



**Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission  
February 1, 2024 9:30 AM  
Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family  
Hybrid Meeting**

**1700 West Washington Street, Suite 230, Phoenix, Arizona 85007**

A general meeting of the **Arizona Juvenile Justice Council (AJJC)**  
convened on **February 1, 2024**, notice duly given.

Members Present (15)	Members Absent (8)
Cindi Nannetti, Chair	Jane Kallal
Tracy Darmody, Vice Chair	Erica Maxwell
Alice Bustillo	Dorothy Wodraska
Donald Walker	Earl Newton
Doug Sargent	Guadalupe Durazo
Veronica Guzman	Joseph Grossman
Helen Gandara	Suzanne Nicholls
Joseph Kelroy (Proxy, Steve Selover)	David Lujan
Nicole Schuren	
Vada Jo Phelps	
Jose Gonzales	
James Molina	
Maria Dodge	
Shawn Cox	
Shaun Rieve	
Staff and Presenters (6)	
Dr. Karen Johnson, Presenter	Emily Uline-Olmstead, GOYFF
Kelly Tanner, Presenter	Shayne Johnson, GOYFF
Veronica Guzman, Presenter	Amy Peep, GOYFF

**Call to Order**

- **Cindi Nannetti, Chair**, called the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission (AJJC) to order at **9:31 AM** with **15** members and five staff/guests present, and **eight** members absent. She reviewed the Commission meeting procedures and thanked the attendees for their flexibility.

**Welcome / Introductions / Roll Call**

- **Cindi Nannetti, Chair**, asked members to acknowledge their attendance during roll call.

**Approval of Minutes**

- **Cindi Nannetti, Chair**, stated reaching quorum and requested a review of the December 14, 2023, meeting minutes.
  - **Vada Jo Phelps** moved to accept the meeting minutes.
  - **James Molina** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes at **9:36 AM**.

## Title II Partnership | Arizona Youth Partnership (AZYP)

- **Cindi Nannetti, Chair**, introduced **Kelly Tanner** from [Arizona Youth Partnership \(AZYP\)](#) to speak on their programming in Yavapai County.
- **Ms. Tanner** began her presentation by discussing their programming goals and use of Mind Matters programming.
- **Ms. Tanner** mentioned that they have a strong relationship with juvenile probations in their county, and they use those relationships to help track recidivism from the youth served to see how effective their programming is. One of their biggest challenges with the services offered is that it can be tough to get families engaged. Still, when they successfully engage families, it helps reunification and offers wrap-around services for all family members. They offer curriculum in school settings during school days and in their three youth shelters.
- **Ms. Tanner** continued her presentation to discuss their partnerships and how they collaborate. They run three shelters in Yavapai County, where youth receive wrap-around services and the Mind Matters programming. Through the Title II Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Formula Grant, they can provide additional staff who go into the schools and work to reach youth who are struggling before they require diversion or charged; they rely on their relationship with school counselors to provide the referrals and help to bridge that gap for those youth who are at risk. They also teach the Mind Matters curriculum to different community groups in Yavapai County.
- **Ms. Tanner** explained the Mind Matters curriculum is a set of practical coping skills that help youth overcome adversity and day-to-day challenges in a practical manner. The kids can learn and use these skills right where they are instead of going to counseling or programming outside of their existing schedules. There has been positive feedback about the programming from youth, and they often come back and share stories of how they implemented the skills they learned in different situations.
- **Ms. Tanner** discussed their case management services:
  - Typically offered to adjudicated youth on a 1:1 level or in a small group setting.
  - The focus and priority is on the youth in the shelter setting.
  - Staff will sit with the youth and talk to them about what they want to accomplish; they will help them establish goals, complete adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and other assessments, and then use that information to set up a plan for the youth. They continue to offer mentoring to these youth and will engage with the families (when they choose to) to support them in whatever ways are needed, including counseling funds and connecting them to other community resources.
- The impact of the programming offered through AZYP is measured by various factors (see slide 8), and they have seen positive improvements in all areas.
- **Doug Sargent** asked how many kids AZYP serves in the shelter setting.
  - **Ms. Tanner** responded that they serve about 40 kids each year.
- **Doug Sargent** asked how AZYP tracks recidivism and what rates they see.
  - **Ms. Tanner** responded that they track recidivism rates through their county partners, which are currently low. She added that specialty courts track recidivism differently and determine whether the youth has received new charges within 6-12 months. Still, a probation violation does not count towards the recidivism rate.
- **Cindi Nannetti, Chair**, asked about the case manager's background qualifications
  - **Ms. Tanner** responded about the importance of lived experience and how that builds credibility with the youth they serve. They encourage bachelor's degrees, but it is not a requirement. They all have their Identity Verified Prints (IVP) cards, a background check before starting, and 40 hours of training before being placed in the field.
- **James Molina** asked if shelters have licensing through the state.

- **Ms. Tanner** responded yes, they are licensed through the state and can house youth for 21 days, but they have a contract with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) that permits them to keep youth for longer if needed.
- **James Molina** asked what the shelter setting looks like with dually adjudicated kids
  - **Ms. Tanner** responded they only have about 10-15% of their kids who are dually adjudicated, so it is a small percentage, but that they do have a contract with Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) to serve these kids.
- **Steve Selover (Proxy for Joseph Kelroy)** asked how many families are involved in the 40 youth served in shelters annually.
  - **Ms. Tanner** responded that an estimated third of the families get engaged as many parents don't understand AZYP's role, assuming they have connections to probation or DCS and do not want them to take their kids away.
- To view **Ms. Tanner's** presentation, [click here](#).

## Title II Partnership | New Pathways for Youth

- **Cindi Nannetti, Chair**, introduced **Dr. Karen Johnson** from [New Pathways for Youth \(NPFY\)](#).
- **Dr. Johnson** began her presentation by discussing NPFY's purpose and mission statements and the target population they serve: youth 13-21 living in extreme poverty who have three or more ACEs.
  - NPFY started 35 years ago in the Garfield neighborhood and has expanded to serve Central and South Phoenix and Maryvale.
- **Dr. Johnson** continued by sharing about the "Level Up" programming.
  - Last year, they changed the name as an intentional way to grab the youth's attention (because it is a gaming term), and it speaks to what they are trying to help youth do to "Level Up" in life.
  - Level Up is a four-part approach, but at its core is the 1:1 match with a mentor, as they know that the strongest intervention for addressing ACEs is a strong, caring relationship with an adult.
  - They also have an ongoing personal development curriculum for mentors and the youth. The youth and mentors come to their center monthly for training on topics including developing resilience, healthy coping skills, decision-making, etc.
  - They host monthly activities that get youth and mentors together in the community, such as bowling, volunteering, college visits, etc., to build community and have fun.
  - Lastly, they offer case management services for youth and families, connecting them to wraparound services specific to their needs.
- **Dr. Johnson** shared that the organization's theory is that anything is possible for their youth, and the theory of the program is to decrease the risk factors that youth face and to increase protective factors, tracking program effectiveness via surveys.
  - Of the 300 youth served, 112 responded to the survey, and of those youth who responded, about half were new to the program, and half had been in the program for 2+ years.
  - The survey showed all risk factors decreased from the last survey with significant improvements in increasing specific protective factors.
- **Dr. Johnson** shared that in 2023, they served over 500 youth and over 300 youth mentor matches.
  - Over 7,000 youth served since being founded.
  - Aim to increase the youth served by at least 100 per year.
  - Some of the achievements made by students in their program:
    - Ninety-five percent of youth graduate high school.
    - Eighty percent of youth pursue post-secondary education.

- Seventy-five percent of youth are the first in their family to have a post-secondary education.
- **Dr. Johnson** discussed the new initiative they piloted at Camelback High School in Fall 2023, Level Up Academy, and two more cohorts scheduled for Spring 2024.
  - A school-based program that uses the organization's existing curriculum differently.
  - No mentor/mentee matches with this model; adult volunteers help provide curriculum.
  - Interested in bringing programming to probation and juvenile centers for the youth involved.
- **Dr. Johnson** ended her presentation by sharing two mentor/mentee match stories that showed how meaningful this programming is for the community and the youth served.
- **Steve Selover (Proxy for Joe Kelroy)** asked about funding for the Level Up Academy and how funding will look to expand.
  - **Dr. Johnson** responded that they are currently using agency funding for the pilot and that it is relatively cost-effective since they already have the curriculum in-house. However, they must find additional funding to continue expanding the Academy.
- **Steve Selover (Proxy for Joe Kelroy)** asked who facilitates the programming in schools: school staff or NPFY staff.
  - **Dr. Johnson** responded they have ten individuals trained to deliver the curriculum and are a mix of NPFY staff and contracted individuals. Additionally, they have volunteers in the classrooms.
- **Cindi Nannetti, Chair**, asked how they find their mentors.
  - **Dr. Johnson** responded word of mouth is the best referral source. Post-COVID-19 has been a challenge getting people to return, so they also do many tabling events, corporate meetings, and online advertising.
- **James Molina** asked where they get referrals from.
  - **Dr. Johnson** responded that they work with schools like Phoenix Union High School District and other charter schools in their service areas, and they get referrals from school counselors and other nonprofits who serve youth.
- **Maria Dodge** asked what training the mentors receive
  - **Dr. Johnson** responded mentors complete the exhaustive application process, complete an online course and two in-person training before being matched and receive ongoing training alongside their mentees.
- **Tracy Darmody** asked if they have considered collaborating or working with tribal communities to develop a program.
  - **Dr. Johnson** responded they would love to work with anyone to expand the services to youth in need; recruiting mentors in that situation would be helpful.
- **Cindi Nannetti, Chair**, asked if they ever recruited in Sun City.
  - **Dr. Johnson** responded no, not Sun City specifically, but that most of their mentors are in their 20s or 30s or retirees.
- To view **Dr. Johnson's** presentation, [click here](#).

#### **New Commissioner Member Introduction**

- **Cindi Nannetti, Chair**, introduced **Veronica Guzman** as a new Commission member to share her background with the other commissioners.
- **Veronica Guzman** discussed spending 15 years working with youth in behavioral and mental health counseling, sharing her previous work experiences, certifications, and licenses.
- To view **Ms. Guzman's** presentation, [click here](#).

#### **R/ED Workgroup Restarting**

- **Cindi Nannetti, Chair**, introduced **Helen Gandara**, the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Workgroup Chair, to provide an update.

- **Helen Gandara** summarized the January R/ED Workgroup meeting.
  - Four commissioners and two Arizona State University (ASU) Youth Justice Lab students attended.
  - Discussed previous workgroup duties, actions, and the purpose and focus (requirements) per the Title II Act.
  - Collected current Arizona data (through AOC) for a baseline assessment.
  - The next meeting will be during the first week of March so that AOC has time to run data analysis which will aid in the next steps to create an implementation strategy.

#### **Upcoming Meeting**

- **Cindi Nannetti, Chair**, reminded Commission Members that the next meeting will be on **May 2, 2024**, at **9:30 AM** in the Executive Tower and in a hybrid format. Commissioners are welcome to attend in person or virtually.

#### **Adjournment**

- **Cindi Nannetti, Chair**, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn.
  - **Alice Bustillo** moved to adjourn.
  - **James Molina** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes. The meeting adjourned at **10:47 AM**.

Dated February 2, 2024,  
Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Shayne Johnson  
GOYFF