



**Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona  
COALITION MEETING**

Tuesday, February 25, 2025  
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. **Ashlee Craig** – PIC/UICAZ
2. **Belén Santistevan** – PIC/UICAZ
3. **Cante Zephier** - PIC/UICAZ
4. **Ethan Tsosie** – PIC/UICAZ
5. **Kennedy Slowtalker-Begay** – PIC/UICAZ
6. **Kyrene Yazzie** – PIC/UICAZ
7. **Loren Bahe** – PIC/UICAZ
8. **Shermaine Nelson** – PIC/UICAZ
9. **Agnes Attakai** – Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities UA College of Medicine
10. **Alicia Kenney** – AZ Department of Health Services
11. **Allen King** – Haven Health Management/Collective Empowerment Solutions
12. **Almalia Berrios Payton** – Native Americans for Community Action, Inc.
13. **Beth Tom** – Northland Cares
14. **Chermiqua Tsosie** – Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
15. **Elisia Manuel** – Stepstone Family Youth Services / 3 Precious Miracles
16. **Halia Shirley** – Tucson Indian Center
17. **Jerrilene Antone-Morton** – DES Tribal Liaison for Child & Community Services Division
18. **Joyce Givens** – CASA of Maricopa County
19. **Kathleen Montano** – Banner Health
20. **Leann Mantanona** – Native American Connections
21. **Lisa Hitchens** – CASA of Maricopa County
22. **Marcus Minardo** – Nooksack
23. **Mayita Montiel** – Salt River E.C.E.C.
24. **Misty Castro** – Tucson Indian Center
25. **Natalia Ballon** – Inside Edge Consulting Group
26. **Nathaniel Peruelo** – City of Phoenix Office of Public Health
27. **Rebecca Ochoa** – Pascua Yaqui Tribe
28. **Sharon Banda** – GRIC CASA
29. **Shauna Darrell** – Community Member
30. **Tallerita Tunney Rogers** – Via Linda Behavioral Hospital
31. **Tamzyn Whitaker** – Kyrene School District Native American Program

**Meeting Called to Order at 4:05 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: You’ve decided to have a self-care night. What’s for dinner? 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 January 28, 2025.**

Elisia Manuel motioned to approve the January meeting minutes. Agnes Attakai 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, and the motions have been adopted.

**Organization Spotlight Series**

Belen called for community spotlights for the months of March, April & May. Natalia Ballon volunteered to present for the month of March. Sharon Banda volunteered for the month of April. Leann Mantanona volunteered to present for the month of May. Belen thanked our coalition members for volunteering for our upcoming community spotlights.

**Coalition Updates**

**Gathering of Native Americans (GONA)**

- Ethan T. reported out – GONA is a curriculum and workshop that we implement twice a month, and teaches the concepts of Belonging, Mastery, Interdependence, and Generosity. The UICAZ recently finished up a college GONA with ASU AISSS, geared towards college students and in collaboration with their Elder in-residence program. The next GONA is going to be on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the location to be determined. The next GONA will be April 19<sup>th</sup> and will be specific to our 2 Spirit relatives. More details to come soon!

**Living in 2 Worlds**

- Shermaine N. reported out – Our L2W curriculum is used to teach our youth resistance strategies to say no and remove themselves from risky situations. It draws on cultural values, norms, and traditions. We are currently in 4 schools, including Osborn Middle School, Desert Sands Middle School, Kenilworth Elementary School, and Madison No. 1 Middle School. We are also planning for our L2W summer camp which will be taking place in a few months.

**Parenting in 2 World**

- Ethan T. reported out - Our P2W has 3 current cycles that are ongoing Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings. It is an evidence-based curriculum, with 1 lesson taking place once a week, from 5:30pm-7:30pm, and is designed to promote healthy Native American families, or if you are a caregiver of American Indian youth. Open registrations for new cycles on Thursday evenings is open until Feb 27<sup>th</sup> (Cycle 11), Tuesday evenings until April 1<sup>st</sup> (Cycle 13), and Wednesday evenings until April 2<sup>nd</sup> (Cycle 14). If you are interested, please contact any of the UICAZ team.

**GCAHR Project: HF2W/P2W Cycle 3**

- Loren B. reported out - Our research project known as GCAHR, implements our Healthy Families in 2 Worlds and Parenting in 2 Worlds curriculum. We began our 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle last week and will be conducting our 2<sup>nd</sup> lesson this evening. The registration will be closing on March 4<sup>th</sup>. We have increased our incentives to be \$300 gift cards for each family. Youth who take our surveys will also receive a survey. If you are interested, please reach out to Loren for the Google interest form. The eligibility for study is that you must live in an urban area, your youth must be between the ages 12-17, and you must self-identify as American Indian.



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

- Belen S. reported out – We had one workshop on January 28<sup>th</sup> at SRPMIC. Safeguarding Medications is a 1-hour workshop that teaches participants how to lock up their medications, and to recognize that prescription overdose is preventable by limiting access and the means of medication. At the end of the workshop, we provide attendees with a lock box and a Detera bag, a tool used to dissolve medication with water.

### **safeTALK**

- Belen S. reported out – On February 12<sup>th</sup>, we had a private SafeTALK training session with Recovery Innovations, and it was great training. Our next community workshop will be on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Phoenix Indian Center. Meals and certificates will be provided to all completed attendees.

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

- Belen S. reported out – For ASIST, our 2-day 8-hour training course took place on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at Glendale Community College. We typically partner with a behavioral health class and promote the students to be trained in Suicide prevention. We host ASISTs on an inquiry basis, if your organization would like a training, please reach out to us.

### **Network Support Roundtable**

- Ashlee C. reported out – Our next Network Support Roundtable will be incorporated as a breakout session for our upcoming American Indian Suicide Prevention Convening happening on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Our UICAZ Recruitment and Outreach subcommittee chair Allen King will be facilitating our session.

### **American Indian Suicide Prevention Convening**

- Belen S. reported out – The coalition hosts a convening once a year, and will be taking place next Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, from 9am-4pm. If you have not registered, we have limited spots available! This is a free event, with meals provided, and will be modeled after the style of our Gathering of Native Americans workshop (GONA). It will look extremely different from a regular conference, and will be much more interactive, culturally relevant, and will allow for much more participation.

### **FINAL Youth Coalition**

- Cante Z. reported out – 4 youth of our youth coalition were selected based on their leadership to attend a weeklong trip to National Harbor for the annual substance misuse prevention conference, CADCA. The youth were able to network with youth from across the country, make friends, listen to both adult and youth sessions, as well as site see in our nation's capital. The 2nd presentation they want to present for their Youth council year is focused on the topic of overdose, and how to use Naloxone.

### **CADCA National Forum**

- Belén S. reported out – We were very fortunate to be able to take 4 youth, and 2 coalition members to the CADCA conference. Our team members Cante and Belen presented on behalf of the coalition as a breakout session, discussing historical intergenerational trauma, contemporary issues, and how that is context for why Native peoples suffer from the highest rates of substance misuse and suicide. This opportunity gave us a chance to humanize our relatives, who are often



viewed as statistics on a slideshow. This was a great experience; we are looking forward to what CADCA has in store for us next year.

### **Cultural Classes**

- Shermaine N. reported out – We were able to collaborate with our Language & Culture program to host a Navajo Song & Dance at one of our local community schools. Over 300 people attended the event, with many elders and community members traveling from the Navajo reservation to be able to attend. It was very touching to see community members come together to engage in our culture.

### **Historical Intergenerational Trainings**

- Cante Z. reported out – Historical Intergenerational Trauma can be viewed as a mini history lesson, with inclusion of ACES (adverse childhood experiences), and data that explains why Native peoples have the highest rates for suicide and substance use. This presentation is provided by request, and is typically geared towards non-Native organizations, or organizations that regularly interface and serve Native clients. We recently trained 51 chaperones as part of the ASU RECHARGE Conference on January 31st. Our upcoming training will be a private training on March 12th with COPA Health.

### **UICAZ Subcommittee Events**

- Belen S. reported out – Our Training and Workshops subcommittee is hosting a training series webinar titled Indigenous Communities Healing Together: A Journey through Substance Use Awareness & Recovery. The first session of the series took place on January 21st and presented commercial tobacco and nicotine. The following substances will be covered in the following:
  - March 18th Alcohol & Underage Drinking
  - May 20th Opioids
  - July 22nd Marijuana
  - September 26th Safeguarding Medication 101
  -

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

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

Attendees: Allen King, Cante Zephier, Ashlee Craig, Almalia Berrios-Payton

The committee discussed the change in our bylaws regarding hosting bi-annual events. The committee discussed areas that need recruitment, and brainstormed ideas on how to recruit amongst our 22 tribal nations of Arizona.

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

Attendees: Ethan Tsosie, Kat Montano, Misty Castro, Natalia Ballon

The group reviewed the PowerPoint presentation for the upcoming Fentanyl webinar, as part of their substance misuse prevention training series. They also brainstormed ideas to push marketing for providers. The committee asked the coalition to help spread the word about the series.

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

Attendees: Loren Bahe, Elisia Manuel, Agnes Attakai, Chermiqua Tsosie, Jerrilene Antone-Morton, Leann Mantanona, Mayita Montiel, Sharon Banda



The committee recognized Jerrilene from DCS AZEIP, who provides occupational and speech therapy to our young relatives, who are 0-3 years old. The committee also recognized Sharon Banda who is bringing in 3 volunteers as part of CASA. The committee shared about resources in the community including conferences, and events in Florida and Tucson. Elisia shared that as a recruitment manager for Stepstone, they are looking for more Native homes for foster care and to link together all our resources, to help our youth who are running away from home.

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

Attendees: Shermaine Nelson, Belén Santistevan, Beth Tom, Halia Shirley, Marcus Minardo, Nathaniel Peruelo, Tallerita Tunney Rogers

As there were new members, the Suicide Prevention committee did a round of introductions as a meet and greet for the group. The committee used this time as a chance to discuss previous events and campaigns, and how to move forward with getting involved. Topics regarding resources, healthy food, mental health, and suicide prevention were brainstormed during the breakout.

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

- **Elisia Manuel** – On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, in Tempe, 3 Precious Miracles will be hosting a Ribbon Skirt Workshop. On April 19<sup>th</sup> 3 Precious Miracles will also be hosting the Honoring our Youth Gourd Dance.
- **Elisia Manuel** – Stepstone will be hosting a Foster Talk, once a month at a local coffee shop in Tucson. Please reach out to Elisia for more information.
- **Tallerita Tunney Rogers** – Via Linda Hospital has been developing a unit to provide treatment and to address the unique needs of the Native American population and will be launching on March 18. This will include a ribbon cutting event and party and would like for the coalition to attend. This Cultural Healing unit will be utilizing the White Bison curriculum, to help support their patients.
- **Agnes Attakai** – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Indigenous Disability Summit, April 12<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM MST Virtual. The youth summit highlights voices of American Indian youth with disabilities and focuses on aspects of American Indian life, history, culture and heritage that can help you address today's challenges.  
[https://arizona.zoom.us/meeting/register/fTpUHMz7TqGdDW\\_keVwjwQ#/registration](https://arizona.zoom.us/meeting/register/fTpUHMz7TqGdDW_keVwjwQ#/registration)

### **Closing Announcements**

- March coalition meeting will be virtual.
- Meeting reminders are sent via Zoom and PIC Constant Contact.
- POC/Coalition lead: Shermaine Nelson & Belen Santistevan.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 PM.

### **Next Meeting**

Date: March 25, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Virtual – Zoom

**2025 Meeting Registration Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtf-qtrjMoE9Ci4vFBr1Ou4ox5kfV6bA1R>