



**Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona
COALITION MEETING**

Tuesday, January 27th, 2026
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	38. Marcelino Flores – Pima County Health Department
2. Bah Bigman - PIC/UICAZ	39. Marcus Minardo – Community Member
3. Cameron Martin – PIC/UICAZ	40. Matthew Brodt – Osborn School District
4. Cante Zephier – PIC/UICAZ	41. Melanie Stevenson – Community Member
5. Ethan Tsosie – PIC/UICAZ	42. Melina Yellowhair – PIC
6. Kyrene Yazzie – PIC/UICAZ	43. Meredith Robbins – Paul Revere Academy
7. Kennedy Slowtalker-Begay – PIC/UICAZ	44. Natalia Ballon – Inside Edge Consulting
8. Loren Bahe – PIC/UICAZ	45. Pearl Yellowman – Community Member
9. Perise Lauvao – PIC/UICAZ	46. Quincy Stewart – Phi Beta Sigma/ASU
10. Shermaine Nelson – PIC/UICAZ	47. Regina Begay-Roanhorse – Southwest MMIP Regional Coordinator US Department of Justice
11. Tierra Edison – PIC/UICAZ	48. Ray Delgado
12. Kimberly Kee – PIC/UICAZ	49. Rebecca Ochoa – Guadalupe Prevention Partnership
13. Aeisha Williams – Fort McDowell Wassaja Family	50. Rosetta Walker – Community Advisory Board Parenting in 2 Worlds Research Project
14. Brandon Walker – Realtor	51. Roylynn Bilagody - BIA
15. Carmelita Gene – Community Member	52. Sarina Kjh Golán Deyol Gonsée – Daily Red Road
16. Clyde Miller – TCDC	53. Selina Kenmillie – Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
17. Claudean Scabby – SRPMIC Social Services	54. Sierra Alvarez – Phoenix Indian Center
18. Dalila Guerrero – Maricopa County Public Health	55. Shaylee Scabby – Community Member
19. Dolores Perea – Community Member	56. Shannon Hadley – Tribal Affairs of the Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine Council
20. Elisia Manuel – Three Precious Miracles	57. Sharon Banda – GRIC CASA
21. Guerrero-Rodriguez – OV CDC	58. Sharon Ramon – Native American Code Writers Collaborative University of Arizona
22. Howard Brown – Wind River Reservation	59. Sheina Yellowhair-Flores – Arizona Complete Health
23. Joni Hubbard – Pima County Health Department	60. Sheena Fowler – Native Health
24. Jonie Thompspon – Dine College	61. Tanya Tso – San Carlos High School
25. John Fairbanks – PIC Elder Mentor	62. Tashira Turner – Development of Child Safety, Engagement & Accessibility
26. Joyce Armijo – Grand Canyon University	
27. Joyce Givens – Community Member	
28. Levi Long – Yideeskaadi Hozhooji Center	
29. Leandra Marris – Phoenix Union High School District	
30. Kami Ortiz – Phoenix Indian Center	
31. Karina Watson – SRPMIC	
32. Kimberly Taylor – Community Member	
33. Kimberly Gregory – Community Member	



34. Kristina Bitsue – Navajo Housing Authority	63. Trudy Pekala – Girl Scouts of AZ Cactus-Pine Council, Tribal Affairs
35. Leann Mantanona – Native American Connections Saguaro Ki	64. Valencia Gorman – Community Member
36. Louisa Cadman – Arizona Department of Child Safety	
37. Louise Yellowman – Community Member	

Meeting Called to Order at 2:00PM by Cante Zephier

Cante welcomed attendees and prompted all virtual attendees to type their name and organization into the Zoom chat box. This was a virtual meeting, therefore no in-person introductions occurred.

Icebreaker introductions were completed in popcorn style with the question: *What brought you to today's coalition meeting?* Cante started off the icebreaker question with an introduction and organization. UICAZ members answered the icebreaker question and passed it to someone else. The share outs were done on Zoom, and some members put their answers in the chat.

Cante and attendees reviewed today's agenda.

Review Meeting Minutes from December 16th, 2025.

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

Guest Speaker: Dr. Pearl Yellowman

Cante introduced Dr. Pearl Yellowman and read their biography. The presenter introduced self. Dr. Yellowman presentation titled *"Renew, Reconnect, Restore: New Year Goals for Wellness Community Engagement, and Compassion Resiliency."* Dr. Yellowman brought up the importance of a coalition working together and acknowledging everyone's work within the coalition. Dr. Yellowman summarized the impacts of Residential Boarding Schools on her personal life and collective experiences, including her studies in epigenetics. Reflection on upbringing and realization of "Who we are." and "What was our way of life". Showing a model of indigenous experiences and the effects from contemporary trauma experiences. Dr. Yellowman uses the model to speak to young people learning their culture, languages and way their ancestors lived.

Coalition Updates

Gathering of Native Americans (GONA)

- Cameron Martin reported out – GONA is a 6-hour workshop hosted on weekends, typically on Saturdays. Prevention staff work to host two GONA's per month. It's a free cultural workshop that's a community-leading discussion that embraces healing. Recent GONA's hosted include January 10th hosted in Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community's Journey to Recovery, with over 38 clients who attended. On January 24th, we hosted a GONA at South Mountain Community College, that was open to all community members. The turnout was great with 20 people who attended. The next two GONA's will be February 28th; this is a Youth GONA event. And March 14th is open to all community members.

Living in 2 Worlds (L2W)



- Tierra E. reported out – Living in 2 Worlds is an evidence-based curriculum available to Native American middle school aged youth. In this 10-week program, we visit various schools and teach youth how to practice strategies, to prevent risky behaviors and substance use. This spring semester we'll be visiting 4 schools including Bogle Jr. High, Osborn Middle School, Capital Elementary School, and Madison Park.

Parenting in 2 Worlds (P2W)

- Tierra E. reported – The Prevention program offers Parenting in 2 Worlds (P2W), a curriculum designed to support and help American Indian parents. The curriculum is focused on improving parenting skills by identifying protective factors, strengthening communication skills with children, and guiding children's behaviors. P2W primarily focuses on enhancing parenting skills through culturally relevant lessons, building awareness on youth development, and being involved in their children's lives. We have on-going cycles that occur all year. Current cycles ongoing include Cycle 7 (registration closed), on Thursday evenings. Upcoming P2W cycles include Cycle 8 starting on January 28, and Cycle 9 beginning on February 5. Registration is open for those 2 cycles.

QPR Gatekeeper Training

- Bah B. reported out – QPR stands for 'Question Persuade and Refer.' We recently completed a training course that occurred on January 8th and 42 community members attended; it was a great turnout. Our upcoming QPR training will take place on February 26th. This is community training, scheduled to take place from 10AM to 11:30AM. All are welcome to register and attend virtually.

SafeTALK Training

- Ashlee C. reported out – safeTALK stands for "Suicide Alertness for Everyone," a four-hour training that prepares you to be a suicide alert helper. safeTALK trained helpers can recognize invitations from a person with thoughts of suicide and take action with learned intervention and resource referral skills. Our most recent safeTALK training took place on January 22nd, 2026, and 23 community members completed.

Network Support Roundtable

- Bah B. reported out – Our upcoming NSR will be on January 28th, at Desert Botanical Garden. This event is only open to individuals trained in suicide prevention skills. If you've taken any of our QPR, safeTALK, or ASIST trainings, you are more than welcome to register and attend. Registration is currently closed.

American Indian Suicide Prevention Convening

- Cante Z. reported out - The American Indian SPC will be taking place on April 23-24, at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Mesa, AZ. This is the first time the event is being expanded to 2 days, featuring 3 breakout sessions (Clinical, Cultural, and Youth & Families.) Registration is free; breakfast and lunch will be provided both days.

FINAL Youth Coalition

- Cameron M. reported out - The Prevention Subcommittee will host their first event on January 29th, 2026, from 5PM to 8PM. Their presentation topic will focus on marijuana and vaping and following we'll provide a planting pot activity. Highschool aged youth and families can participate in painting a planting pot, preparing the pot with soil and a sprouting plant. The art activity was



developed by the subcommittee members. Registration is at full capacity. 4 members of the youth coalition will be attending the National CADCA Forum in DC, from February 1 through February 6.

Cultural Workshop

- Kim K. reported out – On January 9th we hosted a Youth Navajo Shoe Game and January 10th was a Community Navajo Youth Game. 49 youth attended each night of this cultural game and had over 500 community members in attendance. On February 28th there will be a Navajo Song & Dance event at Glendale Community College.

American Red Cross First Aid for Opioid Overdoses Training

- Perise L. reported out – This programming is newer in our department and has been shared recently in the past few months. Red Cross First Aid for Opioid Overdoses is an online self-paced training that's available through the American Red Cross. In this training, you'll learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose and how to respond in an emergency. This training gives insight into how to properly administer naloxone. If you're interested, please scan the QR code or register through the link provided. You'll complete an inquiry form, and I'll provide instructions through email on how to take the training without charge. Phoenix Indian center can cover the registration form if you complete the inquiry form.

GCAHR Research Project

- Loren B. reported out – In the GCAHR Research project, we are looking for parents who have children between 12 to 17 years old, specifically Native American parents. If you know anyone, please send them our way to complete a registration form. Currently we are hosting information sessions on January 27th and February 17th and each family could be eligible to receive up to \$300 in gift cards for participating in this project.

ASU SIRC – L2W Research Project

- Ethan T. reported out - ASU SIRC is a youth research project; we are testing our L2W evidence-based curriculum and are working to update the lessons. We're currently receiving feedback from middle school and high school students about L2W programming. Currently we've recruited 11 youth that we're working with and receiving feedback regarding what's relevant and not. There is a meeting scheduled to occur on February 17. If you have any questions about this project, reach out to Ethan.

UICAZ Subcommittee Events

- Kim K. reported out – Training and Workshops subcommittee is hosting the Indigenous Communities Healing Together: Family is Sacred Webinar Series. Currently we are taking submission proposals until February 1st. Links were sent out via email constant contact, and we received 9 submissions as of today.
- Ashlee C. reported out – Recruitment and Outreach subcommittee will be hosting on February 19th the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast this year's theme is Spring Forward with UICAZ. Register on our Eventbrite.



Subcommittee Breakout Sessions / Subcommittee Debrief:

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

Attendees: Bah Bigman, Ashlee Craig, Clyde Miller, Sharon Ramon

R&O discussed planning for the upcoming UICAZ Annual Volunteer Breakfast, and our registration link is active. It will be occurring on February 19, 2026, and we'll be having catered breakfast, networking games, and recognizing everyone for the work they've done for the coalition. We brainstormed a few new speed networking questions to include at the event.

- Registration for Volunteer Breakfast: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/uicaz-annual-volunteer-spring-breakfast-tickets-1978173448034?aff=oddtcreator>

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

Attendees: Ethan Tsosie, Tierra Edison, Kim Kee, Leandra Marris, Howard Brown, Rosetta Walker, Dalila Guerrero

The group discussed their upcoming webinar series. Subcommittee has been receiving submissions from SurveyLink, submissions for the series are due Sunday, February 1st.

- **Urban Indian Child Welfare (Minutes provided via Email by Sharon Banda)**

Attendees: Cameron Martin, Elisia Manuel, Louisa Cadman, Sharon Banda,

Committee briefly discussed bylaws and the next ICWA event. Sharon shared she will be attending CADCA with our Youth Prevention Subcommittee.

- **Suicide Prevention Committee (Report-out provided by Shannon Hadley):**

Attendees: Rechelle Harrion, Shannon Hadley, Quincy Stewart, Sarina Kih Golan Deyol, Marcus Minardo, Leann Mantanona, Karina Watson, Dolores Peres, Matthew Brodt, Rebecca Ochoa.

We discussed ideas about hosting a possible talent showcase, with great ideas including poetry, fashion shows, drumming circles, and ribbon skirt making. (For youth ages 18-24)

Coalition Member Announcements/Community Calendar

- **HEAL Coalition - Annual Community Forum**

- Location: Memorial Hall - Steele Indian School Park, 300 E Indian School Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85012
- Date: February 28, 2026
- Time: 11:00AM-3:00PM
- Registration & info: <https://www.tcdccorp.org/event-details/community-forum-community-safety-collaboration-prevention-in-action-from-awareness-to-impact>

- **Girls Scouts of America (Arizona)**

- Currently Girl Scouts are selling cookies until March.
- Support your local girl scout's troops. New cookie alert Exploremores.

- **University of Arizona**

- Program Contact: Sharon Ramon
 - sharonramon@arizona.edu



- Native American Code Writers Collaborative offers a mini grant for educators, non-profit affiliated with an educator with a primary focus of Native American students. Contact Sharon for any inquires for this opportunity.
- **Maricopa County Office of Public Health**
 - Partnering with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and Bobby Stone with Hothai Farms to provide a Community Garden Family Event called Then and Now: Culture, Use, and Impact - Learning about Traditional Indigenous Tobacco vs. Commercial Tobacco.
 - Location: Semalulukut Guadalupe Community Garden
 - Date: Feb 6th
 - Time: 4:30pm-6:30pm
- **Pasqua Yaqui Community Coalition**
 - Community Garden Day
 - Date: Saturday, January 31st
 - Time: 9:00am
 - Location: Semalulukut Community Garden
 - 8810 S. Avenida del Yaqui
 - Coalition will be painting picnic tables, garden bed planting, and trying to build compost. The Girls Scouts will also be selling cookies at the event as well.
 - Open House Resource Fair
 - Date: February 27th
 - Location: I'tom Hiapsi Tribal Building
 - 9405 S Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe, AZ 85283
 - If any resource
 - Guadalupe Youth Council – Valentine Grams Fundraiser Event
 - Date: Feb 13th
 - Time: 4:00pm-7:00pm
 - Location: I'tom Hiapsi Tribal Building
 - Event to raise money for youth to practice entrepreneurial skills and fund the UNITY trip.

Closing Announcements

- Our next meeting will be held on February 24th, 2026.
- Submit your membership forms to snelson@phxindcenter.org
- If you would like to volunteer for us, complete the form: <https://phxindcenter.org/volunteer/>
- 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 4:03 PM.

Next Meeting

Date: February 24th, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Phoenix Indian Center – Hybrid Meeting

**PHOENIX
INDIAN
CENTER**

ESTABLISHED 1947



2026 Meeting Registration Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/4R6-k6bnQRWjaZMBUojoDg>

Note: Registration only needs to happen once. Once registered, you will have access to all future UICAZ meetings until December 2026.