



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
**DRUG FREE COMMUNITY
 COALITION**

NOVEMBER 16, 2022

2:00 PM

HYBRID

155 N MORLEY AVE, NOGALES, AZ 85621

MEETING ID: 843 0616 2192

Meeting called by: Jessica Gallego

Type of meeting: Monthly meeting

Facilitator: Aissa Acuña

Note taker: Claudia Hernandez

Attendees:

1. Claudia Hernández- Constructing Circles of Peace
2. Jessica Gallego – Constructing Circles of Peace
3. Tony Vartola – Nogales Custom Brokers Association / Port Devanning
4. Suzette Campos – Community Health Associates
5. Melody Gastélum – Pinal Hispanic Council
6. Rosa López – HOPE inc.
7. Indhira Curlango – Holy Cross Hospital
8. Jasmin Ayala – Constructing Circles of Peace
9. TSgt Maciel Moreno – Arizona National Guard Counterdrug Taskforce DDRO
10. Aissa Acuña – Boys and Girls Club
11. Officer Marina Duran – Nogales Police Department
12. Eva Zúñiga – Constructing Circles of Peace
13. Kiara Gutiérrez – Constructing Circles of Peace
14. Luis Romero – YADA
15. Noemi Elizalde – SOAZ Advocacy
16. Alicia Delgado – CCR&R a statewide program of CFR
17. Michael White – Buena Vista Recovery
18. Stephanie Zepeda – Mariposa Community Health Center
19. Aileen Cruz – U of A Cooperative Extension
20. Rhegan Derfus – AZ health zone
21. Donna Álvarez – NUSD

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: Chair Aissa Acuna

Discussion:

To start meeting, Aissa gave a welcome to the members and encouraged everyone to introduce themselves.

Agenda item: VAPING CESASSION DISCUSSION

Presenter: Eva Zúñiga

Discussion:

Eva started this discussion giving a little information and background of how bad the situation is in this community and how important it is to be informed about what is going on so we can work together and do something to help people who is already struggling with vaping addiction. Eva shared that it is not easy for a person to quit vaping since most people who is using it regularly can become addicted or are struggling with addiction. E cigarettes are illegal for minors to use, and schools are taking safety and legal measures such as expulsion or suspension, but it does not help the user to stop consuming. Next Eva shared data information from the 2022 AZ Youth Survey:

- 30% of 10th graders are buying e cigarettes from a smoke shop
- 46% of 12th graders are buying e cigarettes from a smoke shop
- 26% of 10th graders are buying e cigarettes from a drug dealer
- 19% of 12th graders are buying e cigarettes from a drug dealer
- 14% of 10th graders report getting e cigarettes from family or relatives
- 10% of 12th graders report getting e cigarettes from family or relatives
- 60% of 10th graders report getting vapes from friends
- 59% of 12th graders report getting vapes from friends
- Around 5-10% of teens in Santa Cruz County report using THC in their vape devices
- Around 11-17% of teens in Santa Cruz County report using Nicotine in their vape devices

What can we do as coalition to address this vaping issue?

Ideas:

1. Do a survey or assessment around the middle and high schools with smoke shops and places that sell cannabis close and talk to the city authorities about the problems that the schools are having with teens using vape pens.
2. Partner with Mariposa to collaborate in the Operation Counterstrike.
3. Create a campaign to help teens and young adults learn good coping skills.
4. Seek for the opportunity to schedule meetings with the school districts to partner and see what we can do about this issue.
5. Partner with Nogales Police Department to clean parks where teens have reported to get vape pens from the floors.

Agenda item: SUBCOMMITTEES UPDATES

Presenter: Claudia Hernández

Discussion:

- Youth-serving organizations subcommittee
 - o Christmas event

The original idea for this event was a toy drive but the coalition members shared that it was difficult to collect toys since other organizations and agencies were doing the same thing. We might have a resource fair and a Santa photo booth but more information with invitations will come soon.

- o Turkey Drive

On November 22nd we will have our annual turkey baskets giveaway to families in need. Families are invited to attend a presentation made by the YADA group the previous day on the topics of trauma and substances.

Agenda item: FOLLOW UP ITEMS

Presenter: Jessica Gallego, Jasmin Ayala, Claudia Hernández

Discussion:

- Center for Restorative Youth & Community Programs

Unfortunately, the Center for Restorative Youth and Community Center flooded on November 8. All activities have been paused until November 21st. After that every organization is welcome to provide programs, trainings and groups to the people attending the center. The center will be open from 10 am and the schedule is the following:

- o Mondays and Thursdays: High School students
 - o Tuesdays: Middle School students
 - o Wednesdays: Youth Against Drugs and Alcohol group
 - o Fridays: Open to the community
- Narcan door to door training

We will provide a door-to-door Narcan training in the community next week and with the help of everyone we can reach more people in the community. Everyone is invited to participate.

- Circles of Peace radio station

We are inviting the community to participate in our radio station that we are starting soon, it will be located at the main office, and presenters will have the opportunity to share their information to the community. The programming its still on the work so everyone interested in participating and having a weekly or bi-weekly show can contact us.

- Christmas parade

This year on December 3rd the YADA will be collaborating with Os3 Movement at the Christmas Parade. Coalition members are invited to participate.

- Christmas posada and awards

This year's posada will be held at the next meeting on December 14, with a potluck lunch and recognitions for members. Invite and surveys will come soon.

Agenda item: MEMBERS UPDATES **Presenter:** Coalition members

Discussion:

- The Rio Rico Rotary Club is doing their annual Bikes for Tykes giveaway on December 16. Organizations and agencies from the community are invited to bring information and flyers to Circles of Peace to give along with the 60 bikes that they will be giving out for 1st grade students.
- On October 29 the Take Back Day collected almost 20 pounds of unwanted medication, thanks to the efforts of National Guard, local law enforcement officials and Circles of Peace.
- On December 3rd the City of Nogales will have their annual Christmas Parade starting at 6 pm.

Agenda item: CLOSING **Presenter:** Jessica Gallego

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.

Next meeting:

- December 14th, 2022 @ 12:00 PM
- Hybrid
 - o Center for Restorative Youth & Community Programs 651 N Legleu St, Nogales AZ 85621
 - o <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84306162192>

Zoom Meeting ID: 843 0616 2192