



**Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona  
COALITION MEETING**

Tuesday, July 28, 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
2. Bah Bigman – PIC/UICAZ
3. Cameron Martin – PIC/UICAZ
4. Cante Zephier – PIC/UICAZ
5. Ethan Tsosie – PIC/UICAZ
6. Jolene Fernandez – PIC/UICAZ
7. Kimberly Kee – PIC/UICAZ
8. Kyrene Yazzie – PIC/UICAZ
9. Rechelle Harrión – PIC/UICAZ
10. Rowan Moore – PIC/UICAZ
11. Shermaine Nelson – PIC/UICAZ
12. Tierra Edison – PIC/UICAZ
13. Alfredo Valdivia – Maricopa County Department of Public Health
14. Allen King – Consultant
15. Almalia Berrios – NACA
16. Alpha Bayoh – Hopeful Hands LLC
17. Angela Montiel – Pima County Health Department
18. Arlene Bowman
19. Ashley Monreal – Tucson Indian Center
20. Bertha Denetdeel – PIC Young Elder
21. Beth Tom – Northland Cares
22. Betty John – Mercy Care Tribal Liaison
23. Bobby McClure – OPUS Recovery Center
24. Bre Guzman – South Mountain WORKS
25. Davina Mena – AZ Division of Problem Gambling
26. Clyde Miller – TCDC/HEAAL
27. Dalila Guerrero – Maricopa County Public Health
28. Diana Martinez – Young Elder/PIC
29. Halia Shirley – Tucson Indian Center
30. Hannah Magick – City of Phoenix of Public Health
31. Howard Brown – SA Tribes
32. Janelle Allen – Young Elder/PIC
33. JoAnn Ragsdale – Opus Recovery
34. Jonie Thompson
35. Joyce Givens – Maricopa County
36. Julia Chavez – Arizona Complete Health
37. Kasaundra Johnson – DCS
38. Kory Billie – Community member
39. Lauren Friedman – AZ Department of Liquor
40. Lita Granado – PIC Young Elder
41. Lora Pawiki – U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
42. Lynda Murden – Maricopa CASA
43. Mafi Pamaka – Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine Council
44. Marcus Minardo – Health Coach
45. Matthew Brodt – Osborn School District
46. Mayra Ramirez – St. Joseph's Hospital & Medical Center
47. Michael Mazzocco – Mazzocco For Phoenix
48. Michelle Homer – PIC Young Elder
49. Millicent Pepionn – Red Data Consulting
50. Monica Homer – PIC Young Elder
51. Monica Rivera – AZ Complete Health
52. Natalia Ballon – Research Includes Me
53. Natalia Rodriguez – ASU Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center
54. Phil Shea – Native American Urban Ministry Church
55. Quincy Stewart – ASU
56. Ray Badoni
57. Rosetta Walker – Global Center for Applied Health Research
58. Ryan Martin – Maricopa County Public Health
59. Sarah Meston – StepStone Family and Youth Services
60. Sharon Banda – Gila River Indian Community
61. Sophia Marjanovic – Just Schools
62. Tashira Turner – AZ Department of Child Safety
63. Terra O'Brien – Quail Run Behavioral Health
64. Terrance Miguel – Gila River Health Care
65. Trudy Pekala – Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine Council
66. Whitney Saulsberry – Braeburn
67. Winona Miller – Tempe PRE



### **Meeting Called to Order at 2:10PM 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 passed the microphone for introductions.

Icebreaker introductions were completed in popcorn style with the question: *What movie/book universe would you most like to live in?* 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 typing their answer in the chat and continuing to type their name and organization in the chat.

Cante and attendees reviewed today's agenda.

### **Review Meeting Minutes from June 23, 2026.**

**Joyce Givens** motioned to approve the May meeting minutes. **Clyde Miller** seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. There was no discussion regarding the meeting minutes. The majority voted in favor of approving the June meeting minutes, and the motions have been adopted.

### **Organization Spotlight Series**

There was no organization spotlight at the July meeting. Cante stated that the spots for the spotlight series in August and September were open. Contact [czephier@phxindcenter](mailto:czephier@phxindcenter) if interested.

### **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 a two-day Youth GONA at our July L2W Camp on 6/6 and 6/7. Our upcoming 2Spirit GONA will be on 8/15 at the Phoenix Indian Center from 9:00am-3:00pm and is open for registration.
  - Click [HERE](#) to register.

#### **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 July L2W Summer Camp where approximately 28 youth completed! Looking forward, we have four cycles scheduled throughout the fall semester at Anderson Junior High School, Osborn Middle School, Desert Meadows School, and Kenilworth Junior High School. These cycles are closed to the students at each respective school.

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

- Kim K. 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. Registration for Cycle 14, Cycle 15,



and Cycle 1 is closed. Cycle 2 (Tuesday evenings) is open until August 4<sup>th</sup>. Cycle 3 (Wednesday evenings) starts on August 5<sup>th</sup> and registration is open until August 19<sup>th</sup>.

- Click [HERE](#) to register for an upcoming cycle.

### **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. On 7/22, our team held a successful community training with 20 participants completing. Our next QPR will be on 9/16 from 12:00pm-1:30pm via Zoom. Registration is open.
  - Click [HERE](#) to register for September QPR.

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1 pm. Registration is open.
  - Click [HERE](#) to register for August safeTALK.

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

- Cante Z. reported out – ASIST is a 2-day 8-hour 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 training we offer at the Center. We have an upcoming ASIST on August 20 and 21. Registration is closed, but there is a wait list available.

### **Network Support Roundtable**

- Ashlee C. reported out – For those trained or experienced in suicide prevention and intervention, this workshop offers a safe space to discuss barriers, successes, and challenges in mental health awareness. This workshop also offers participants the opportunity to connect with peers and strengthen your own support network. Our next NSR will on 8/13 from 1:00pm-2:30pm and will be virtual. Registration is open.
  - Click [HERE](#) to register for NSR.

### **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.

### **July L2W Summer Camp Cultural Workshop**

- Cameron M. reported out – Youth at the L2W Summer Camp participated in many various cultural workshops that included a basketball clinic, beading earrings, dreamcatcher making, resilient food, medicine bag making, music workshop, and screen-printing.

### **Youth Coalition**

- Cante Z. reported out – The Prevention Subcommittee of the F.I.N.A.L. Youth Council had their first day of orientation on 7/28. There are 28 youth in the youth council and Inauguration is this Saturday, 8/1.

### **ASU SIRC: L2W Research Project**

- Ethan T. reported out – The first phase of this project finished recently. We are now working on the next phase of this project which is reviewing the youth's feedback about vaping and implementing it in the curriculum. The Youth Advisory Board's most recent meeting was held on 7/21 and their last meeting will be an end of the year celebration that will be held on 8/18.

### **Trainings & Workshops Subcommittee**

- Ethan T. reported out – There is an upcoming webinar occurring on 8/6 from 5:30pm-7:30pm. This session will be with Peer Solutions and is titled "Strengthening Protective Factors to Prevent Suicide and Substance Misuse". The following sessions will occur in September and November.
  - Click [HERE](#) to register for upcoming webinar.

### **Professional Development**

- Kim K. reported out – Kim and Ethan were able to attend the National Tribal Tobacco Conference in Minneapolis and learned about the divide between traditional and modern tobacco. Cante and Bah and Cante attended the Native American Suicide Prevention Awareness Conference in Isleta Pueblo. They learned about tribal specific efforts and what was being done to help support our relatives.

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

- **Suicide Prevention Committee (Report-out provided by Rowan Moore):**

Attendees: Rowan Moore, Tierra Edison, Cante Zephier, Julia Chavez, Ashley Monreal, Janelle Allen, Quincy Stewart, Beth Tom, Ray Badoni, Marcus Minardo, Lorae Pawiki, Monica Homer, Lorae Pawiki

The SP subcommittee is solidifying their Talent Showcase speakers that will be occurring on 9/12/26 at the Sagrado. They also discussed the upcoming #AMileFor walk and their plans for suicide prevention awareness month.

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



Attendees: Ashlee Craig, Kim Kee, Shermaine Nelson, Allen King, Rosetta Walker, Matthew Brodt, Lita Granado, Phil Shea, Trudy Pekala, Alpha Bayoh, Michelle Homer, Clyde Miller

R&O recognized that the coalition is growing and asked for any events or opportunities that they could help support and table events. The next project that the subcommittee is planning is their 22 Tribes project. Lastly, they are in the process of planning their annual volunteer breakfast.

- **Training & Workshops (Report-out provided by Winona Miller)**

Attendees: Ethan Tsosie, Bah Bigman, Cameron Martin, Alfredo Valdivia, Howard Brown, Davina Menda, Diana Martinez, Hannah Magick, Ryan Martin, Sophia Marjanovic, Winona Miller, Dalila Guerrero, Kory Billie, Lauren Friedman

Due to the change in support staff and an increase in new members, T&W began with a round of introductions. During their breakout, T&W talked about their next webinar session in September. Lauren has offered step in and lead the webinar on drunk driving awareness.

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

Attendees: Jolene Fernandez, Rechelle Harrion, Sharon Banda, Michael Mazzocco, Kasaundra Johnson, Sarah Meston, Tashira Turner, Joyce Given, Lynda Murden, Millicent Pepion, Monica Rivera, Terra O'Brien

ICWA welcomed their new members. Next, the subcommittee discussed their upcoming symposium and brainstormed speakers and resource tablers that could potentially attend the event.

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

- **Just Schools** – Hosting a Birddog training on August 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Birddogging is a nonviolent direct-action tactic where individuals ask someone with influence and/or decision making power on the record and immediately report it to the media to pressure them to support a cause. This tactic has consistently been effective in replacing current decision makers with new ones.
  - Sign up for Birddog Training here: [tinyurl.com/justbirddog](https://tinyurl.com/justbirddog)
- **Maricopa County Department of Public Health** – Has various resources and trainings about sexual health for young adults and adolescents. They also have Youth Mental Health First Aid training opportunities available.
  - For more information please email: [alfredo.valdivia@maricopa.gov](mailto:alfredo.valdivia@maricopa.gov)
- **Tucson Indian Center** – There will be a community GONA on August 21-22. To register please email [hshirley@ticenter.org](mailto:hshirley@ticenter.org). TIC will also be hosting two community events: an art contest and Hope for Life. For more information on these events please email [amonreal@ticenter.org](mailto:amonreal@ticenter.org). More information on their website.
- Allen King is seeking mentors for art therapy and creative skills therapy. He plans on organizing outreach events with mentors for Adobe Mountain Middle School Juvenile Corrections Facility. For more information please email: [allenking.consulting@gmail.com](mailto:allenking.consulting@gmail.com)
- **2026 Tribal Opioid Summit** – Happening on November 18, 2026 from 8:00am-5:00pm at Harrah's Ak-Chin Resort and Casino. For more information please contact: [autumn.white@azdhs.gov](mailto:autumn.white@azdhs.gov)

### **Closing Announcements**

- Our next meeting will be hybrid and will be held on August 25, 2026.



- 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](http://www.uicaz.org).

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59PM.

### **Next Meeting**

Date: August 25, 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.**