIC
24. Laboraex Abeita – Solari Crisis & Human Services
25. Lisa Cadman – Department of Child Safety/Indian Child Welfare Specialist
26. Loren Bahe – PIC
27. Marcus M – Nooksack
28. Michael Wydra – Maricopa County Public Health
29. Michelle Miraglia – NACA
30. Nathan Wagner – Creative Refinery
31. Perise Lauvao – PIC
32. Quincy Stewart – CAPLTER
33. Rachel Sodhi – City of Phoenix Office of Public Health
34. Randa Hightower – The Mahoney Group - Tribal Insurance
35. Richard Rodriguez – US Bank
36. Ryan Martin – Maricopa County Public Health
37. Sarah Meston – StepStone Family and Youth Services
38. Sharon Banda – Gila River Indian Community Courts
39. Shermaine Nelson – PIC

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Called to Order at 2:00 PM by Belen Santistevan**



Belen welcomed attendees and prompted all virtual attendees to type their name and organization into the Zoom chat box.

Icebreaker introductions were completed popcorn style with the question: If you had an all-expenses paid summer vacation, where would you go? Belen started off the icebreaker question with an introduction and organization. For those who did not get a chance to participate in the icebreaker question, Belen mentioned to type their answer in the chat and to continue to type their name and organization in the chat.

Belen and attendees reviewed today's agenda.

### **Review Meeting Minutes from April 23, 2024.**

**Clyde Miller** motioned to approve the April meeting minutes. **Laboraex 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 April meeting minutes, and the motions have been adopted.

## **Organization Spotlight Series**

### **Civic Engagement at the Phoenix Indian Center presented by Ayden Clytus.**

- Our main goal is to engage and educate the community on civic engagement topics by providing information that is relevant, accurate, and unbiased to build relationships. Our first objective towards this goal is to increase voter registration. We don't want our message to just be, "Go vote, it's important" but we want people to ask, "Why is it important?" We want to understand this through the community perspective. This is why we want to build partnerships with other organizations and spread the message of getting people civically engaged. We want to be a resource to our community that answers questions like, "What are the different voter I.D. laws, what should you know when you go to the polls, etc.?" Our 2<sup>nd</sup> goal is to strengthen relationships with partners and establish new connections with other organizations.
- We are in the process of creating a video series about what does Indian citizenship mean to you and the native right to vote, what does that mean to you and why do you participate in voting? This will be available on our social media. We really want to echo that we are here, and that voting is more than just the mainstream political views but as an American Indian citizen why is it important to you. We want organic non-scripted responses to the questions prompted in the video series. If you are interested, please contact Ayden Clytus at [aclytus@phxindcenter.org](mailto:aclytus@phxindcenter.org)

## **Coalition Updates**

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

- Ethan T. reported out – For anyone unfamiliar with GONA's, they are talking circles for Native Americans and anyone age 15 or over can attend. Our team finished a GONA event at the Pascua Yaqui Tribal center. The community here was very engaging in discussions and healing. We have an upcoming GONA on June 22<sup>nd</sup> for LGBTQ+ and two spirit individuals at the Phoenix Indian Visitors Center. You can register with the QR Code or on our website. Hope to see you there!

### **Living in 2 Worlds**

- Jolene F. reported out – L2W is our We were in two different schools. We were in Madison Middle School #1, which finished a couple weeks ago, and 3 youth finished. Last week, at Bogle Junior High School, we had 10 kids finish.
  - A little bit more about Living In 2 Worlds curriculum, it is an evidenced based curriculum that works with middle school youth, teaching them the be REAL strategies which is teaching them how to get out of risky situations using the acronym of REAL-Refuse



Respectfully, Explain, Avoid, and Leave. Throughout the weeks that we are with the kids we try and teach them how to say “no” and how to get out of risky situations. We tie in a lot of our culture throughout it. All our facilitators are from different backgrounds so we each bring in a different aspect and really teach the kids how to live in two worlds.

- Our upcoming L2W summer Camps start June 17<sup>th</sup>-June 28<sup>th</sup> at Clarendon Elementary school. If you know any middle school kids that want to have some fun for the summer, we have this 2-week program going on. It will be from 9am to 3pm, if anyone is interested, please scan the QR code or visit our website.
- We are also excited to continue our partnership with Flight 33 organization at the Pascua Yaqui tribe. We have been there the last two summers, and we will be starting L2W in Guadalupe at the end of June.

### **Parenting in 2 World**

- Cristian C. reported out – We have a few cycles that are ongoing, but they are currently closed for registration. Cycle 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 are ongoing. Parenting In 2 Worlds is the evidence-based curriculum that goes hand in hand with Living in 2 Worlds. We try to make them as flexible as we can since we know most parents are working a day job. The two open cycles we do have are our Thursday and Wednesday evening cycles. Both are from 5:30pm-7:30pm. If you know anyone that would benefit from this course, it is culturally based and evidenced based to show parents how to balance out the children from living in the city and the reservation.

### **GCHAR Project: HF21/P2W**

- Loren B. reported out – With the GCHAR Project, we are comparing the two parenting workshops, Parenting In 2 Worlds and Healthy Families, to view the effectiveness of each. We are recruiting parents who self-identify as American Indian or Alaskan Native and who live in the urban area. This will be for caregivers for American Indian Youth between the ages of 12-17 years old. Parents can get up to 200 dollars in gift cards through completing pre- and post- surveys and engaging in some of the activities we will be doing. If you are interested or know any parents interested, we are starting June 6<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the Native Health Mesa Location.

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

- Ethan T. reported out – Safeguarding medication 101 is our workshop for the prevention of prescription drugs as they can be lethal or dangerous when misused or mishandled. This workshop allows you to gain more knowledge in taking steps to prevent substance abuse. At the end of the workshop, you will receive one of the Safe-Lock Med bags. Our upcoming training is a virtual lunch and learn on May 29<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-1pm.

### **Drug Take Back Day**

- Belen reported out – Updated information we received, at our Burton Barr location we collected 78 pounds of medication. We are still waiting to see how many pounds were collected at our other location at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center. City-wide in Phoenix almost 800 pounds were collected this day.

### **Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)**

- Shermaine N. reported out – We completed two training courses for the community. One of them being safeTALK, which 8 completed.



- Two weeks after safeTALK, we held an ASIST training. We were able to bring external facilitators which our participants enjoyed and gave great feedback.

### **SafeTALK**

- We also were able to send 4 Prevention staff to get trained in safeTALK T4T. Due to the increase in trainers, please be on the lookout for upcoming training. Belen and Perise attending a safeTALK T4T training in Denver, Colorado. Last week, Loren and Cristian went to Baton Rouge, Louisiana for another T4T training.

### **American Association of Suicidology 2024 Conference**

- Belen and Cante were also able to attend the 2024 AAS Conference. Here they were able to meet and greet coalition members from the Tuscon Indian Center.

### **FINAL Youth Coalition**

- Belén reported out – We had our last meeting last week, where we did a sendoff to our seniors. We had 7 seniors graduate this year and the YC staff were able to gift stoles and necklaces for them. They going to have their end of year celebration a Diamondbacks game on June 15<sup>th</sup> which is also their Native American Recognition Day.

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

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

Attendees: Allen King, Cheryl Honnie, Dushawn John, Nathan Wagner, Perise Lauvao, Quincy Stewart, Randa Hightower

- We are in the final stages of submitting and finishing our flyers. Please mark your calendars for August 20<sup>th</sup> for the volunteer breakfast, this networking invitation so please bring people. Also, keep an eye out for emails because we will also be recognizing those who have supported the coalition for quit some time. We are creating an effort to recognize all 22 tribes yearly which means that 2 tribes would be recognized once a month. At the end of the year, we will do an inner-tribal recognition as well. This will help recognize the tribes to allow them to showcase where they are, who they are, and their significance. This effort will be done through social media and hopefully in-person as well.

- **Training & Workshops (Report-out provided by Dalila G)**

Attendees: Ethan Tsosie, Dalila Guerrero, Sharon Newkirk, April Childs, Ariana Granger, Darien Fuller, Elvira James, Jolene Fernandez, Sharon Banda

- We discussed a potential workshop we want to work on regarding substance abuse. We talked about potentially sharing specific data that talk about the rates for Native American Communities. We also want to educate or highlight how to spot the different symptoms of substance abuse. We really want to focus on cultural resiliency and different strategies. We also brainstormed on how to make it more inviting to the communities, so we talked about having personal testimonies or recovery stories. Another possible workshop would be highlighting vetted behavioral health providers or organizations that are culturally connected.
- **Urban Indian Child Welfare (Report-out provided via Email by Michael Wydra)**



Attendees: Loren Bahe, Cristian Canales, Sarah Meston, Michael Wydra

- We discussed our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual ICWA Symposium on September 21 from 9am-3pm. The theme is Every Child Is Sacred, Protecting Families Through Cultural Resiliency. Looking for locations and finalizing flyer. We want our families and caregivers to really know the court system and how ICWA plays a part in it. Looking sponsors for food, vendors, and having some resource tables for our families. We will also be developing a recruitment plan. We want to double attendance from last year,, which was 70 so we need help getting the word out.

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

Attendees: Shermain Nelson, Belen Santistevan, Laboraex Abeita, Beth Tom, Clyde Miller, Marcus M, Michelle Miraglia

- We had a nice discussion about our #AMile4 campaign. The campaign to raise awareness about suicide prevention, resources, and gives a safe space for people to share their experiences. This year we want to make it larger and make it something that will allow other organizations and people to participate in it year-round. We want to aim for September and October to get this event going again. I wanted to ask out in this coalition that if anyone is interested about helping support this event to make it larger you can contact the Chairperson, Sharmaine, and/or Belen.

**Coalition Member Announcements/Community Calendar**

- **Phoenix Indian Center - Southwest American Indian 2SLGBTQIA+ Rainbow Gathering**
  - This free one-day conference is centered around the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Join us to gain resources & insight about topics and discussion to support and elevate the Two Spirit and Indigiqueer community. Join us this Friday, June 7th at the Southwest Center, as we will kick off Pride Month as we honor and celebrate our Two Spirit community.
- **Native American Fatherhood and Families Association - 20th Annual "Fatherhood is Leadership" National Conference**
  - November 13-15, 2024
  - Doubletree by Hilton, Phoenix/Mesa

**Closing Announcements**

- Submit your membership forms. We will have a link sent in the chat for this. Fill it out an email it to us.
- Our next meeting will be our Bi-Annual Retreat where we will have a guest speaker.
- Please be on the lookout for the new location.
- The new point of contact and coalition lead is Shermaine. Please contact her for new updates.
- Any events that want to be shared on the wrap-up email, please email [snelson@phxindcenter.org](mailto:snelson@phxindcenter.org).
- 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 3:42 PM.

**Next Meeting**

Date: June 25, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

