



**Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona
COALITION MEETING**

Tuesday, June 23, 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. **Loren Bahe** – PIC/UICAZ
4. **Jolene Fernandez** – PIC/UICAZ
5. **Bah Bigman** – PIC/UICAZ
6. **Cameron Martin** – PIC/UICAZ
7. **Tierra Edison** – PIC/UICAZ
8. **Rechelle Harrion** – PIC/UICAZ
9. **Cante Zephier** – PIC/UICAZ
10. **Ashlee Craig** – PIC/UICAZ
11. **Janelle Allen**
12. **Kory Billie** – Community Advocate
13. **Shenoa Prettyshield** – DV & MMIR Educator
14. **Beth Tom** – Medical Case Manager at Northland Cares
15. **Tashira Turner** – Program Manager of Engagement & Accessibility with AZ Department of Child Safety
16. **Lita Granado** – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona
17. **Joyce Givens**
18. **Sharon Banda** – CASA Coordinator Gila River Indian Community
19. **Haley Doi** – ICWA Coordinator for Maricopa County
20. **Nathan Wagner** – Creative Refinery
21. **Lynda Murden** – CASA Maricopa
22. **Sheena Fowler** – Native Health
23. **Kasaundra Johnson** – Department of Child Safety
24. **Terra O'Brien** - Clinical Program Manager at Quail Run Behavioral Health
25. **Lolan Lauvao** – Guest Speaker
26. **Whitney Saulsberry**
27. **Allen King**
28. **Natalia Rodriguez** – ASU SIRC
29. **Natalian Ballon** – Research includes Me
30. **Davina Mena**
31. **Candida Vanegas**
32. **Sheila Pablo-Bandin**
33. **Rosetta Walker**
34. **Emanuel Manakaja**
35. **Martha Sullivan**
36. **Sheina Yellowhair-Flores**
37. **Regina Begay-Roanhorse**
38. **Patty Santillannes-Soto**
39. **Elisia Manuel**
40. **Sophia Marjanovic**
41. **Bre Guzman**
42. **520-237-6127**
43. **Valynia John**
44. **Kevin Brown**
45. **Ryan Martin** – Native American Community Health Specialist at Maricopa County
46. **Clyde Miller** – TCDC

Meeting Called to Order at 1:10PM by Shermaine Nelson



Shermaine welcomed attendees and prompted all virtual attendees to type their name and organization into the Zoom chat box. In-person attendees passed the microphone for introductions.

Icebreaker introductions were completed in popcorn style with the question: *What is the last movie you watched?* Shermaine 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, Shermaine mentioned typing their answer in the chat and continuing to type their name and organization in the chat.

Shermaine and attendees reviewed today's agenda.

Review Meeting Minutes from May 26, 2026.

Nathan Wagner motioned to approve the May meeting minutes. Emanuel Manakaja seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. There was no discussion regarding the meeting minutes. The majority voted in favor of approving the May meeting minutes, and the motions have been adopted.

Organization Spotlight Series

Lolan Luavao presented on Resilient People, Healthy Teams and Stronger Communities.

Lolan presented on workplace and coalition wellbeing and how we can thrive and grow in our workspaces. We learned how to create environments by taking ownership, building relationships, and working together for a common purpose. Lolana noted they are all deeply connected and often, we are doing more with less. Lolana emphasizes burnout and how communication makes all environments whole. Mentioning that the greatest challenge is not the workload but the disconnection. Disconnection from the purpose and support. Lolana shows examples by discussing resilience-- developing the capacity to adapt. Lastly, Lolana emphasizes the important points that are the connection; people stay where they feel connected and supported. Connection builds belonging and belonging creates strength. Importantly, connecting people back to purpose builds resilience. Main points to mention.

- People want healthy workspaces
 - Healthy work culture comes into place when the mindset switches from observer to owner in workspaces
- Healthy communities are built by people who are willing to step forward and take lead
- Main Takeaways
 - Connection
 - Purpose
 - Ownership

Presentation ended in breakout rooms with coalition members, and discussions were based upon the main takeaways on the questions below.

- What is one challenge affecting workplace well-being in your organization?
- What is one strength already present in your organization?
- What is one action you can personally take within the next 30 days to contribute to a healthier workplace?

Coalition Updates

Gathering of Native Americans (GONA)

- Jolene F. reported out – Gathering of Native Americans, also known as GONA, is a culturally based planning process where community members come together to address community-identified



issues through interactive and empowering approaches that supports American Indians. It is led by trained facilitators and is a one-day workshop. We recently had our 2 –Spirit GONA on 6/6. And on 6/15 and 6/16 we completed our Youth GONA that occurred at the June L2W Camp. Our upcoming Youth GONA will be 7/7 and 7/8 at our July L2W Summer Camp.

Living in 2 Worlds (L2W)

- Tierra E. reported out – L2W is an evidence-based curriculum intended for middle school youth to learn how to get themselves out of risky situations involving substances. We just wrapped up our June L2W Summer Camp where approximately 15 youth Native completed! Looking forward, we will not have any L2W cycles until school starts in the fall. Our next L2W sessions will be happening 7/2-7/10 at Frank Elementary School in Tempe, AZ. L2W is open to incoming 6th graders and outgoing 8th graders. There are still spots available!

Parenting in 2 World (P2W)

- Cameron M. reported out – P2W is a 10-week culturally grounded, evidence-based program designed for parents and caregivers of American Indian youth. Within 10 weeks, you will learn about the stages of child development, social, emotional, academic, and physical changes, as well as other skills to strengthen your communication skills with your children.

QPR Gatekeeper Training

- Bah B. reported out – QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer. It is an evidence-based suicide prevention training that is 1.5 hours long, done virtually. QPR helps one to see and the signs if someone is thinking about suicide. In addition, to learning, practicing and feeling more confident on how to ask if they are going to do suicide. Our upcoming QPR will be on 7/22 from 12:00pm-1:30pm via Zoom.

safeTALK

- Ashlee C. reported out – safeTALK is a 4-hour in-person training that prepares community members to become a suicide safe alert helper and to recognize invitations from individuals experiencing thoughts of suicide. We have an upcoming safeTALK training on August 5th from 9am-1pm. Registration is open.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

- Cante Z. reported out – ASIST is a 2-day 8-hour long suicide prevention training for community members at no cost. ASIST teaches you how to have an intervention with the individual by using the PAL model and creating a safety plan for the individual. It is our high-tiered SP training we offer at the Center. We have an upcoming ASIST on August 20 and 21. Registration is open.

American Red Cross First Aid for Opioid Overdoses

- Rechelle H. reported out – This is an online interactive 45-minute training in collaboration with the American Red Cross Association. This training teaches how to administer Narcan, provide appropriate care based on the person's symptoms, and recognize signs of an opioid overdose. Please reach out to us if you are interested in this training.

Safeguarding Medications (Rx360)

- Rechelle H. reported out – Rx360 is a training that helps participants see the signs if someone is abusing prescription medication, looking at data based on the Arizona Youth Survey, and



importantly, how to keep the medication safe in your home. We completed a community training at the AC Beuf Community Center where 9 community members earned a certificate of completion.

June L2W Summer Camp Cultural Workshop

- Shermaine reported out – Youth at the L2W Summer Camp participated in many various cultural workshops that included a basketball clinic, bead necklace making, hoop making, apron making, frybread making, clay making, and engaging with ASU royalties.

Subcommittee Breakout Sessions / Subcommittee Debrief:

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

Attendees: Rechelle Harrion, Cante Zephier, Shannon Hadley, Beth Tom, Sheila Pablo-Bandin, Kory Billie, Emanuel Manakaja

The SP subcommittee is solidifying their Talent Showcase location that will be occurring on 9/12/26. In addition, they will be having an external SP subcommittee meeting on 6/29 at 3pm.

- **Recruitment & Outreach (Report-out provided by Nathan Wagner):**

Attendees: Bah Bigman, Ashlee Craig, Nathan Wagner, Clyde Miller, Diane Martinez, Matt Brodt, Rosetta Walker, Candida Vanegas, Valynia John, Miriam

As there were new members, the Recruitment and Outreach committee did a round of introductions. Went over the recommendation of subcommittee bylaws. R&O discussed the limitations to the 22 Tribes Project. Lastly, R&O discussed the Breakfast Event for next year.

- **Training & Workshops (Report-out provided by Tierra Edison)**

Attendees: Tierra Edison, Ryan Martin, Janelle Allen, Sophia Marjanovic

T&O are working on their evaluation surveys for their online webinar series.

- **Urban Indian Child Welfare (Report-out provided by Sharon Banda)**

Attendees: Loren Bahe, Cameron Martin, Haley Doi, Sharon Banda, Elisia Manuel, Tashira Turner, Bertha Dentdeel, Monica Homer, and Sarah Meston.

ICWA is currently working on and discussing their flyer for the November Symposium. In addition, they are working on their purpose/mission to be more inclusive of all Native youth who experienced out of home care and connecting them back to community. In addition, they are working on bylaws.

Coalition Member Announcements/Community Calendar

- **Organization** – Event description
 - **Marsha Sullivan from the Madison School District is preparing to have a Back-To-School Community Resource Event happening on 7/23/26. Martha is looking for external organizations to come table and provide information to parents.**
 - **Contact:** msullivan2@madisoned.org
 - **Ryan Martin from the Maricopa County Health Department provided a public announcement of bringing awareness to heat mitigation and illness. Ryan noted to be**



mindful of our elders and youth and being weary of where our hydration and cooling stations are located. In addition, when you call or utilize 2-1-1 you are able to get free transportation to the nearest cooling and hydration stations.

- More information: maricopacounty.gov

Closing Announcements

- Our next meeting will be held on July 28, 2026.
- Submit your membership forms. We will have a link sent to the chat for this. Fill out an email to us.
- 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 4:00PM.

Next Meeting

Date: July 28, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Phoenix Indian Center and via Zoom— Hybrid Meeting

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.