



**Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona  
COALITION MEETING**

Tuesday, March 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. Shermaine Nelson – PIC/UICAZ
2. Kennedy Slowtalker-Begay – PIC/UICAZ
3. Loren Bahe – PIC/UICAZ
4. Jolene Fernandez – PIC/UICAZ
5. Ashlee Craig – PIC/UICAZ
6. Rechelle Harrion – PIC/UICAZ
7. Alison Tobon – notMYkid
8. Allen King – Collective Empowerment Solutions
9. Almalía Berríos-Payton – Native Americans for Community Action, Inc.
10. Anna Sanchez – Parent
11. Ava Chatlin – San Carlos Apache College
12. Belen Sanchez – Health and Human Services
13. Blake Johnston – B2B Behavioral Health
14. Brian Yazzie – SRPMIC Youth Services Dept.
15. Carl "CJ" Johnson – Powerhouse Youth Facility
16. Chermiqua Tsosie – CHOP Indigenous Health Unit
17. Clyde Miller – HEAAL/TCDC
18. Dalila Guerrero – Office of Commercial Tobacco Prevention and Cessation
19. Elisia Manuel – Stepstone Family/Three Precious Miracles
20. Georgianna Sieweuptewa – Hopi tribe WIOA Program
21. Guadalupe Angelita – MBS Bloom
22. Haley Doi – Superior Court
23. Halia Shirley – Tuscon Indian Center
24. Jessica Bell – Health Tech Academy
25. Joyce Givens – CASA of Maricopa
26. Kathleen Montano – Banner Health
27. Keith Brown – B2B Behavioral Health
28. Leann Mantanona – Native American Connections
29. Levi Long – Phoenix Indian Center
30. Lisa St.Peter – Chandler Unified School District
31. Marcus Minardo – Nooksack
32. Maria Chavez – Salt River Elementary School
33. Misty Castro – Tucson Indian Center
34. Nadine Wells – Burningman Organization & H.O.V
35. Natalia Ballon – Inside Edge Consulting Group
36. Nathan Wagner
37. Nathaniel Peruelo – City of Phoenix, Office of Public Health
38. Rebecca Ochoa – Pascua Yaqui Tribe/ Guadalupe Prevention Partnership
39. Rechelle Jackson – Parent
40. Ryan Martin – Maricopa County Dept. Of Public Health
41. Salma Samaniego – Quechan Indian Tribe
42. Sarah Meston – Stepstone family and youth services
43. Shanna Nozie – PHN
44. Shannon Hadley – Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine Council, Tribal Affairs team
45. Shannon Quinn – B2B Behavioral Health
46. Sharon Banda – Gila River Indian Community Courts
47. Shauna Murphy – Recovery Innovation
48. Sonya Gonzales – Parent
49. Trudy Pekala – Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine Council – Tribal Affairs Team
50. Vivian Gonzalez Carrera – Maricopa



### **Meeting Called to Order at 2:00PM by Shermaine Nelson**

Shermaine 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 your favorite spring activity?* Shermaine started off the icebreaker question with an introduction and organization. Attendees then answered icebreaker questions and passed to others to share in meeting. 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 February 25, 2025.**

Clyde Miller motioned to approve the February meeting minutes. Dalila Guerrero seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. There was no discussion regarding the meeting minutes. The majority 23 voted in favor of approving the February meeting minutes, and the motions have been adopted. Zero opposed.

## **Organization Spotlight Series**

### **Natalia Ballon, MPH, MSW Community Clinical Navigator – Inside Edge**

- Shermaine introduced organization spotlight, Inside Edge, a clinical trial community awareness and education from Natalia Ballon. Shared Natalia's extensive experience working with/on programs that impact community health, equity, and social detriments of health. Natalia's professional experience includes various roles focused on developing and implementing programs to build capacity for chronic conditions, support communities through disaster recovery, and evidence-based psychosocial programs for underserved communities.
- Natalia Ballon was introduced by Shermaine and began her organization spotlight. Inside Edge is a trust maker network, providing individuals in the community opportunities to partake in clinical trial and research awareness. Inside Edge's mission is to forge deep human connections between underserved communities and medical innovators to create a healthy just world. Inside Edge has been fulfilling their mission between underserved communities and medical innovators for more than 20 years, the organization believes that's the most sustainable way to create a healthy world. Their methodology is focused on eliminating health inequities by creating strong partnerships.
- Inside Edge established *Makewell Foundation* in 2016, which addresses health inequities within communities that specifically addresses their needs. Natalia shared Inside Edge is welcoming to all community partners including faith-based groups, pharmacists, local business owners, and physician organizations. Diversity enriches conversations and solidifies success for all community members. They do not recruit individuals for clinical trials or research studies; They're more focused on raising awareness and providing education to the community.
- Natalia Ballon Contact Information:
  - Email: [natalia@insideedgeconsulting.com](mailto:natalia@insideedgeconsulting.com)
  - Website: [www.insideedgeconsulting.com](http://www.insideedgeconsulting.com)

## **Coalition Updates**

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

- Jolene F. reported out – GONA is our curriculum partnered with SAMSA to discuss community led conversations that address issues they identify as a group. These gatherings



are hosted in a talking circle style, that's led by certified GONA facilitators who guide participants through four concepts. These GONA concepts include belonging, mastery, interdependence, and generosity. Prevention staff view GONA as a ceremony being hosted within Maricopa, creating a healing space for indigenous people who can't travel back to the reservation. Traditional medicines are incorporated in workshop and used throughout the day. Most recent GONA occurred March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Tolleson Unified High School District. The next Two-Spirit GONA will be held April 19<sup>th</sup>, at Phoenix Indian School Visitor center.

### **Living in 2 Worlds (L2W)**

- Jolene F. reported out – Living in Two Worlds (L2W), an evidence-based substance use prevention program that's partnered with ASU Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (CIRC). Living in Two Worlds is a 12-week program aimed at serving middle school students. Throughout the L2W program we teach students how to avoid risky situations by using REAL strategies (refuse respectfully, explain, avoid, leave). The curriculum teaches the students how to navigate their lives by making healthy choices. Jolene shared that they've been to 4 different schools during the spring semester, they just finished Madison No. 1 Middle School. 8 students finished the program and were celebrated recently. Two prevention staff are currently teaching at Desert Sands Middle School, located on the west side of Phoenix. Tomorrow two prevention specialists will visit Kenilworth Elementary School, they have a good student turnout.
- Currently planning for L2W summer camp, the first camp will occur from June 16<sup>th</sup> to June 27<sup>th</sup>. The second camp will occur from July 7<sup>th</sup> to July 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Parenting in 2 World (P2W)**

- Shermaine N. reported out – The Coalition started out with P2W and L2W. Traditionally these two programs would be occurring at the same time. Currently P2W is hosted online through ZOOM, and L2W is hosted from partnerships with local middle schools. Currently Parenting in Two Worlds (P2W) is hosted virtually through ZOOM for caregivers in Arizona.
- The cycles open for registration are 12, 13, and 14. The closed cycles are 9, 10, and 11. The last day to register for cycle 13 is April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cycle 14 is private with Tempe School District, will be the first in-person training of 2025. This great resource establishes the connection of cultures between home/reservation life and an individual's city life. P2W helps caregivers understand the differences and how to support, communicate, and identify concerns when raising youth.

### **GCAHR**

- Loren B. reported out – There are four urban Indian centers across the United States that are participating in GCAHR research study, including ASU. The purpose of the study works to understand ways to strengthen American Indian Families, while promoting well-being of children. Families who are taking part in study include those residing in Phoenix, Denver, St. Paul, and Buffalo in New York. Loren's currently reviewing evidence-based P2W curriculum that's roughly around 20 years old. Working to recruit parents to participate in research study.
- Cycle 4 was submitted for approval, it's planned to start on May 15<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00PM to 8:00PM. A few changes for this cycle include increasing gift card funds for parents, they could potentially receive up to \$300.00 for completing pre and post surveys, along with one-year survey. Eligibility



requirements include families who identify as American Indian/Alaskan Native, who live in urban areas, and are primary caregivers of American Indian Youth between the ages 12 to 17.

### **QPR Gatekeeper Training**

- Ashlee C. reported out – Question Persuade Refer (QPR) is a gatekeeper training for suicide prevention. It's a brief educational program designed to teach the warning signs of a suicide crisis, and ways to appropriately respond. QPR is a virtual training hosted on ZOOM, the next training will be held April 16<sup>th</sup> from 12:00PM to 1:30pm.

### **safeTALK**

- Ashlee C. reported out – SafeTALK trainings are also hosted by the prevention team in-person, the next one is occurring this Thursday, on March 27<sup>th</sup>. The safeTALK training occurring April 10<sup>th</sup> is a partnership and private training with Native Health. SafeTALK is a 4 hour in-person training. that provides individuals opportunities to practice asking suicide related questions. The training provides resources on how to help an individual experiencing crisis, identifying red flags, and battling suicidal ideations.

### **Network Support Roundtable (NSR)**

- Ashlee C. reported out – Network Support Roundtable provides working professionals and community members to network and collaborate. NSR provides a safe space for individuals to discuss issues they experience, navigating their workloads, and ways that we can support each other. Most recent NSR was held March 7<sup>th</sup> at PIC's Suicide Prevention Convening during a breakout session. There was a great turnout, participants were able to discuss questions, collaborate, and participated in a brain map activity led by Allen King, chair of the R&O committee. Ashlee also mentioned that PIC hosts ASIST training, one is being planned for the fall. ASIST is a two-day training.

### **American Indian Suicide Prevention Convening (SPC)**

- Shermaine N. reported out – Shermaine began recap of convening that took place March 7<sup>th</sup>. A few coalition members attended, then she shared the photos taken. The guest speakers included Janelle Allen, Matt Sandoval, Watts Billiy, George/Navi Ho, Allen King, and Dwight Francisco he co-emcee'd. At the convening Shermaine was able to introduce Danielle Sweetie Baker, the youth mental health art contest winner. Her art was printed on a tote bag that was given out to SPC attendees. There was a great turnout at the convening. Shermaine closed by sharing a photo of River People Bird Singers.
- Guadalupe shared her experiences while attending SPC. Shared it was a wonderful gathering and very interactive. Guadalupe appreciated the integration of GONA, and the breakout sessions were informative.
- Shermaine shared coalition members who weren't able to receive 2025 SPC shirt are welcome to visit PIC and ask for one. There are a lot of leftover shirts in various sizes.

### **FINAL Youth Coalition**



- **Shermaine N. reported out** -- The FINAL prevention youth council will be hosting an Overdose Prevention Presentation & Narcan/Naloxone Kit usage on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Highschool youth are welcome to attend the event

### **Cultural Classes**

- **Shermaine N. reported out** – There are two upcoming private cultural workshops with Tempe and Madison Native American Parent Committee. The events include a gourd painting, and frybread making workshop.
  - April 10<sup>th</sup> – Tempe Native American Parent Committee
  - April 16<sup>th</sup> – Madison Native American Parent Committee

### **Historical Trauma (HxT)**

- **Jolene F. reported out** – Prevention services offer community education workshops one includes our historical trauma training. Two historical trauma training sessions were hosted this month. One occurred at COPA health, being part two of our cultural awareness training. The second training we partnered with Paradise Valley Community College (PVCC). At PVCC we hosted a historical trauma training virtually through ZOOM on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **UICAZ Subcommittee Events**

- Shermaine N. reported out – UICAZ's training and workshops committee is hosting an ongoing webinar series titled *Indigenous Communities Healing Together*. The webinar is hosted every other month through ZOOM. This committee finished their March webinar discussing fentanyl. The upcoming webinars will occur in May, July, and September. Registration links are shared on PIC's event calendar.
- Jolene shared last week's webinar that provided information about fentanyl. Webinar raised awareness how fentanyl has impacted indigenous communities, awareness of the issue, and ended with resources.

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

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

Attendees: Allen King, Ashlee Craig, Almalia Berrios-Payton, Brian Yazzie, Clyde Miller, Guadalupe Angelita, Natalia Ballon, Nathan Wagner, and Trudy Pekala.

- Went over our 22 tribes project with goals of wanting to impact the community, complete recruitment, and respectfully acknowledge our 22 tribes in Arizona. Will complete this project through social media planning. The recruitment and outreach group is getting larger which is exciting. Also discussed opportunities to share events with each other so that we can support everyone in our R&O subcommittee.

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

Attendees: Dalila Guerrero, Haley Doi, Jolene Fernandez, Kat Montano, Leann Mantanona, and Shannon Hadley.

- The group discussed their ZOOM webinar series and they've been very successful. Training and Workshops will meet externally to plan for next webinar relating to alcohol



and underage drinking, scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>. If anyone's interested in joining send Dalila your email address.

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

Attendees: Belen Santistevan, Chermiqua Tsoie, Elisia Manuel, Joyce Givens, Rechelle Jackson, Sarah Meston, and Sonya Gonzales.

- UICW had a conversation about the upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> annual ICWA symposium, and the committee is hoping to host this event November 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>. Committee discussions want to educate families, individuals, and the community about ICWA. They're deciding what information do they want attendees to walk away with? If you know anyone interested in learning to be a foster parents, please reachout to Elicia.

- **Suicide Prevention Committee (Report-out provided by Shermaine Nelson):**

Attendees: Shermaine Nelson, Allison Tobon, Anna Sanchez, Georgianna Sieweumptewa, Marcus Minardo, Misty Castro, Nadine Wells, Nathaniel Peruelo, Rebecca Ochoa, Rechelle Harrion, Shanna Nozie, and Shauna Murphy.

- New members joined the suicide prevention committee, they started out with introductions. Committee also discussed strategies for recruitment and retention. The goal is to have more community members attend the events.

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

- **notMYkid - Allison Tobin – Community Forum: Fighting Fentanyl Together**

- **Date:** April 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Time:** 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

**Location:** William L. Patena Community Center, 8335 W Jefferson St, Peoria, AZ 85345

Email: [allison@notmykid.org](mailto:allison@notmykid.org)

### **Closing Announcements**

- Our next meeting will be held via Zoom on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Submit your membership forms to [snelson@phxindcenter.org](mailto:snelson@phxindcenter.org)
- 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 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 3:52pm

### **Next Meeting**

Date: April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Phoenix Indian Center – ZOOM Meeting



**2025 Meeting Registration Link:**

<https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fus06web.zoom.us%2Fmeeting%2Fregister%2FtZYtf-qtrjMoE9Ci4vFBr1Ou4ox5kfV6bA1R%23%2Fregistration&data=05%7C02%7Cacraig%40phxindcenter.org%7Cdbd49648fe8f4edb078a08dd5c3e3745%7Cf58fb63abb134b239e488454b216033e%7C0%7C0%7C638768144466740088%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilskFOljoiTWFpbClldUljoifQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=k6BthQ1TnZcZRK1XV6bzS1GmzO1vUxYExYJvWUifrpw%3D&reserved=0>

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

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