



**Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona
COALITION MEETING**

Tuesday, December 17, 2024
Phoenix Indian Center, Inc.
Virtual Meeting, ZOOM
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. Shermaine Nelson – PIC/UICAZ
2. Belen Santistevan – PIC/UICAZ
3. Perise Lauvao – PIC/UICAZ
4. Cristian Canales – PIC/UICAZ
5. Ashlee Craig – PIC/UICAZ
6. Saybrei Chavez – PIC/UICAZ
7. Jolene Fernandez – PIC/UICAZ
8. Cante Zephier – PIC/UICAZ
9. Ethan Tsosie – PIC/UICAZ
10. Kennedy Slowtalker-Begay – PIC/UICAZ
11. Agnes Attakai – University of Arizona Sonoran Center
12. Alicia Kenney – AZ Dept of Health Services
13. Allen King – Consulting
14. Allison Tobon – notMYkid
15. Alma Ramirez – Valleywise Health
16. Angelique Seckletstewa – Parent
17. Beth Tom – Northland Cares
18. Brian Yazzie – SRPIMC
19. Chermiqua Tsosie – Children's Hospital of Philly- Indigenous Health Unit
20. Crystal James – Native American Connections
21. Dalilia Guerrero – Maricopa County Public Health Office of Commercial Tobacco & Prevention
22. Darien Fuller – Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care
23. DJ Alexander – Waterford.org
24. Gina Read – One n Ten
25. Jerrilene Antone-Morton – Diversity of Child and Community Services
26. Kathleen Montano – Banner Health Plans
27. Katie Ramussen – Aurora Behavioral Health
28. Leann Mantanona – Native American Connections
29. Lisa Cadman – Department of Child Safety
30. Lisa Hall – Native American Connection
31. Marcus Minardo – Nooksack
32. Maria Chavez – Salt River Elementary Schools
33. Micheal Wydra – Maricopa County Public Health
34. Misty Castro – Tucson Indian Center
35. Monica Rivera – AZCH
36. Rebecca Ochoa – Pascua Yaqui Tribe
37. Ryan Martin – Maricopa County Department of Public Health
38. Sharon Banda – Gila River Indian Community Courts
39. Tallerita Tunney Rogers – Via Linda Behavioral Hospital
40. Tarinda Craglow – Ombudsman High Schools
41. Vurlene Notsinneh-Bowekaty – SRPIMC

Meeting Called to Order at 2:03 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: *What is one tradition you do for Christmas/Holidays/Winter?* 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 November 19, 2024.

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

Coalition Updates

Gathering of Native Americans (GONA)

- Ethan T. reported out – GONA is our Gathering of Native Americans workshop, we've had a few since our last coalition meeting. We held one here at the Phoenix Indian Center and had about 20 participants who came. Our December 7th GONA was also held at the PIC, and we had about 40 participants. If you're not familiar with our GONA curriculum, we cover four concepts of Belonging, Mastery, Interdependence and Generosity. It's set up in a talking circle style and we use traditional medicine from all tribal communities in Arizona. We explore and embrace community wellness and healing people's past trauma or anything they want to share and bring to the circle. We try to expand our GONA's throughout the valley in different communities. If you're interested, they are open to all community members. Please refer your families, clients, or anyone who comes to your resource centers/organizations. Our next GONA will be on January 4th at the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Center. Our team is always open to collaborations, if you wish to have a GONA workshop at your facility, you can contact Jolene, Cristian or I.

Living in 2 Worlds

- Jolene F. reported out – Living in 2 Worlds is our evidence-based substance use prevention program. This program is in partnership with ASU Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (SIRC). In our collaboration with ASU SIRC, we use the Keepin' it REAL program. It's a 12-week curriculum where we teach middle school youth about REAL strategies. REAL stands for Refuse Respectfully, Explain, Avoid, and Leave. The basis of this program is to help students identify risky behaviors and learn about smart decision making. We also tie in cultural teaching as a resistance skill and other life skills. Most of our Prevention staff are trained in L2W and have very diverse experiences, so each facilitator ties in their own experiences and can learn from each other. We had a good fall semester, where we were at Bogle Jr. High School and Madison Park Middle School. Both cycles were very successful. Our L2W team has been working a lot on new partnerships and collaborations. In the spring semester, we will have L2W in 4 different middle schools across the Valley. L2W will be at Osborn Middle School, Desert Sands Middle School, Kenilworth Elementary School, and Madison No. 1. If you know any students at these schools and want to learn more about L2W and get connected to more Native youth, please send them our way!

Parenting in 2 World

- Cristian B. reported out – Our Parenting in 2 Worlds is also a collaboration with ASU SIRC. Parenting in 2 Worlds is an evidence-based curriculum. It's a 10-week session that is held Monday through Thursday. It's a 2-hour session in the evenings virtually through Zoom. This curriculum is for any caregivers of American Indian youth in the Valley. If you know someone that could utilize this resource, have them reach out to one of our Prevention Specialist or register on our website for one of our upcoming classes. Currently, our Monday and Wednesday cycles are closed for



registration, but we do have some currently open for registration. We will be starting new cycles on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings that are open for registration. Tuesday classes will be starting January 7th and Wednesday classes will start January 8th. Feel free to come and check it out!

GCAHR Project

- Kennedy S reported out – This research study is comparing Parenting in 2 Worlds to Healthy Families in 2 Worlds. To be eligible for this study, caregivers must self-identify as Native American. They must live in an urban area, and they must be a primary caregiver of a Native American youth between the ages of 12 to 17. We had a site visit with ASU last week, where we were able to talk about the successes and challenges that we're experiencing with this study. Parenting in 2 Worlds used to only be offered here in the southwest. The Phoenix Indian Center was the only center that was implementing the program. But with this research study, they want to look at comparing it to the other sites outside of Phoenix. This study is being researched in Denver, Buffalo, Minneapolis, and one other site. The project is looking at Parenting in 2 Worlds to see how effective it is, if it's still beneficial, and how beneficial it is to those other sites outside of Arizona. We're really excited about this study; we will be entering year three next year. If you know anyone who is interested in participating in this study, you can refer them to our QR code. From there they can determine whether they're eligible. If they are eligible, Loren Bahe will be contacting them to complete further registration. If they are not eligible but still want to participate in Parenting in 2 Worlds program, they are welcome to sign up for the virtual P2W we have upcoming.

Safeguarding Medications 101 (Rx360)

- Ethan T. reported out – Safeguarding Medication is our community workshop that we host every month. This workshop is to bring awareness of the harmful effects of prescription medication. We recommend this workshop to parents, grandparents, and any community member that would like to learn more about preventing fatal overdoses. If you didn't know, your prescription medication can be just as dangerous as street drugs when misused or mishandled. We had 7 community members get certified through our Lunch and Learn on November 22nd. We also collaborated with our Language and Culture department's Elder Mentors program on December 11th and trained about 45 elders and community members. Each person that completes the workshop receives a toolkit to start safeguarding your medication and how to properly dispose of them. Our next upcoming workshop will be here at the Phoenix Indian Center on January 7, 2025. If you're interested or have time to come by, grab some lunch and attend our workshop!

DEA Drug Take Back Day

- Ethan T. reported out – Our Community Dispose-a-Med happens twice a year. It's on the last Saturday of January and the last Saturday of July. This is an opportunity for community members to come to various locations throughout the Valley, whether that be a CVS, a library, or a park to bring their unused, expired, or unwanted medication. Our next site will be at Native Health Mesa next year in 2025. It will be from 10:00am-2:00pm. There will be law enforcement on site, and you can come over and bring your medication. All sites will not accept injection medication, such as needles, sharps, creams or liquids. If you are not close to Native Health Mesa, you can look online and find various community partners that are also host sites.

QPR Gatekeeper Training

- Perise L. reported out – QPR is an hour and a half long suicide prevention training. We had a QPR Gatekeeper training today (12/17) held virtually. We had 16 community members complete this training. If there is anyone who was at the training and is in the coalition meeting today, thank



you so much for attending and helping us make our communities suicide safer. We have QPR coming up on January 15, 2025. This will be a virtual training in the evening from 5:30pm-7:00pm.

safeTALK

- Perise L. reported out – Our safeTALK is a four-hour suicide prevention training that goes a little more in depth and has a little bit more practice time. We held one on December 5th. We had 14 people complete safeTALK. Thank you so much for anybody that was there as well! We even had staff members attend our training. It's great to see our community consistently taking steps towards being suicide safer. We will have another safeTALK here at the Phoenix Indian Center on January 23, 2025. We will provide a light breakfast and lunch. If you have any colleagues or friends, or yourself who are not trained in suicide prevention and would like to be trained, come join us! Anybody can prevent suicide. You don't have to be a professional. You don't have to work in this field. We always want to open our training to all community members. Please share with your contacts.

Network Support Roundtable

- Cante Z. reported out – We have a program called Network Support Roundtable for anyone who has attended any of our suicide prevention trainings (QPR, safeTALK, or ASIST), work in the behavioral health field, or fields that deal with the topic of suicide. This roundtable is for us as professionals and as community members to have a safe place to discuss and talk about the barriers, successes, or challenges that we have in this field. It also helps us work with getting connected with one another, getting connected with resources that we may not be aware of. This is a safe space to be able to have discussions around compassion fatigue or being able to network with other people who understand the type of work we do. Our next roundtable will be on January 9, 2025, and it will be held virtually from 1:00pm-2:30pm.

Out of the Darkness Walk

- Belen S. reported out – In November, our coalition participated in the Out of the Darkness Walk. If you're not familiar, Out of the Darkness Walk is a national walk and is specific to different areas. We attended the Phoenix area walk at Salt River Fields. We had a really great table. Our staff brought our #AMileFor t-shirts and our #AMileFor signs. Participants loved customizing their shirts and signs. The community members loved being able to wear their shirts and hold their signs during the walk. Shout out to Ashlee and Cante for outreach and connections with hundreds of community members and sharing our resources.

Annual American Indian Suicide Prevention Convening: Call for Speakers!

- Belen S. reported out – It's that time of year again! Our team is very excited. The coalition hosts a one-day conference every year. This is our annual American Indian Suicide Prevention Convening. It is held in the Spring and our team have been really busy working on all the details. We have secured a location and date. Our suicide prevention convening will be held on March 7, 2025, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Tempe. Right now, we are having our Call for Speakers. If you are interested or know anyone that might be please share the Call for Speakers with your contacts. We're going to be doing our convening a little differently this year. This year we will be borrowing from the GONA concepts and asking our speakers to base their sessions of the themes of Mastery and Interdependence. If you don't know what GONA is or aren't familiar with what those themes mean, you can scan the QR code. We have some context on there and examples of topics that you can choose from. We'd really appreciate it if you could share our flyer to all your contacts. We are hoping to get our speaker meetings scheduled soon.

FINAL Youth Coalition



- Cante Z. reported out – We have some exciting announcements coming up for our youth coalition. The Prevention program partners with our Youth Development program and within Prevention, we oversee the Prevention Committee. This committee exists under the Future Inspired Native American Leaders (F.I.N.A.L.) Youth Council. Our Prevention Committee kids are doing amazing work. As part of our programming, they provide peer education sessions or presentations on substance prevention. The substance they decided to present at the beginning of the year is alcohol. Many of us know that alcohol can interrupt kinship and communities. Our youth are going to be able to talk about how this substance has harmed our communities at our Youth Screen Printing workshop and education session. The prevention committee members were able to identify this harm to our communities and recognize the importance of art and culture. They can draw on these strengths to be able to engage in prevention. They will be partnering with an art collective called Homeland based here in Phoenix. Homeland focuses on many different modes; a large piece is through fashion. They host free screen-printing workshops for Indigenous youth all around Arizona. If you have any high school youth who may be interested in this workshop or want to learn more about arts or screen printing, we encourage them to come to our workshop. It will be from 1:30-5:30pm here at the Phoenix Indian Center. Each participant will be able to listen to our presentation and get a free t-shirt or tote bag with a cool design.
- We are also bringing four of our prevention committee members to CADCA. Yay! CADCA stands for the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America. Every year they have a conference in Washington, D.C, with coalitions from around the country. We will also be bringing two of our subcommittee chairs. Congratulations to Allen and Elicia, they will be joining us in D.C. Belen and I will also be presenting at CADCA this year. We are excited to share the Native perspective on substance misuse prevention and talking about the importance of culture as a protective factor.

Cultural Workshops

- Shermaine N. reported out – We will be having our String Game Storytelling on Saturday, December 21st. If you have youth from the ages of 9-18 years old who are wanting to learn about Navajo culture or want to learn about string games, have them join our workshop. We will be bringing our guest speaker, Tristan Black, from the Navajo reservation. He will be going over stories about string games, how it came about and why we only play string games in the winter. You will also be learning a few string games too. We will also be having an O'odham storytelling on January 10, 2025, here at the Phoenix Indian Center. It will be on a Friday evening, and we will be providing dinner. If you have any youth, send them our way!

Cultural Awareness

- Jolene F. reported out – At the Phoenix Indian Center and through our coalition, we provide American Indian Cultural Awareness trainings and workshops. These are open for departments, agencies, businesses, and schools that are looking to get more knowledge in American Indian communities. We talk about American Indian history, tribes, relevant federal Indian policy, and cultural sensitivity considerations. These trainings last an hour to an hour and a half. We want to highlight the last training we just did. On November 21st we collaborated with ADHS Justice Reinvestment Community of Practice. Perise and Jolene were the facilitators for this, and we did it in a hybrid setting. This was the biggest training that our staff have facilitated. We had about 89 people in attendance. It was a big training and super proud of all the Prevention Specialists that were there that day and who helped with preplanning tasks. Our next training for Cultural Awareness will be on January 7, 2025. We will be partnering with COPA Health and are very excited. If anyone is interested or have any questions about Cultural Awareness, please reach out to one of our Prevention Specialists.



- Cristian C. reported out – This past Saturday, we had our 2nd Annual ICWA Symposium. This was held at South Mountain Community College library. We had about 64 individuals come out to participate in our symposium. We had a lot of resources for the community. Thank you to everyone who came out and thank you to our speakers!

Subcommittee Breakout Sessions / Subcommittee Debrief:

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

Attendees: Perise Lauvao, Ashlee Craig, Allen King, Cante Zephier, Lisa Hall, Maria Chavez, Alicia Kenney

Introductions and new people joining subcommittee. 22 tribes and finding out better ways to approach it and get recognition. Strategies to reach out to community or museums. Getting ready for next year.

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

Attendees: Jolene Fernandez, Ethan Tsosie, Dalila Guerrero, Ryan Martin, Kathleen Montano

Upcoming webinar series that starts Jan 21st with the topic Commercial Tobacco/Nicotine. We are finalizing our flyers. There will be one general flyer and individual flyers for each topic. Please look out for those flyers and share them with your network.

- **Urban Indian Child Welfare (Minutes provided via Email by Cristian Canales)**

Attendees: Cristian Canales, Chermiqua Tsosie, Jerrilene Antone-Morton, Leann Mantanona, Lisa Cadman, Sharon Banda

Debriefed the recent subcommittee event and discussed what went well, what didn't go so well, and the location used for the symposium that happen. We also welcomed new members who joined this subcommittee.

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

Attendees: Shermaine Nelson, Belén Santistevan, Angelique Secklestewa, Beth Tom, Crystal James, Marcus Minardo, Saybrei Chavez, Tallerita Tunney Rogers, Tarinda Craglow

Introductions and introduced our new prevention staff that will be in the subcommittee. Talking about the call for speakers and SPC. Encouraging folks to share the Call for Speakers for SPC.

Coalition Member Announcements/Community Calendar

- **Tallerita Tunney Rogers** – Via Linda Behavioral Hospital GONA – very proud and want to be a part of the conversation of prevention and intervention.
- **Ryan Martin** – *Funding Opportunity* Community-Based Organizations with operational budgets under \$1 million. The funds will support organizations in sustaining or expanding overdose prevention and harm reduction services, with a particular focus on Black and Native American/Alaskan Native people who use drugs. Please feel free to share this opportunity with your network.

Link: https://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/RODEO-RFP_2025-2.pdf



- **Dalila Guerrero, Office of Commercial Tobacco Prevention and Cessation** – Offering marketing materials for our state's Ashline.

Closing Announcements

- January 2025 – Register to receive new link!
- Submit your membership forms. We will have a link sent in the chat for this. Fill it out an email it to us.
- January Meeting will be virtual on Zoom.
- 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.
- 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.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 PM.

Next Meeting

Date: January 28, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Virtual – Zoom

2025 Meeting Registration Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtf-gtrjMoE9Ci4vFBr1Ou4ox5kfV6bA1R>

Note: Registration only needs to happen once. Once registered, you will have access to all future UICAZ meetings until December 2025.