



**Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention  
Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2021  
10:00 AM**

A general meeting of the Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention convened on September 15, 2021. Notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the Parents Commission.

Members Present (8)	Members Absent (1)
Denise Beagley (Chair)	Michael Klinkner
Kristine FireThunder (Co-Chair)	
Lori Robinson	
Raynee Schneider	
Chief Robert Martin	
Asst. Chief Sherry Burlingame	
Marina Lantsman-Waugh	
Nicholas Stavros (Proxy: Tina Braham )	
Staff and Guests Present (7)	
Tonya Hamilton	Maria Gonzalez
Nicole Valenzuela	Anastasia Stinchfield
Kim Brooks	Dr. Jane Dowling
Kevin Bushaw	Lyra Contreras
Martha Williams	

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Co-Chairperson FireThunder** called the Parents Commission meeting to order at **10:01 a.m.** with 8 members present and 1 member absent.

**ROLL CALL**

**Co-Chairperson FireThunder** welcomed members and guests. **Co-Chairperson FireThunder** took attendance via roll call at 10:03 am.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Co-Chairperson FireThunder** requested a review of the **July 14, 2021** meeting minutes. **Commissioner Schneider** motioned to accept the minutes. **Commissioner Burlingame** seconded the motion at 10:05 a.m. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

## **PARENTS COMMISSION MEETING PRESENTATIONS**

### **Wellington Group Consulting**

#### **Dr. Jane Dowling**

**Co-Chairperson FireThunder** welcomed and introduced **Dr. Jane Dowling**, President & CEO, of Wellington Consulting Group, Inc. **Dr. Dowling** thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present.

- **Dr. Dowling** shared the Parents Commission Grant Program goals and programming requirements. She shared that Wellington was the evaluator for the Parents Commission Grant. **Dr. Dowling** provided an overview of the evaluation process to the commission.
- **Dr. Dowling** stated they administer a process evaluation and outcome evaluation. A process evaluation is the analysis and monitoring of each grantee's implementation of parenting programming. An outcome evaluation is designed to measure the overall effectiveness of each program in meeting their goals and objectives.
- **Dr. Dowling** stated that parent and youth surveys, quarterly reports, annual individual reports, and annual aggregate reports are provided and included in the outcome evaluation.
- **Dr. Dowling** stated that they have created a web-based system for the grantees to utilize. The grantees enter quantitative and qualitative data into a monthly report and they submit standard fidelity surveys for evidence-based programs to be analyzed by Wellington.
- **Dr. Dowling** shared the target outcomes for the Parents Commission grant include; family functioning, family cohesion, family management, family connectedness, family involvement, family conflict, and parental stress. **Dr. Dowling** reported that the national outcome measures include parent/child communication for youth and adults, attitudes toward youth substance use for youth and adults, and perception of risk/harm of substance use for youth and adults. **Dr. Dowling** shared that grantees will include these target outcomes in the development of their goals and objectives.
- **Dr. Dowling** shared that they will present the Parents Commission Grant Program Annual Report outcomes and recommendations at the November 17, 2021 Parents Commission Meeting.
- The complete presentation can be reviewed at <https://goyff.az.gov/councils-commissions/arizona-parents-commission-drug-education-prevention>

**Co-Chairperson FireThunder** thanked **Dr. Dowling** and asked the commission if there were any questions. There were no questions from the commissioners present or virtual. **Co-Chairperson FireThunder** thanked **Dr. Dowling** for her presentation.

### **ASU School of Social Work: 2020 & 2021 Summer & Winter Institute**

#### **Mr. Kevin Bushaw, Conference & Events Manager**

**Co-Chairperson FireThunder** welcomed and introduced **Mr. Kevin Bushaw, Conference & Events Manager**. **Mr. Bushaw** thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present.

- **Mr. Bushaw** provided a recap of the 2020 and 2021 Summer and Winter Institute conferences offered by ASU School of Social Work. Both events were held in a hybrid or virtual format. **Mr. Bushaw** thanked the commission for the Parents Commission funding for these conferences.

- The Summer Institute focused on behavioral health and provided an opportunity to learn, collaborate, and partner with providers and stakeholders across different sectors.
- **Mr. Bushaw** stated that the six main focus areas included addressing the opioid epidemic, substance use disorder prevention and treatment; integrated care; workforce development; trauma informed approaches, and working with special populations and conditions.
- Mr. Bushaw shared that the focus of the Winter Institute was first responder and behavioral health cross-training.
- **Mr. Bushaw** stated that the conference was an opportunity to “break down silos” and to align knowledge and resources for first responders and providers. **Mr. Bushaw** stated that it is imperative to provide the holistic resources needed for first responders since it is reported that they have a high rate of substance and alcohol use and increased rates of death by suicide.
- **Mr. Bushaw** stated that the conferences recognized the need to increase engagement with the American Indian and Alaskan Native communities to identify and decrease service gaps.
- **Mr. Bushaw** shared the planned topics for the 2022 Summer and Winter Institute. He stated that the scheduled launch for the conferences would be on October 6, 2021 and details would be on the ASU School of Social Work website.
- The complete presentation can be reviewed at <https://goyff.az.gov/councils-commissions/arizona-parents-commission-drug-education-prevention>

**Co-Chairperson FireThunder** thanked **Mr. Bushaw** for his presentation and asked the commission if there were any questions.

- **Co-Chairperson FireThunder** asked **Mr. Bushaw** what conference app was utilized. **Mr. Bushaw** shared that ASU created their own app for the conference.
- **Commissioner Burlingame** shared that it was amazing to have so many entities gather to raise awareness about the mental health and behavioral health challenges faced by law enforcement. **Commissioner Burlingame** stated that it was important for law enforcement to increase their knowledge to identify underlying issues and to discern when additional support is needed for individuals in lieu of taking them into custody. **Mr. Bushaw** stated that it was important to gather a diverse community of providers to focus on these topics and destigmatize their need for support.
- **Chairperson Beagley** shared that it is vital to break down barriers and to eliminate the stigma by providing the training to introduce self-care, cross training, and practical application of these skills in the field.
- **Commissioner Schneider** shared that she attended the Winter Institute and it was an incredible event and very well organized.
- **Co-Chairperson FireThunder** thanked **Mr. Bushaw** for his presentation.

**City of Tempe: CARE 7**

**Ms. Martha Williams, Ms. Maria Gonzalez and Anastasia Stinchfield**

**Co-Chairperson FireThunder** welcomed and introduced **Ms. Martha Williams, Crisis Intervention Specialist, Ms. Maria Gonzalez, Sr. Social Services Coordinator, and Anastasia Stinchfield from the CARE 7 team. Ms. Williams** thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present.

- **Ms. Williams**, shared that CARE 7 was established in 1997 with the support of the Tempe Police and Tempe Fire Medical Rescue with one part time staff member and few volunteers. They now have over 60 staff members to address needs outside the scope of law enforcement and emergency medical services. In the beginning, they responded to calls that were primarily related to loss of life and they have now adapted to the growing needs of the community.
- **Ms. Williams** stated that the CARE 7 programs include; CARE 7 Crisis Response Unit, VS276 Victim Services and Crisis Response Unit, Mental Health Response Team, Victim Services, High School Youth Specialists, Veteran Services and Case Management, Counseling, and Trauma Informed Care
- **Ms. Williams** shared that the Crisis Response Unit supports clients or victims experiencing traumatic situations. They assess the client's physical and mental health needs and provide resources on-site or via referral to meet those needs. **Ms. Williams** stated that the team refers to other city programs and services when appropriate.
- **Ms. Williams** stated that the Victim Services Crisis Response team responds to the scene of a criminal investigation per police or fire department request to provide support and mobile advocacy to victims of crime. They assess the client's physical and mental health needs and create a safety plan when needed. Individuals are provided on-site services and receive necessary referrals.
- **Ms. Williams** stated that the Mental Health Response team was funded this fiscal year. The team will provide on-scene crisis intervention for behavioral health crises in the community. They will conduct assessments including psychosocial histories and analysis of presenting and underlying issues to identify the client needs and appropriate treatment plan options. **Ms. Williams** shared that the team will assess immediate mental health needs to ensure client safety and will connect the client with voluntary or involuntary treatment options when appropriate.
- **Ms. Stinchfield** shared that the Victim Services team interacts with victims and families to provide on-going assistance and emotional support. The team serves as liaisons with Tempe Police Department and Tempe Municipal Court. The team will accompany clients to court hearings and assist with Orders of Protection and Injunctions Against Harassment. The team provides information and assistance regarding the investigation and criminal justice system, informs the client on Victim's Rights and compensations programs; and facilitates support groups for victims.
- **Ms. Williams** shared that CARE 7 provides case management and Veteran Services for long-term supportive services for individuals and families referred by the crisis team, Tempe Fire, Tempe PD, Patient Advocacy Services, and community partners. The team conducts an assessment and facilitates service connection and compliance. The team also makes appropriate referrals to community agencies for service needs including VA benefits, mental health, senior, and youth services. The team provides services for defendants in East Valley Regional Veterans Court and Tempe Mental Health Court.
- **Ms. Gonzalez** stated that the CARE 7 team offers counseling services on a sliding scale based on income and family size to ensure that the community has access to care. The team conducts intakes and assessments and makes the appropriate referrals when needed. The team assesses safety concerns and follows mandated reporter requirements. The CARE 7 counseling team provides services to high school students in the Substance Abuse Program. If a student is suspended for substance use or related issues, they are required to attend three counseling sessions before returning to school. They coordinate wraparound services as needed.

- **Ms. Gonzalez** shared that High School Youth Specialists are on-site at each of the seven high schools in the district and have received funding to be on-site at some elementary and middle schools. The specialists meet with students one on one for emotional support and to run support groups. The specialists provide connection to CARE 7 services, referral to community agencies, and supply basic need items. The specialists work with the school staff and school resource officers to identify and assist students with high needs. The team was embedded in schools to provide the support needed to reduce the number of crisis calls received from the schools.
- **Ms. Williams** shared that they implemented the Trauma-Informed Care Initiative with the support and guidance of Parents Commission member **Ms. Lori Robinson**. The goal is to create a resilient Tempe that recognizes trauma as a major public health threat and is responsive through policy to the needs of individuals who have experienced toxic stress in their lives. **Ms. Williams** shared that they assist with training and ongoing professional development of City of Tempe personnel. The team supports implementation of trauma informed care in Tempe programming. CARE 7 will open a Trauma Healing Programming and Advocacy Center. The services will include support groups; parenting, financial, nutrition, and life skills classes; yoga/mindfulness; music and art; and cultural heritage projects.
- The complete presentation can be reviewed at <https://govff.az.gov/councils-commissions/arizona-parents-commission-drug-education-prevention>

**Co-Chairperson FireThunder** thanked **Ms. Williams and the CARE 7** for their presentations and asked the commission if there were any questions.

- **Commissioner Lantsman-Waugh** asked what the acronym CARE 7 meant. **Ms. Williams** stated that it stood for Crisis Assistance Response Effort and the number 7 is related to the engine number for Tempe Fire Medical Rescue.
- **Chairperson Beagley** asked about the number of calls that CARE 7 receives. **Ms. Williams** stated that they receive approximately 1,600 crisis van calls and 300-400 victim service calls. **Ms. Williams** shared that they anticipate receiving approximately 300-400 calls for mental health when that van is in service.
- **Commissioner Schneider** asked the number of youth the team receives calls for. **Ms. Gonzalez** shared that they did not have that number at that moment, but they were receiving an increase in calls from the schools for suicidal ideation and behaviors and now that the team has been embedded in the schools those calls have dropped significantly.
- **Commissioner Lantsman-Waugh** asked about the volunteer program with CARE 7. **Ms. Williams** shared that the website contained information about how to become a volunteer with CARE 7. She stated that many of their volunteers have been there for many years and they currently do not have any openings for volunteers.
- **Commissioner Schneider** thanked the CARE 7 team for their work and services.
- **Co-Chairperson FireThunder** thanked **Ms. Williams and the CARE 7** team for their presentation.

## **PARENTS COMMISSION GRANTEE UPDATES**

**Ms. Nicole Valenzuela**

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

**Co-Chairperson FireThunder** invited **Ms. Nicole Valenzuela**, Program Administrator, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family, to share grantee updates with the commission.

**Ms. Valenzuela** stated that Wellington provided the individual annual reports for each grantee and she has been meeting with each grantee to review recommendations and provide technical assistance and support as Year 3 gets started. **Ms. Valenzuela** shared grantee Site Visits are being conducted in-person and virtually and provides an opportunity for GOYFF to assess the program from a programmatic and financial perspective. **Ms. Valenzuela** stated that the grantees have developed both in-person and virtual platforms to be responsive to public health care protocols while still delivering programming to the communities they serve.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Co-Chairperson FireThunder** asked if any commissioners had any announcements they would like to share.

- **Deputy Director Tonya Hamilton** shared the following announcements:
  - The 2021 Lighting Arizona Purple will be hosted on 10/4/2021 from 6:00pm-7:00pm in recognition of domestic violence and sexual assault awareness month.
  - The Governor's Youth Commission continues to recruit high school 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders from Apache and Gila counties. The commission would like to have youth representation regarding the challenges and interests of youth in all 15 counties.
  - Commissioners that travel from other counties can submit a Travel Claim. The Program Administrator, Nicole Valenzuela, will provide the information that is needed to submit the request.
  - **Co-Chairperson FireThunder** asked **Deputy Director Hamilton** if the commissioners would be sponsored by the Parents Commission to attend the 2021 Arizona Drug Summit. **Deputy Director Hamilton** stated that she would find out if the commissioners would be able to attend the conference.  
**Chairperson Beagley** stated that the Parents Commission had sponsored the members to attend in the past. **Deputy Director Hamilton** stated that Ms. Valenzuela would inform the members about attendance at the conference.
- **Commissioner Robinson** requested a presentation related to the impact of marijuana concentrated substances on the neuropsychological well-being of youth.

## FUTURE AGENDA/MEETING SCHEDULE

**Co-Chairperson FireThunder** stated the next scheduled meeting is set for November 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Executive Tower. **Co-Chairperson FireThunder** announced that the meeting would be hybrid (in-person & virtual) for those unable to attend in-person.

## ADJOURN

**Co-Chairperson FireThunder**, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner Robinson** moved to adjourn. **Commissioner Lantsman-Waugh** seconded the motion. The motion passed with no dissenting votes and the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

17<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2021  
Parents Commission  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Nicole Valenzuela  
Program Administrator, GOYFF