



## Arizona Parent's Commission on Drug Education and Prevention Meeting Minutes

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July 16, 2019  
10:00 AM

HIGH COUNTRY CONFERENCE CENTER  
201 West Butler Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
Aggasiz Conference Room

**A general meeting of the Arizona Parent's Commission on Drug Education and Prevention convened on July 16, 2019. Notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the Parent's Commission.**

### Members Present

Bryan Cox, Chair

Laura Ciscomani (Phone)

Kristine FireThunder

Beatriz Hurtado (phone)

Bryan Harris (Phone)

### Members Absent

Denise Beagley

Eric Meaux

David Reede

Raynee Schneider

### Staff and Guests Present

Merilee Fowler, MATFORCE

Claudia Espinoza, Friendly House

Lucia Nolasco, Friendly House

Candelana Montes de Oca, Friendly House

Jane Dowling, Wellington Group Consulting

Lyra Contreras, Wellington Group Consulting

Marilyn Douline-Begley, Tse HooTsooi Medical Center

Angie Rodriguez, SHCA

Diane Jenkins, Phoenix Indian Medical Center

Amanda Erickson, SHCA

Jake Gordnea, CBI

Ophelia Goatson, CPLC Parenting AZ

Susan Alameda, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family

Malcolm Hightower, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family

Leona Morales, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**Bryan Cox, Commission Chair**, called the meeting to order at 10:22 a.m.

**B. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

**Chairman Cox** welcomed members and guests. Mr. Cox asked that commissioners and staff introduce themselves.

**C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Minutes for the meeting held May 29, 2019, were reviewed. **Commissioner Kristine FireThunder** made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Bryan Harris** and approved by all.

**D. The Wellington Consulting Group, Ltd. PRESENTATION**

**Jane Dowling**, President and Chief Executive Officer, provided an evaluation report on Year Two of the Wellington Consulting Group, Ltd. involvement with the Parents Commission programs. **Jane Dowling** discussed annual performance measures, including stating that 39,897 people were directly impacted and there were 7,705,109 people who were indirectly impacted by the programs. **Jane Dowling** stated that those that were rated as indirectly impacted were those that have been involved in programs previously, people who share their new knowledge, and those that have discussions on the parenting programs. **Jane Dowling** reviewed the number of public education and awareness events that the grantees hosted. Jane stated that there were 1,375 events, including Red Ribbon Week and tables at community events. Jane gave an evaluation overview regarding the process evaluation that is designed to include an analysis and monitoring each grantee's process of creating and implementing a parenting program. Outcome evaluations were also discussed as being designed to measure the overall effectiveness of each program in meeting its goals and objective in the context of insights gained from the process evaluation as well as looking at the target outcomes across all of the sites. **Jane Dowling** discussed the process evaluation contains 3 different processes for official evaluation: 1) web-based systems 2) Monthly process report forms and 3) Standard Fidelity Survey. **Jane Dowling** discussed that each month there is a monthly process form in which the programs discuss challenges. In this process, participants are asked about technical assistance needs and family engagement activities. During the Standard Fidelity Survey, which is also tracked monthly, implementations like training and education, parental involvement, and education on risks are evaluated based on number of implemented. **Jane Dowling** addressed the factors that influence program performance, including staffing, recruitment and enrollment, retention, and collaboration. Jane discussed the positive and negative aspects that have been discovered on this topic, particularly regarding collaboration with past participants and current difficulties some programs have with recruitment. Jane discussed how Wellington had helped with recruitment by advising and suggesting collaboration with different entities.

**Jane Dowling** discussed the site areas served as consisting of 10 Arizona counties and the Navajo Nation. This includes 39% in Maricopa County and 26% in Pima County. It was stated that a Majority of grantees work with local coalitions that focus on substance use/abuse and that 83% of grantees work on evidence-based or evidence informed programs. 87% of programs address both family risk factors and individual risk factors. **Jane Dowling** discussed the diversity that was seen across sites, including the female to male ratios, age ranges, and race/ethnicity. Another cross site area that was looked at

were common outreach and recruitment, type of collaboration with agencies/entities, type of sustainability activities implemented, and type of workforce development activities implemented. The presentation then addressed outcome evaluations, including the parent and youth survey, quarterly reports, and annual individual reports. **Jane Dowling** pointed out that family conflict has decreased, family cohesion has increased, and family management has increased from reports before and after year 2. **Jane Dowling** suggested that this is a result of participants retaining and using knowledge from the program. **Jane Dowling** clarified that the report breaks down by programs, and that the main effect is on family cohesion. **Jane Dowling** presented recommended actions plans regarding parents now asking for reports and follow up and facilitators being bilingual to assist better with communication and interactions with parents.

- **Malcolm Hightower** asked if the materials are available in English and Spanish. **Jane Dowling** responded by saying that they are available and translation services are available. She said that any grantee can ask for translation to ensure that the surveys are better understood by those who need to take them.

#### **E. MATFORCE, Inc. PRESENTATION**

**Merilee Fowler, Executive Director of MATFORCE** presented “Working together to create healthier communities.” Ms. Fowler reviewed the coalition’s Mission Statement, which is “With determination and integrity, we, the citizens of Yavapai County, commit to working in partnership to build healthier communities by striving to eliminate substance abuse and its effects.” **Merilee Fowler** discussed the formula for success, including having champions with a common vision, a willingness to collaborate and turning ideas into action. **Merilee Fowler** gave an overview of the MATFORCE organization structure, including Board of Directors, Steering Committees, and Workgroups. **Merilee Fowler** reviewed the Board of Directors and stated that MATFORCE was very fortunate to have the specific group. **Merilee Fowler** then discussed the different workgroups including the Prenatal Care team which started in 2011 on addressing prescription drug problems and the Pharmacy Team which is primarily pharmacists from the community. Social media was discussed as helping public awareness and education, including TV and Radio commercials, billboards and signs, Rack Cards, flyers and brochures, press releases, TV and Radio talk shows, Health Fairs and Community events. **Merilee Fowler** specifically spoke on how Yavapai commercials have been great for advertising. **Merilee Fowler** stated that there were 300 people on the different committees that help with projects, including the school district project of establishing 250 buses with MATFORCE signs. **Merilee Fowler** spoke on school education programs: Stand with Me, Be Drug Free, Keep a Clear mind, What Do You Know- Rx, Rx 360, and Chasing the Dragon. It was reported that around 10,000-15,000 children have participated in these programs annually, including Prescott Valley which requires students to attend a class and Yavapai colleges and student athletes who are involved in programs. **Merilee Fowler** discussed that 158 parents participated through classes last year in which MATFORCE discussed ACEs, had a series for foster parenting classes, law enforcement, drug recognition trainings and warning signs of drug use. Supporting recovery and treatment programs were addressed with a focus on the Yavapai reentry project which has provided volunteer community coaches since 2012. **Merilee Fowler** mentioned that this program has shown an amazing success rate and reports have come in from citizens stating that the program saved their lives. **Merilee Fowler** mentioned that the program will be making a video of the process and the success stories. Professional trainings like motivational interviewing,

trauma informed care, adolescent brain development, Arizona Drug Summit, and the Opioid Summit were listed. The second annual Drug Summit, partnered with HIDTA, will be held on September 23 & 24 and has 450 people registered.

**Merilee Fowler** talked to the committee about how MATFORCE has advocated for good policies over the years, including individual and environmental strategies. One implementation by MATFORCE was a taken back event in which over 35,000 lbs. of medication was provided by the community. An upcoming Marijuana, Think Again program will be on August 5<sup>th</sup>. **Merilee Fowler** also discussed that MATFORCE programs had been advocating for Trauma lens care, including working with law enforcement and community health departments to notify schools if and when a child has experienced trauma.

- Commissioner **Kristine FireThunder** asked if there is a cost for participating in the programs that include train the trainer. **Merilee Fowler** said that there is no cost to participate.
- **Commissioner FireThunder** asked if after they get their training who they report to. **Merilee Fowler** responded that MATFORCE continues to identify, evaluate, and staff even after training has been completed.
- **Chairman Cox** asked what happens to overdose death data that is collected and who is it shared with. **Merilee Fowler** stated that the research shared with the public and they do further interviewing with families to collect even more data, along with holding a press conference every year that includes a report and recommendations to tackle the issue.

#### **F. Grantees Update DISCUSSION**

**Leona Morales**, Program Administrator, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family (GOYFF) provided an update on the Grantees and Collegiate Recovery Programs. Ms. Morales discussed completing 4 site visits since the May 29, 2019 meeting. **Leona Morales** gave an overview of the programs that were completing the 3 year grant cycles. It was stated that on July 30<sup>th</sup>, there will be a full-day orientation for all grantees. **Leona Morales** stated that for each grantee, a financial specialist and program administrator are required to attend. Currently, there is a waitlist because of the large interest that grantees are showing in attending the orientation. **Leona Morales** also informed the Commission that all reimbursements for the closing of completed grants are being finalized. **Leona Morales** mentioned that the system will be transitioning to a digital filing system for this grant cycle.

#### **G. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

NONE

#### **H. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

A call to the public was conducted. There was no requests to speak.

#### **I. FUTURE AGENDA/MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Chairman Cox** said that the next meeting will be on September 18, 2019 at 10:00 AM at the State Capitol's Executive Tower, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room in Phoenix, Arizona. Future meeting dates that were also presented were: November 20, January 22, March 18, and May 20 in 2020.

#### **J. ADJOURN**

A motion was made to adjourn by **Commissioner Kristine FireThunder** at 11:19 AM, seconded by **Commissioner Bryan Harris** and approved by all.

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