



## Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention Meeting Minutes January 17, 2024, 10:00 AM

A general Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention meeting convened on January 17, 2024, with notice duly given. Present and absent were the following members:

Members Present (5)	Members Absent (2)
Denise Beagley, Chair	Michael Klinkner
Deputy Chief of Staff Tracy Lopes	Nicholas Stavros
Chief Robert Martin	
Lori Robinson	
Marina Lantsman-Waugh	
Staff and Guests Present (5)	
Nicole Valenzuela, GOYFF	Sara Sherman, Presenter
Executive Director Andrew LeFevre, Presenter	Gauri Gladish, Presenter
Matt Bileski, Presenter	

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Beagley called the Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention meeting to order at **10:06 AM** with **five** present and **two** absent members.

### 2. ROLL CALL

Chairperson Beagley welcomed members and guests, taking attendance via roll call.

### 3. MEETING PRESENTATIONS

#### Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

##### Executive Director Andrew LeFevre

- **Chairperson Beagley** welcomed and introduced **Executive Director Andrew LeFevre** to the meeting to give an overview of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) and the Arizona Youth Survey (AYS).
- **Executive Director LeFevre** thanked the commission for the opportunity to present. He began his presentation by stating that in partnership with Arizona State University, ACJC administers AYS every two years (A.R.S.§41-2416). The AYS is Arizona's leading tool to assess the frequency of problematic behaviors and how they correlate in youth across the state. The AYS focuses on the following: substance use, gang involvement, risky behaviors, and risk and protective factors.
- **Executive Director LeFevre** shared that AYS is the nation's largest sample size and longest-running youth survey. The 2022 AYS received participation from 51,448 8th, 10th, and 12th-grade students from 301 schools across all 15 counties. The survey is anonymous, voluntary, online, based on a nationally recognized survey methodology, and free to schools. The schools or districts decide on implementing AYS and, per state law, provide parental notification and passive parental consent forms.
- **Executive Director LeFevre** stated that the most commonly abused substances reported on the 2022 AYS were alcohol, marijuana, e-cigarettes, and marijuana concentrates, adding that the overall trends in substance use continue to decrease.
- **Executive Director LeFevre** reported that the top reasons for using alcohol and drugs are stress-related, and the top reasons for not using are related to not wanting to

disappoint parents, caregivers, or other trusted adults. Measuring risk and protective factors is where the AYS is valuable to schools and community-based organizations to guide where to focus their resources and efforts to produce change.

- **Executive Director LeFevre** shared additional benefits of the survey, including participating schools and districts receiving customized reports, a data visualization center with available community-level information, data supporting funding efforts for stakeholders, assistance in program development, and a complete understanding of the social determinants of health.
- **Executive Director LeFevre** stated that schools seeking to participate can contact the teams at ACJC and ASU, adding they are prepared to engage with community partners to maximize participation.
- **Chairperson Beagley** thanked **Executive Director LeFevre** for his presentation and asked if commission members had any questions.
  - **Commissioner Robinson** commented learning that eighth graders have such diverse substance use was alarming. **Executive Director LeFevre** responded the last three AYS results have shown various substance use amongst eighth graders.
  - **Commissioner Lantsman-Waugh** asked if there was a statistically significant difference in substance use between genders. **Mr. Matt Bileski** responded that the data shows there is a slightly higher rate of substance use for females, and the team will continue with further analysis to gain a better understanding of the contributing factors. **Commissioner Lantsman-Waugh** asked if they share AYS data with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to contribute to the youth survey they administer. **Executive Director LeFevre** responded no.
  - **Chairperson Beagley** asked if they had seen any correlation between substance use and an increase in youth violence. **Mr. Bileski** responded that the gang threat assessment team is working to complete further analysis around this.
  - **Commissioner Lopes** asked how to identify the gender distribution in the data visualization center. **Mr. Bileski** shared the dashboard's gender denotation.
- To view the **Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's** presentation, [click here](#).

### Arizona Youth Partnership

**Ms. Sara Sherman and Ms. Gauri Gladish**

- **Chairperson Beagley** welcomed and introduced **Ms. Sara Sherman** and **Ms. Gauri Gladish** to the meeting to provide an update from the Arizona Youth Partnership (AYP).
- **Ms. Sherman** and **Ms. Gladish** thanked the commission for the opportunity to present. **Ms. Gladish** stated that AYP envisions a future with empowered youth, solid and stable families, and thriving communities. Working at a grassroots and systems level, AYP partners with communities to provide youth services, prevention programs, and health education related to substance use, homelessness, human trafficking, mental health wellness, teen pregnancy, and challenging family dynamics. AYP utilizes AYS data to inform programming decisions that build solid foundations for youth and families, creating conditions, opportunities, and experiences that encourage and develop healthy, self-sufficient individuals. AYP has identified that the youth in Cochise, Mohave, and Pima County report higher rates of family conflict, parent attitudes favorable to drug use, and low-income family management compared to the rest of the state, finding parents as protective factors and the first line of defense for preventing youth substance use.
- **Ms. Sherman** shared that the Strengthening Families Project is a free, in-person, 8-week program for parents/guardians and youth ages 10 - 14, with hot meals provided

before each session. It increases family connection, reduces conflict, and connects families to the community by covering topics such as peer pressure resistance, reducing stress, finding family values, better communication skills, problem-solving, goal setting, and understanding one another better. The project utilizes the evidence-based curricula from Iowa State University's Strengthening Families Program 10 - 14 and Rx360.

- **Ms. Sherman** shared that they serve in juvenile detention centers, elementary and middle schools, and, most recently, military bases. After seeing an increase in substance use and the impact of social media on the youth, the delivery of AYP programming is on base.
- **Ms. Sherman** shared they have prioritized ensuring accessibility for families that need American Sign Language (ASL), foreign language interpretation, and travel to communities for in-person cohorts. Often, families needing ASL translation cannot participate in prevention programming due to multiple barriers, challenges, and increased risk factors, requiring additional support. **Ms. Sherman** relayed a story of a participant needing ASL and shared that by attending their program, she felt included and experienced a sense of belonging. The participant added that the program alleviated the pressure for her daughter to interpret for her.
- **Ms. Sherman** shared that their program efforts focus on building on current and cultivating new partnerships, integrity and transparency, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- **Chairperson Beagley** thanked **Ms. Sherman** and **Ms. Gladish** for their presentations and asked commission members if they had any questions; they did not.
- To view **Arizona Youth Partnership's** presentation, [click here](#).

#### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Chairperson Beagley** requested a review of the **November 15, 2023** meeting minutes.

- **Commissioner Martin** motioned to accept the minutes.
- **Commissioner Lopes** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes at **11:11 AM**.

#### 5. APPROVAL OF THE PARENTS COMMISSION BY-LAWS

**Chairperson Beagley** requested a review of the revised Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention By-Laws.

- **Commissioner Robinson** motioned to accept the revisions.
- **Commissioner Lopes** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes at **11:13 AM**.

#### 6. PARENTS COMMISSION GRANTEE UPDATES

**Ms. Nicole Valenzuela**

**Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family**

**Nicole Valenzuela**, Substance Abuse Manager at the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF), shared grantee updates, providing an overview of the progress and benefits of monthly check-in meetings. Meetings have focused on appropriate delegation of state, federal, and local funding sources utilized for the same programming and strengthening collaborations with partners that support community engagement and expand the knowledge of available resources and supportive services.

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Chairperson Beagley** asked if commissioners had any announcements to share.

- **Chairperson Beagley** shared that the formerly named Arizona State University Winter Institute, now the Arizona Summit, will occur March 7 – 8, 2024.

## 8. FUTURE AGENDA/MEETING SCHEDULE

**Chairperson Beagley** stated the next meeting is **March 20, 2024**, at **10:00 AM** in a hybrid format for members unable to attend in person.

## 9. ADJOURN

**Chairperson Beagley** thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn.

- **Commissioner Robinson** moved to adjourn.
- **Commissioner Martin** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed without dissenting votes, and the meeting adjourned at **11:21 AM**.

18th Day of January 2024  
Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Nicole Valenzuela  
Substance Abuse Manager, GOYFF

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