



**Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona
COALITION MEETING**

Tuesday, March 24, 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. Shermaine Nelson – PIC/UICAZ
2. Kyrene Yazzie – PIC/UICAZ
3. Kennedy Slowtalker-Begay – PIC/UICAZ
4. Loren Bahe – PIC/UICAZ
5. Ethan Tsosie – PIC/UICAZ
6. Kimberly Kee – PIC/UICAZ
7. Cameron Martin – PIC/UICAZ
8. Tierra Edison – PIC/UICAZ
9. Bah Bigman – PIC/UICAZ
10. Cante Zephier – PIC/UICAZ
11. Rechelle Harrion – PIC/UICAZ
12. Ashlee Craig – PIC/UICAZ
13. Aeisha Williams – Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation-Wassaja Family Services
14. Allen King – Haven Health Management
15. Belen Sanchez – Health and Human Services
16. Beth Tom – Northland Care
17. Brianna Bryan – Charlie Health
18. Dalila Guerrero – Maricopa County Public Health
19. Delvina Charley – AZ Peer Support & Advocates
20. Haley Doi – Superior Court of Maricopa County
21. Julia Chavez – Arizona Complete Health
22. Leann Mantanona – Native American Connections
23. Levi Long – Axiom Care - Yideeskáqdi Hózhóǫ́jí Center
24. Louisa Cadman – Arizona Department of Child Safety
25. Marcus Minardo – Coach
26. Matthew Brodt – Osborn School District
27. Mayra Solis – Phoenix College
28. Natalia Rodriguez – ASU
29. Nathan Wagner – Creative Refinery
30. Rebecca Ochoa – PYT Guadalupe Prevention Partnership
31. Rosetta Walker – S'edav Va'aki Museum
32. Ryan Martin – Maricopa County Public Health
33. Sarah Meston – Stepstone Family and Youth Service
34. Shannon Hadley – Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine Council, Tribal Affairs Team
35. Sharon Banda – Gila River Indian Community Courts
36. Sophia Marjanovic – Parent
37. Terra O'Brien – Quail Run Behavioral Health
38. Trudy Pekala – Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine Council
39. Winona Miller – Tempe PRE

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

Cante welcomed attendees and prompted all virtual attendees to type their name and organization into the Zoom chat box. In person attendees provided their signature on the sign-in sheet.

Icebreaker introductions completed popcorn style with the question: Mountain vacation or beach vacation? Cante 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, Cante mentioned to type their answer in the chat and continue to type their name and organization in the chat.



Cante and attendees reviewed UICAZ's mission statement, and meeting agenda.

Review Meeting Minutes from February 24, 2026.

Bah Bigman motioned to approve the February meeting minutes. **Louisa Cadman** seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. There was no discussion regarding the meeting minutes. The majority voted in favor of approving the February meeting minutes, and the motions have been adopted.

Organization Spotlight Series

Phoenix College Hoops of Learning presented by Mayra Solis

Hoops of Learning (HOL) is a program that supports Native American high school students, this educational opportunity is provided to nine out of ten Maricopa community colleges. HOL is a scholarship-based program, and students can earn up to 36 college credits. Students take transferable general education courses to allow them to get ahead of their secondary education and experience a college lifestyle. Qualifications include students maintaining a GPA of at least 2.0 or higher and being an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe. HOL mission statement is to encourage and support educational attainment of American Indian students utilizing Maricopa Community Colleges district programs, resources, and collaborative partnerships.

The benefit of HOL allows Native American students to get a head start by earning college credits in high school. We require that students attend their classes in-person and on-campus. They can participate in fun and informative cultural events and workshops. HOL provides students to meet other Native American students with similar goals. Students are also able to build their resumes for college and scholarship applications. Enrolled students typically attend class on Saturdays from 8:30am to 11:30am. HOL also provides semesters during the summer for students to complete classes. The summer sessions are held from Monday to Thursday, with students enrolled in two classes.

Mayra is currently accepting students' application for the upcoming summer semesters. If students are interested in attending a different community college location, that can be worked out as well.

Mayra Solis, PC HOL Coordinator – HOOP@phoenixcollege.edu - (602) 532-8154

Coalition Updates

Gathering of Native Americans (GONA)

- Kimberly K. reported out – We hosted a community GONA March 14th with 14 attendees; it was held here at PIC. We're looking forward to our next GONA's occurring in May.

Living in 2 Worlds

- Tierra E. reported out – This curriculum is intended for youth to avoid risky behaviors. They are taught REAL strategies which stands for "Refuse Respectfully, Explain, Avoid, and Leave." We currently are at Madison Park Middle School on Tuesdays; we're halfway through the curriculum. We're also at Osborn Middle School and Capitol Elementary School on Wednesdays. We are close to completing Osborn Middle School. Tomorrow we'll be teaching lesson 10. Upcoming news regarding our summer camps, the first camp will be held from June 8th to June 18th. The second camp will be from June 29th to July 10th. Please stay on the lookout for registration information for our L2W summer camps.

Parenting in 2 World

- Cameron M. reported out – This is a 10-week evidence-based program for caretakers of American Indian youth. We currently have classes being held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and



Thursdays. Registration for cycles 8, 9, and 10 are currently closed. These cycles are almost complete and have been going very well. We have open registration for cycle 12 to be held on Wednesday evenings; registration will end on April 1st. Cycle 13 is upcoming and will be held on Thursday evenings; it will begin April 16th.

- 04/16//2026 Registration: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

QPR Gatekeeper Training

- Bah B. reported out – QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer. We held a training session in February, and about 15 community members were QPR trained. QPR is an hour and a half long; this training is evidence-based and informs participants how to ask the suicide question. Our next QPR training will be held on April 8th, from 2:00pm to 3:30pm.
 - QPR Training Registration: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

- Rechelle H. reported out – 23 community members attended the ASIST training held at Glendale Community College on March 5th and 6th. This was a successful training course with no issues. These community members were affiliated with GCC's behavioral health courses. We're glad to continue working with GCC and sharing this information with their current students.

American Indian Suicide Prevention Convening (AAS)

- Cante Z. reported out – We are about a month away from our SP convening, and we are sold out as of this morning! Our event will be taking place at the Double Tree Mesa hotel, located off W. Holmes Ave and Alma School Rd. We're going to have a lot of amazing speakers over the two-day convening. The convening will cover very important information that covers the three distinct tracks of youth and families, clinical, and cultural.

Network Support Roundtable

- Cante Z. reported out – Our next NSR will be hosted online via Zoom. It will be held from 1:00pm to 2:30pm on April 14th. NSR is for professionals trained in suicide prevention or currently working in behavioral health, and related fields. It's an opportunity for professionals to come together to discuss their successes and challenges in these fields. We're currently waiting to receive our event flyer, but you are still able to register at the QR code shared on the screen.
 - NSR Registration: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

FINAL Youth Coalition

- Ashlee C. reported out – The prevention subcommittees event will occur on April 30th titled Bridging Generations Decolonizing Stigma. They will create a presentation on stigma and how harmful it is to the community. It's harmful specifically to community members seeking health and rehabilitation services. We're happy to announce that we'll collaborate with the Homeland Collective for their second event. Homeland will support the prevention subcommittee and screen print on T-shirts for all youth present.

Cultural Workshops



- Kimberly K. reported out – We held a Navajo Song and Dance cultural workshop on February 28 at the Glendal Highschool Gym. We had a great turnout with 66 youth who signed in, but there were about 400-500 people who attended. On March 3rd we held another workshop that included a Three Sisters Stew Food Demo, with the Laveen School District. It was great to see youth cooking the stew alongside their families. There were about 19 youth in attendance. On April 8th we're planning a drum making workshop with the Tempe Elementary School District. And April 16 Drum making workshop with Madison Park. Both drum making workshops are private events with each school.

American Red Cross First Aid Opioid Overdoses Training

- Bah B. reported out – This is an online training available for community members. Typically, American Red Cross charges for this training, but PIC can cover the training charges if you're interested in enrolling. We have an online registration form available on our training flyer. This training teaches how to administer Narcan, and recognizable symptoms of an overdose.

Drug Take Back Day

- Rechelle H. reported out – Will be held on April 25th, we're partnering with Phoenix Indian Medical Center for this event. This event is affiliated with the DEA and their National Drug Take Back Day. We are currently waiting on the flyer, but I think it will be from 10:00am to 2:00pm. People can bring their unused medication, but they are not accepting used needles.

GCAHR: Research Project

- Loren B. reported out – We are starting lesson one with GCAHR and we've been recruiting parents from all over the valley. We're recruiting parents until April 7th. Currently we have about six parents enrolled in this program. They'll be split into our P2W and Healthy Families in Two Worlds projects. Please spread the word we're still accepting parents into this research project.

ASU SIRC – L2W Research Project

- Cameron M. reported out – The next Youth Advisory Board (YAB) meeting will be on April 21. Our YAB consists of 11 youth working with the center to improve our Living in Two Worlds curriculum. It's also geared toward youth vaping prevention strategies. We offer focus groups that are conducted with ASU SIRC and PIC. Our website will provide upcoming focus groups that families can attend and contribute to. Eligibility for focus groups is open to parents with youth aged 11 to 17 who self-identify as American Indian. Please reach out to Ethan with any questions.

UICAZ Subcommittee Events

- Kimberly K. reported out – The training and workshops subcommittee is hosting their first webinar 'Indigenous Communities Healing Together: Family is Sacred Series' with speaker Loris Taylor. This webinar will be hosted on March 26th from 5:30PM to 7:30PM on Zoom. Registration is currently open for this webinar.

Beyond the Odds: Understanding the Unique Realities of Problem Gambling - RECAP

- Rechelle H. reported out – It was a very informative symposium. What was really notable was the discussion around young people practicing gambling. Gaming online is considered gambling because they're betting on things occurring in gaming. Crypto currency was discussed as an outlet



of gambling. The speakers discussed gambling relating to youth and college aged individuals. Alcohol, drug abuse, and gambling can interplay with each other. It's important to be aware of what our young people are practicing and being involved with.

- [News | Problem Gambling](#)
- [A California man started gambling at age 11. By college, he was betting 15 hours a day.](#)

Subcommittee Breakout Sessions / Subcommittee Debrief:

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

Attendees: Allen King, Ashlee Craig, Bah Bigman, Levi Long, Mayra Solis, Nathan Wagner, and Trudy Pekala

We discussed our 22 Tribes project that we'll be renaming in the near future. An update to share is that a media outlet is willing to collaborate on the 22 tribes project with our subcommittee. We discussed unique calls to action or goals with this project. We wanted to announce a roll call for our UICAZ volunteers who contributed significant hours last year. We want to ensure these mailouts are received, including their certificates and gift incentives.

- **Training & Workshops (Report-out provided by Kimberly Kee)**

Attendees: Sophia Marjanovic, Dalila Guerrero, Winona Miller, Ryan Martin, Shermaine Nelson, and Kimberly Kee

We discussed our upcoming webinar series with our first session occurring on Thursday, March 26. We provided an update to the committee on our speaker Loris Taylor; she's prepared for the webinar. We also reviewed the webinar proposals and those who have accepted being presenters. We've decided to accept 5 presenters, when originally were planning to have 4. We're deciding on how to create surveys; an example would be using a zoom poll or QR code surveys. We want to include an incentive raffle drawing to encourage people to stay online.

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

Attendees: Loren Bahe, Sharon Banda, Sarah Meston, Hailey Doi, and Louisa Cadman.

We discussed our upcoming ICWA symposium that we're aiming to host in November. We planned an external meeting on April 10th at 10:00am. If anyone knows anyone in ICWA please let us know. We are still looking for a location to host the symposium. We want to include resources tablers, integrating culture in behavioral health services, and advocating for the kids.

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

Attendees: Cante Zephier, Rechelle Harrion, Julia Chavez, Beth Tom, Rosetta Walker, Rebecca Ochoa, Marcus Minardo, and Shannon Hadley

We're working to schedule our talent showcase to potentially occur in September along with the #AMileFor walk. This showcase is themed as an open mic/slam poetry, to possibly take place at a coffee shop. It's an outlet for healing to provide a space for young adults participating. We want to display our young adult's resilience and art expressions. We will continue working to solidify different locations to host this event.

Coalition Member Announcements/Community Calendar



- **Phoenix Resource Connection Meeting** – group started with Native American Connections and Axiom Care. This will eventually become a monthly meeting to include non-profits, agencies, and community groups. Lunch will be provided, and we'll have guest speaker Brittany Clark, an Outreach Specialist with Solari.
 - Contact Levi if you're interested in having a resource table at our event.
 - Date: Tuesday, April 21st
 - Time: 11:30am to 1:00pm
 - Location: Indian School Visitor Center
- **Osborn Native American Parent Meeting**
 - Date: Thursday, April 16th
 - Time: 5:30pm to 6:30pm
 - Location: Osborn Elementary School
- The Maricopa County Department of Public Health is currently seeking youth to join our Youth Advisory Council (YAC) for its 6th cohort. The purpose of this council is to offer leadership opportunities, training, relationship-building experiences, and a platform for youth to voice health issues impacting their communities within the County. We are looking for enthusiastic youth aged 13-19 who can commit to participating in bi-monthly virtual meetings for one year. Our aim is to create a safe and inclusive environment where young people can share their perspectives and help us make a positive impact in their communities. Youth participants will receive a small incentive for their involvement and will have opportunities to engage with department leaders.
 - Applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM on April 30th, 2026, to be eligible for consideration. Link to Application: <https://forms.office.com/g/n2QgGRPX1S>
- Tribal Opioid Summit - Planning has started with ADHS.
 - Contact Dominic Orso if you are interested in participating. dominic.orso@azdhs.gov
- 2026 AATCP Treatment Court Conference – The AATCP Treatment Courts Conference aims to unite professionals from various sectors of the criminal justice system for 2.5 days of education and networking. The event focuses on improving Arizona's treatment courts by offering specialized educational sessions and innovative topics.
 - Allen King will be doing workshops at the conference.
 - Date: April 7 to 10
 - Location: Prescott Resort and Conference Center
 - City/State: Prescott, AZ

Closing Announcements

- 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 3:59 PM.

Next Meeting

Date: April 28, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Phoenix Indian Center – Hybrid Meeting

**PHOENIX
INDIAN
CENTER**

ESTABLISHED 1947



2026 Meeting Registration Link: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

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