



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
**DRUG FREE COMMUNITY  
 COALITION**

MARCH 9, 2022

2:00 pm

ZOOM

Meeting ID: 843 0616 2192

**Meeting called by:** Jessica Gallego **Type of meeting:** Monthly meeting  
**Facilitator:** Melissa Gallegos, Jessica Gallego **Note taker:** Claudia Hernandez

- Attendees:**
1. Aissa Acuna – Boys & Girls Club
  2. Claudia Hernandez- Constructing Circles of Peace
  3. Jessica Gallego – Constructing Circles of Peace
  4. Lupita Gonzalez – SEAHEC
  5. Cassalyn David – Mariposa Community Health Center
  6. Chief Morales – Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office
  7. Chris Bachelier – U. of A. Santa Cruz County Cooperative Extension
  8. Gina Parra – SCC Superintendent’s Office Los Padres Program
  9. Rosie Stewart – U. of A. Santa Cruz County Cooperative Extension
  10. Stephanie Zepeda – Mariposa Community Health Center
  11. Jasmin Ayala – Constructing Circles of Peace
  12. Jose Hernandez – Community Medical Services
  13. Suzette Campos – Community Health Associates
  14. Kerri Munoz - SCC Superintendent’s Office Gear Up Program
  15. Karla de la Cruz – U. of A. Santa Cruz County Cooperative Extension
  16. Michelle Jacquez – Constructing Circles of Peace
  17. Melissa Gallegos – SCC Superintendent’s Office Los Padres Program / Os3 Movement
  18. Maciel Moreno – Drug Demand Reduction Outreach / Arizona National Counterdrug Taskforce
  19. Blanca Acosta – Constructing Circles of Peace

**MISSION** To empower Santa Cruz County's communities to live a drug-free lifestyle by providing substance abuse prevention, education, establishing support to local government agencies, and empower parents and youth for success!

**VISION** To reduce drug abuse in the community, strengthen community partnerships, and maintain healthy and drug-free lifestyles by establishing community values.

**PURPOSE** Coalition seeks to increase perception of harm related to substance abuse and underage drinking in Santa Cruz County.

**Minutes**

**Agenda item:** WELCOME-INTRODUCTIONS **Presenter:** Co-chair Melissa Gallegos

**Discussion:**  
 To start meeting, Melissa gave a welcome to the members and encouraged everyone to introduce themselves.

**Agenda item:** METH PRESENTATION **Presenter:** Michelle Jacquez

- Discussion:**
- What is meth?
- A powerful, highly addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system.
- o **Is it the same as amphetamines?**  
 No, but it is chemically similar to amphetamine, a prescription stimulant that increases specific types of brain activity.
  - o **Common Street Names**
    - Blue
    - Crystal

- Ice
- Meth
- Speed
- **Emojis**

Drug dealers often use emojis to depict meth for sale.

- How meth looks like



- How meth is used
  - Snorted
  - Smoked
  - Injected
- How big is the problem?



- The new meth = increased deaths



- The new meth = more available

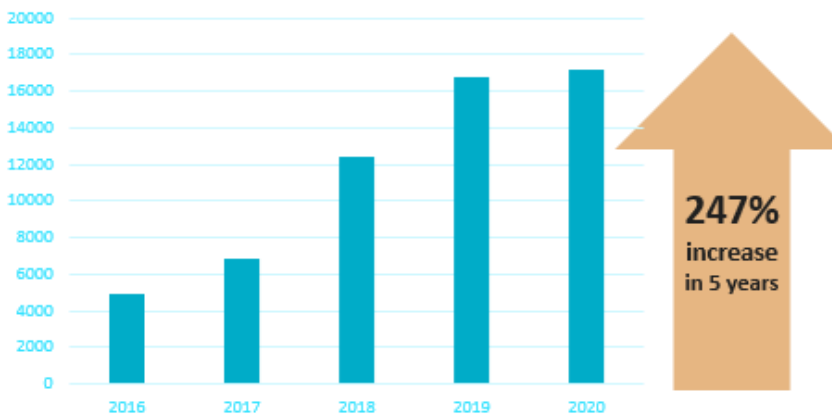
Today's Methamphetamine is produced, for the most part, on an industrial scale in Mexico. Oftentimes, these operations are called Super Labs.

The Southwest Border remains the main entry point for the majority of methamphetamine entering the United States.



Photos: DEA

○ #2 drug threat in Arizona



- The new meth = more potent

The meth today has been found to have purity levels of 97%

- The new = cheaper prices

Because meth is being mass produced in labs, the price of meth has continued to decline the last several years.

*Street Value:* Phoenix retail price decreased 58%, from an average of \$350 per ounce in 2015 to \$140 per ounce in 2019.

- New ways people are now using meth

Something that is new today is that people are eating or ingesting large quantities of meth.

Traditionally, individuals using meth would smoke, snort or inject the powder that had been dissolved in water or alcohol. With the increased availability and lower prices individuals are eating spoons full of powder meth increasing the risk of death.

- Health consequences of using meth

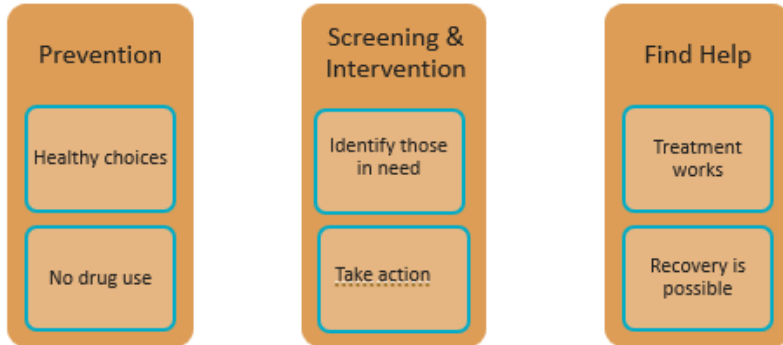
**Long term effects include:**

- Damage to the heart and brain
- Anxiety
- Confusion
- Insomnia
- Mood disturbances
- Violent behavior
- Severe Dental Problems
- Weight Loss

**Short-term effects include:**

- Increased wakefulness and physical activity
- Decreased appetite
- Faster breathing

- Rapid and/or irregular heartbeat
- Increased blood pressure and body temperature
- Skin sores from intense itching
- Memory Problems
- Paranoia
- What you can do



- Early actions help later in life

### Prevent early use of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana

- Talk with children early and often
  - Healthy choices
  - Dangers of underage drinking, tobacco, and marijuana use
- Healthy Rules and Consequences (Curfew, Screen Time, Online)
- Screen and treat for depression, anxiety and other mental health conditions
- Promote School Success
- Goodness Grows
- Intervention and treatment
  - Myths
    - She can stop if she really wants to
    - People need to hit “rock bottom”
    - Treatment won’t work
    - Meth addiction is hopeless and untreatable
  - Realities
    - People need help with addiction
    - Acting sooner is better
    - Treatment can help – it works for many
    - Meth addiction is challenging and treatable

Research shows there are several approaches showing positive results in treating stimulant use disorders.

- Seek treatment options

To ask questions. Not all treatment providers are created equal and different programs have different approaches. The Partnership to End Addiction has developed a Treatment e-book that identifies questions to ask of a provider.

Substance use disorders are chronic and recurring. It is important to provide Continuing Care and another e-book from the Partnership provides information on that topic.

Finally, it is important for caregivers to take care of themselves. Helping a person struggling with a substance use disorder can be exhausting and overwhelming.

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**Agenda item:** SUBCOMMITTEES UPDATES

**Presenter:** Claudia Hernandez, Jasmin Ayala, Michelle Jacquez.

**Discussion:**

- Youth-serving organizations subcommittee
  - o Youth Advocacy Day (April 27)

For this amazing event Tony Bruno commented that they are looking for people for the different subcommittees that they have which are four total, including planning and outreach. Also, they need youth from 8 to 18 years old to be part of the planning process on March 8.

- o Youth Podcast (March 16 & 30)

We are still doing the YOUth podcast where youth have the opportunity to talk about important topics for them and invite other youth to live a healthy lifestyle. Every youth group is invited to participate and have a good time with friends at 2 pm at the We ♥ Nogales studio.

- o Adult Podcast (March 23)

We are starting the adult podcast where we can share the adult perspective of the topics that are important for youth.

Asking questions and answering concerns from the community about everything that is happening in our teens mind. Parents and youth leaders are invited to participate. Recordings will be at the We ♥ Nogales studio. Time to be determined.

- Faith-based organizations subcommittee

For the faith-based subcommittee, we are trying to contact faith leaders and work together for the community. The first meeting will be on March 21 and it's going to be through zoom and any faith-based organization is welcome to be part of it. For more information contact Jasmin at [jayala@circlesofpeace.us](mailto:jayala@circlesofpeace.us).

- Emerging drug trends subcommittee

This new subcommittee will have its first meeting on March 24 at 10 am via zoom. Anyone interested in participating contact Michelle at [mjacquez@circlesofpeace.us](mailto:mjacquez@circlesofpeace.us). We want to have members of the community and every agency involved so we can be more informed about the drug trends in the community and how we can work together with prevention and education.

<b>Agenda item:</b>	MEMBERS UPDATES	<b>Presenter:</b>	Coalition members
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**Discussion:**

- MAT is open to receive and give treatment to people struggling with substance use disorder. Also, they are having a Naloxone Community Education event at Nogales Fire Station no. 2 on March 25 from noon to 4 pm in collaboration with Sonoran Prevention Works.

Lastly, they are having a Safe House Inauguration to members looking for help and treatment; with free HIV and Hep-C testing. More information contact Stephanie at [szepeda@mariposachc.net](mailto:szepeda@mariposachc.net).

- May is Mental Health Awareness month, and Mariposa Community Health Center is asking to collaborate and coordinate with other agencies to be able to make events and give information to the community. Also, Mariposa will be participating in the health fair on April 30 with Os3 Movement.

- Os3 Movement is doing their first fundraising event on April 30 at 8 am. Flyers and webpage are available. They are having a 10k and 5k along with a kids race as well. Prices will vary depending on the race and whether is it a group or personal registration.

A health fair with information boots, music and food will be available for the community. For more information and to participate in this event contact Melissa at [mgallegos@santacruzcountyaz.gov](mailto:mgallegos@santacruzcountyaz.gov).

- The Gear Up program will be having an event at Rio Rico High School called Parent Resource Night on March 30 at 5:30 pm. Everyone is invited to participate. For more information contact Kerri at [KMunoz@santacruzcountyaz.gov](mailto:KMunoz@santacruzcountyaz.gov).

<b>Agenda item:</b>	UPCOMING EVENTS	<b>Presenter:</b>	Jessica Gallego
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**Discussion:**

- Radio show March 10, 17 & 24

We are having radio shows at Maxima and KNOG three times a month. Any coalition member interested on participating contact Jessica at [jgallego@circlesofpeace.us](mailto:jgallego@circlesofpeace.us).

- Book club every 2 weeks

The Entre Amigas support group meet every two weeks at the Circles of Peace office for the book club. Anyone interested in joining contact Tere at [tromero@circlesofpeace.us](mailto:tromero@circlesofpeace.us).

- Block party March 18

We are having a Block Party after the Championship game at the Rec Center where the new movie "Space Jam" will be played, and information will be provided to the community.

- Drug awareness event March 19

We will be attending this event in Tucson in collaboration with LPKNC, Sonoran Prevention Works and "Luz y vida para la familia" church providing substance information to the community.

- Trauma-Informed Care training March 24

This month's training will be "Debunking Mental Health Stigma" and everyone is invited to attend. Flyer will be posted on social media.

- Panda Express fundraiser March 26

Every month the YADA group organizes this fundraising event at Panda Express and everyone can help by ordering food and showing the flyer at the window.

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**Agenda item:** CLOSING

**Presenter:** Melissa Gallegos

**Discussion:**

Thanks for attending the meeting and for the great work that you all do. We hope to continue working together in this amazing team effort that we have been doing. We hope to see you all next meeting.

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***Next meeting:***

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**April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 2:00 PM THROUGH ZOOM**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84306162192>

**Meeting ID: 843 0616 2192**