



2019 Annual Report

THE ARIZONA SUBSTANCE
ABUSE PARTNERSHIP

SubstanceAbuse.AZ.gov



Governor's Office
of Youth, Faith
and Family

COMMISSION OVERVIEW

The Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) is authorized under Executive Order 2013-05 to collaboratively address substance abuse-related issues in Arizona. ASAP serves as a statewide council on substance abuse prevention, enforcement, treatment, and recovery efforts.

Mission: Develop trauma informed substance abuse policy recommendations, strategic collaboration, and statewide initiatives to strengthen the state of substance abuse prevention, enforcement, treatment and recovery efforts.

Vision: All Arizonans thrive in healthy communities free from the negative impact of substance abuse and related negative consequences.

Description of Work: ASAP supports improvements in substance abuse policy, develops dynamic partnerships, and participates in informed planning processes. ASAP has the following duties and responsibilities:

- Compile and summarize information and data on substance misuse and abuse and associated consequences and correlates, including mental illness and emerging trends, through a collaborative and cooperative data-sharing process. Identify and address data gaps in order to provide Arizona with a comprehensive picture of substance misuse and abuse.
- Utilize evaluation and research reports to promote the most effective and evidence-based programs, policies and practices across the state and make recommendations for modification as needed.
- Encourage state and local partnerships to engage in shared planning processes and build the capacity of local communities to meet identified needs and maximize resources.
- Identify and share effective practices to integrate strategies across systems that leverage existing funding and increase access to services at the community level.
- Analyze current state and federal laws and programs governing substance misuse and abuse prevention, treatment, and enforcement and recommend any changes that would enhance the effectiveness of these laws or programs.
- Recommend specific drug and alcohol related policy and budget line-items for consideration by Arizona state agencies and/or the Arizona legislature.

Membership

The ASAP consists of 25 active members who are appointed by the Governor. Staffed by the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF), ASAP includes representation from local, state and federal criminal justice; child welfare agencies; health departments; community prevention coalitions; public safety; and behavioral health, prevention and treatment providers.

Bill Montgomery

Chairperson
Maricopa County Attorney

Deborah Jones

Arizona Substance Abuse
Epidemiology Work Group

Frank Milstead

Arizona Department of Public
Safety

Maria Cristina Fuentes

Vice- Chairperson
Governor's Office of Youth,
Faith and Family

Thomas Kelly

Apache Junction Police
Department

Angela Paton

Arizona Attorney General's
Office

Cara Christ

Arizona Department of Health
Services

David Klein

United States Department of
Veterans' Affairs

Lee Pioske

The Crossroads

John Cocca

Department of Liquor License
and Control

Leah Landrum-Taylor

Department of Economic
Security

Charles Ryan

Arizona Department of
Corrections

Maureen Curley

Tribal Government

Lawrence LaVeque

Business Representative

Kathy Waters

Administrative Office of the
Courts

Merilee Fowler

Matforce

Andrew LeFevre

Arizona Criminal Justice
Commission

Wanda Wright

Arizona Department of
Veterans Services

Kathleen Grimes

Graham County Substance Abuse
Coalition

Shana Malone

Arizona Health Care Cost
Containment System

Tobi Zavala

Arizona Board of Behavioral
Health Examiners

Alberto Gutier

Governor's Office of Highway
Safety

Greg McKay

Arizona Department of Child
Safety

Jeff Hood

Arizona Department of Juvenile
Corrections

Dawn Mertz

Arizona High Intensity Drug
Trafficking Area

Activities and Outcomes

ASAP provides strategic oversight and direction to its Arizona Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group (Epi Work Group), the Community Outreach and Training Workgroup, the Arizona Substance Abuse Program Inventory Work Group, the Arizona Substance Abuse Recidivism Reduction Work Group, and the Policy Workgroup.

In addition to hearing about the outcomes and accomplishments of these bodies, ASAP received updates and expert testimony on relevant and related work including that of the substance abuse prevention program inventory, substance abuse treatment alternatives to arrest programs, the Border Strike Force, opioid misuse and abuse data updates, updates on the State Targeted Response and State Opioid Response grants, Arizona@Work program, complex developmental trauma, and updates on the opioid planning summit. Each of the aforementioned presentation themes align with and impact the substance abuse continuum of prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery. The presentations also provided key updates on statewide substance abuse activities, policy improvements, and highlighted areas for future collaboration.

Understanding the persistent threat of the opioid epidemic and drug threats facing Arizona, ASAP has partnered with the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to provide strategic oversight of the 2019-2021 Opioid Action Plan. The extent of this partnership includes: receiving agency reports on programs, policies and initiatives listed in the action plan; and developing a framework for addressing current and emerging drug threats. Following a June 6, 2019 presentation from ADHS on the current action plan, ASAP unanimously voted to provide strategic oversight of the 2019-2021 Opioid Action Plan.

In order to better categorize and align the work of ASAP, the committee, in collaboration with the Governor's Transformation Office (GTO) and GOYFF, developed a strategic plan. The strategic plan was approved on Thursday, January 10, 2019.

ASAP developed three major goals to guide the strategic planning document:

GOAL 1: Develop and support statewide prevention and early intervention efforts

GOAL 2: Increase access to substance abuse care and recovery services.

GOAL 3: Support law enforcement and criminal justice initiatives aimed at reducing substance abuse and that promote public safety.

A key component of the ASAP Strategic Plan is to integrate an understanding of the impact of trauma on addiction. Significant research has linked childhood trauma and substance use and abuse to behaviors such as the early initiation of alcohol use, continued tobacco use in adulthood, prescription drug use, and illicit drug use over the lifetime. For substance abuse prevention and early intervention programs and initiatives to be effective they must focus on creating stable and supportive environments and communities, and equip adults with the skills needed to heal their trauma and avoid traumatizing or re-traumatizing youth.

Current Subcommittees and Work Groups

ASAP completes the majority of its work through its workgroups, which are comprised of state agency staff, issue-area experts, and community stakeholders. GOYFF staff administers each work group in partnership with the chair(s) of each body. The workgroups are as follows:

ARIZONA SUBSTANCE ABUSE EPIDEMIOLOGY WORK GROUP

Provides communities, policymakers and local, state and tribal officials with data on the use, consequences and context of alcohol and illicit, over-the-counter, and prescription drugs. The data and analysis are then used to inform their substance abuse prevention and intervention strategies. The workgroup is currently working on developing a data profile on substance use and trauma.

Membership

Deborah Jones, Ph.D., (Chairperson), Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

Jaimie Jeffords, Ph.D., (Co- Chairperson), Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

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

Angela Aguayo, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

Courtney Whitley, Arizona National Guard Counter Drug Task Force

Douglas Kramer, Treatment Assessment Screening Center, Inc.

Jim Riggs, Arizona Department of Corrections

Jamie Ritchey, Ph.D., Inter Tribal Council, Tribal Epidemiology Center

Linda Jewell, Arizona Department of Child Safety

Peggy Glider, Ph.D., University of Arizona

Robert Rhoton, Psy.D., Arizona Trauma Institute

Sacha Brown, Ph.D., Administrative Office of the Courts

Sarah Lindstrom Johnson, Ph.D., School of Social and Family Dynamics, ASU

Wendy Wolfersteig, Ph.D., Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center, ASU

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND TRAINING WORKGROUP

Provides direction regarding the implementation of community substance abuse trainings and the Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse Toolkit. The workgroup is currently working to develop a web-based prevention toolkit focused on addressing substances identified by the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area as posing the greatest threat along with priority substances identified through the Arizona Youth Survey.

Membership

Jacqueline Kurth (Co- Chairperson), Arizona Industrial Commission

Tracy Cruickshank (Co-Chairperson), Maricopa Public Health

Alyssa Padilla, University of Arizona Center for Rural Health

Brett Klein, Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

Courtney Whitley, Arizona National Guard, Civil Operations, Counter Drug Taskforce

Doug Skvarla, Arizona Board of Pharmacy

Larry Tracy, Way Out West Coalition

Michelle Skurka, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

Jolyana Kroupa, Phoenix Indian Center

Ted Huntington, Chandler Coalition Against Youth Substance Abuse
Travis Williams, Arizona Attorney General's Office
Thomas Kelly, Apache Junction Police Department
Sheila Sjolander, Arizona Department of Health Services

PROGRAM INVENTORY WORKGROUP

Assesses statewide substance abuse programming, including prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery. The workgroup has been tasked with:

1. Conducting an inventory of substance abuse prevention and treatment funding.
2. Developing an interagency marketing strategy for the promotion of the Opioid Assistance & Referral (OAR) line.

Membership

Lee Pioske (Co-Chairperson), Crossroads
Merilee Fowler (Co-Chairperson), MATFORCE
Christy Dargus, Crossroads
Daniel Brooks, Banner Poison and Drug Information Center
Daniel Derksen, Ph.D., University of Arizona, Arizona Center for Rural Health
Gabriel Richard, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
Hazel Alvarenga, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
Jim Riggs, Arizona Department of Corrections
James Taylor, Arizona National Guard Counter Drug Taskforce
Kathryn McCanna, Arizona Department of Health Services
Kristen Fraunfelker, Ph.D., Banner Health
Lacie Ampadu, Arizona Department of Health Services
Sean Walsh, Meadows Behavioral Health

ARIZONA RECIDIVISM REDUCTIONS WORKGROUP

Supports the Arizona Department of Correction's (ADC) administration of the Second Chance Act grant funded through the US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (DOJ/BJA). The workgroup has been tasked by ASAP with developing technology-based solutions to enhance the availability of substance abuse treatment and recovery resources from the point of admission in the department of corrections to the point of release and community reintegration.

Membership

Michael Mitchel (Chairperson), Maricopa County Attorney's Office
Charles Ryan, Arizona Department of Corrections
Kathy Water, Administrative Office of the Courts
Larry LeVeque, Business Community Representative
Mark Hendershot, TASC Solutions
Samuel Burba, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family
Shana Malone, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

POLICY WORKGROUP

Conducts a review of current state laws and programs governing or addressing substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery and makes recommendations for changes that would enhance the effectiveness of the laws or programs.

Membership

Elizabeth Ortiz (Chairperson), Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council (APAAC)

Maria Cristina Fuentes (Co-Chairperson), Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family

Andy LeFevre, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Cara Christ, Arizona Department of Health Services

Dawn Mertz, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

Jeff Beaver, Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Merilee Fowler, MATFORCE

Paul Aguirre, National Guard Counter Drug Taskforce

Shana Malone, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

Wanda Wright, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

CONCLUSION

In State Fiscal Year 2020, ASAP will continue to implement its strategic plan and provide strategic oversight of the 2019-2021 Opioid Action Plan in partnership with the Arizona Department of Health Services. This partnership will equip ASAP to support partnering agencies in initiatives and programs outlined in the plan, assign its workgroups with targeted projects/initiatives, and further explore the development of a research-based approach for current or emerging drug threats.

The ASAP and its diverse subcommittees will continue to complete the following:

- Develop recommendations that support the implementation of a statewide continuum of prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery services.
- Develop and encourage implementation of statewide guidelines that promote the development, maintenance and improvement of evidence-based and evidence-informed prevention, treatment, education and law enforcement initiatives.
- Encourage state and local partnerships to engage in shared planning processes and build the capacity of local communities to meet identified needs and maximize resources.
- Identify and share effective practices to integrate strategies across systems that will leverage existing funding and increase access to services at the community level.
- Review current state or federal laws and programs governing or addressing substance abuse prevention, treatment and enforcement and recommend any changes that would enhance the effectiveness of the laws or programs.
- Recommend drug and alcohol related policy and budget line-items for consideration and implementation by Arizona state agencies and/or the Arizona Legislature.