



**Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona  
COALITION MEETING**

Tuesday, August 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. Belen Santistevan – UICAZ/PIC
2. Cante Zephier – UICAZ/PIC
3. Cristian Canales – UICAZ/PIC
4. Ethan Tsoie – UICAZ/PIC
5. Jolene Fernandez – UICAZ/PIC
6. Kennedy Slowtalker-Begay – UICAZ/PIC  
Kyrene Yazzie – UICAZ/PIC
7. Loren Bahe – UICAZ/PIC
8. Shermaine Nelson – UICAZ/PIC
9. Agnes Attakai – Sonoran Center for  
Excellence in Disabilities-UAZ College of  
Medicine
10. Alison Lovell (14807902300) – Arizona  
Advisory Council on Indian Health Care
11. Allen King – AK Consulting
12. Allison Tobon – notMYkid
13. Alyssa Dreiling – Tuscon Indian Center
14. April Childs – Native American Connection
15. Ava Chatlin -
16. Beth Tom – Northland Cares
17. Brian Yazzie – Salt River Pima Maricopa  
Indian Community Youth Services
18. Brittany Aquitante – Maricopa County
19. Clyde Miller – TCDC/HEAAL
20. Dalila Guerrero – Maricopa County Public  
Health Office of Tobacco Prevention &  
Cessation.
21. Darien Fuller – AACHC
22. Elisia Manuel – Stepstone Family Youth  
Services Steps
23. Jennifer Hernandez – Burton Barr College  
Depot
24. Jowun Ben – Native Health
25. Joyce Given (19283278624) –
26. Kristy Stanford – CSSJ
27. Laboraex Abeita – Solari Crisis & Human  
Services
28. Leona Shirley – Gila River Health Care
29. Lisa Cadman – AZ Department of Child  
Safety
30. Loren Grizzard – HEAAL
31. Mary Kingori – HSC
32. Michael Wydra – Maricopa County Public  
Health
33. Misty Castro – Tucson Indian Center
34. Nathan Wagner – Creative Refinery
35. Quincy Stewart – CAPLTER
36. Randa Hightower – Mahoney Group
37. Ryan Martin – Maricopa County Public  
Health
38. Sarah Meston – StepStone Family and  
Youth Services
39. Shanna Stewart –SRPMIC River People  
Health Center
40. Sharon Banda – Gila River Indian  
Community
41. Tallerita – Tunney Rogers Via Linda  
Behavioral Hospital
42. Tarinda Craglow – Ombudsman Charter  
High School
43. Trudy Pekala – Girl Scouts Arizona  
Cactus-Pine Council
44. Valerie Williams – Tempe Elementary  
School District No 3



### **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.

Icebreaker introductions were completed popcorn style with the question: *Would you rather have a personal chef or personal trainer?* Shermaine 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, Shermaine mentioned to type their answer in the chat and to continue to type their name and organization in the chat.

Shermaine and attendees reviewed today's agenda.

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

Beth Tom motioned to approve the July meeting minutes. **Clyde Miller** seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. There was no discussion regarding the meeting minutes. The majority voted in favor of approving the July meeting minutes, and the motions have been adopted.

### **Organization Spotlight Series**

#### **Maricopa County Heat Mitigation and 2023 Native American Heat Injury Prevalence presented by Ryan Martin, MPH.**

- Summary – This presentation addressed the severe impact of extreme heat on Native Americans in the county, focusing on 2023 data and strategies to prevent future heat-related deaths. The report reveals that 35 American Indians died from heat-related causes in 2023, with a disproportionate impact on men aged 35 to 64. This age group represents nearly two-thirds of the fatalities, highlighting a critical need for targeted interventions. The increase in heat-related deaths among American Indians—rising from 2 deaths in 2013 to 35 in 2023—indicates an urgent need for effective prevention measures. The deaths are notably concentrated on days with excessive heat warnings and are predominantly among middle-aged men with pre-existing health conditions and substance use issues. Additionally, a significant percentage of deaths occurred among non-residents and the homeless population, underscoring the need for tailored support and outreach strategies.
- In response to these challenges, collaborative initiatives have been launched to address heat-related issues more effectively. The Maricopa County Department of Public Health, in partnership with the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and other local agencies, has developed a comprehensive heat relief network. This network provides cooling centers, hydration stations, and other essential resources across the county. The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors has also funded additional support, including heat relief supplies and 211 assistance for transportation and utility help. Ongoing efforts



include expanding heat infrastructure, increasing community engagement, and ensuring culturally sensitive approaches. Moving forward, the focus will be on understanding the relationship between heat injuries and social determinants of health and raising awareness among American Indians, with the aim of improving policy and support systems for climate resilience in the years ahead

## **Coalition Updates**

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

- Ethan T. reported out – We had our most recent GONA completed at our new location for the Phoenix Indian Center on August 17<sup>th</sup>. We will have an upcoming one this weekend on Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at the Phoenix Indian Visitors Center. Another upcoming GONA's will be on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> in Mesa.

### **Living in 2 Worlds**

- Jolene F. reported out – We are confirmed with Bogle Junior Highschool and will be starting in September. More to come but we are still in works with planning and working with other districts around the valley.

### **Parenting in 2 World**

- Cristian C. reported out - We have a few Parenting in 2 Worlds sessions open. Our cycle 4 on Wednesdays and cycle 3 on Thursdays sessions are ongoing, and our cycle 2 on Mondays and cycle 5 on Tuesdays sessions are upcoming.

### **GCHAR Project: HF2W/P2W**

- Loren B. reported out - We are currently halfway through cycle 2. Cycle 3 will be kicking off on September 17<sup>th</sup>. This will be held every Tuesday from 6 pm- 8 pm at the Phoenix Indian Center. Will need to live within Maricopa County to be eligible for the \$200 gift card incentive. This is an in-person workshop.

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

- Cristian C. reported out – Our next upcoming Lunch & Learn is tomorrow Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-1pm.

### **Network Support Roundtable**

- Cante Z. reported out – We have a Network Support Roundtable upcoming on October 1<sup>st</sup>. This is to establish a network amongst both professional and community members. This will be in person here at the Phoenix Indian Center for about an hour and a half. Light snacks and drinks will be provided.

### **QPR.**

- Perise L. reported out – We have a QPR training upcoming up on October 3<sup>rd</sup> that will be private. This will be a partnership with ASU AISWSA.

### **SafeTALK**



- Shermaine N. reported out – We have an upcoming training on September 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 am- 1 pm. Lunch will be provided. If you do attend, please plan to stay an hour extra so you can have time to sit and eat.

#### **UICAZ Subcommittee Events**

- Belen S. reported out – We are excited with all our subcommittees external events!
  - Our Suicide Prevention committee will be hosting a community #AMileFor walk at the Phoenix Indian Center on September 28<sup>th</sup> from 8-10. #AMileFor is a campaign that the committee started in 2023, this year we are expanding it to raise awareness. Shirts and resources will be available.
  - Our Recruitment & Outreach committee will be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation & Network Breakout on October 24<sup>th</sup>. This event is to recognize our dedicated coalition members who have volunteered their time over the last year and network with our coalition members.
  - Our ICWA committee will be hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ICWA Symposium in November. Stay tuned for a report out provided by ICWA chair. Please show support for our subcommittee.

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

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

Attendees: Perise Lauvao, Brian Yazie, Clyde Miller, Cante Zephir

Our committee meets bi-weekly, so let me know if you would like to join. We also discussed our upcoming Volunteer App breakfast.

Our Chair, Allen King, will be a keynote speaker at the 2024 Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Implementation & Enhancement Training. We will have tabling opportunities at this event.

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

Attendees: Dalila Guerrero, Ethan Tsosie, Jolene Fernandez, Loren Grizzard, Ryan Martin

We reviewed the substance use information workshop that we had been discussing outside of the coalition meeting. We went over the different substances we would like to include. Our focus is now on finalizing a date. We agreed to hold the next external meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>. If anyone wants to join, please let me know. I will put my email in the chat and send you an invitation.

We also discussed an opportunity that UICAZ has been presented with, where a few UICAZ members will have the chance to receive training in tobacco cessation

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

Attendees: Loren Bahe Brittany Aquitante, Cristian Canales, Elisia Manuel, Michael Wydra, Sarah Meston, Valerie Williams.



We reviewed our symposium, we are trying to confirm our location. If anyone has a facility that can accommodate 150 people, please let us know. We have reached out to a few places. We will be conducting very specific tabling discussions, such as how to become a CASA. We appreciate your support, and if you are interested in becoming a foster parent, please reach out to me at Stepping Stone.

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

Attendees: Agnes Attakai, Belen Santistevan, Beth Tom, Laboraex Abeita, Quincy Stewart, Shermaine Nelson, Tallerita Tunney Rogers.

We reviewed our #AMileFor campaign and provided updates on our marketing materials. We received positive feedback, which we will share with our communication team. We also went over our agenda for the morning. We are very excited and hope to see you there.

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

- Tellerita Tunney Rogers shared that Via Linda Behavioral Hospital has several specialty programs, including support for military, women, and adolescents.
  - September 4th, 12:00 PM at the Phoenix Indian School Visitors Center – Listening Session to design elements for the unit and activities to support cultural activities. A virtual option will be available.
- Elisia Manuel shared about the Native Women's Conference at Wild Horse Pass on November 7 & 8, 2024.
- Agnes Attakai shared that Indigenous Day will be held at Skyline Gila River School on September 26, 2024, seeking presenters for MS and HS students.
- Ethan Tsosie shared that Sonoran Prevention Works will honor loved ones lost to overdose. See flyer attached.
- Sharon Banda shared information about the 43rd Annual Protecting Our Children Conference, scheduled for March 30-April 2, 2025, in Orlando, Florida, and virtually. For more details, visit NICWA Conference.

### **Closing Announcements**

- Our next meeting will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> during Suicide Prevention month. We encourage you to wear purple, change your Zoom background to purple or anything referring to suicide prevention. We will be taking a group photo.
- Submit your membership forms. We will have a link sent in the chat for this. Fill it out and email it to us.
- If you want to volunteer for us, we have a form on our website to fill out.
- You can subscribe to our PIC events calendar. You can see all our workshops and anything that is going on and it will link to your Google Calendar, Outlook Calendar, or your phone.
- Next month we will have the Mahoney Group House as our spotlight speaker. 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 3:56 PM.

### **Next Meeting**

Date: September 24, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: ZOOM – Virtual Meeting

### **2024 Meeting Registration Link:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMoc-qspigjHtR7\\_komeE5JvlmdmDtDH1hR](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMoc-qspigjHtR7_komeE5JvlmdmDtDH1hR)

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