

# The Howler News



**Does your loved one have any psychosis brain diseases?** We are sorry that you are here. Moms, dads and family members can speak of their experiences. This forum allows you to speak freely in a non-judgmental space and connect with others who experience similar journeys. You can gain valuable insights as a member of Mad Moms that will help you feel more prepared and empowered on this journey. You are not alone in this journey. Mad Moms is here to support you. Whether your loved one is living with you, in a group home, incarcerated, or on the streets, this is the place for you.

A LIFETIME OF SUPPORTIVE MENTORS WILL GUIDE YOU

**Mad Moms are making great** strides in being recognized by state agencies, the courts, and other non-profits. Members of the grassroots Mad Moms are being sought out to become stakeholders in state and county committees dealing with serious mental illness diseases in the criminal system and solutions to housing issues. Mad Moms are fast becoming "the voice" of the seriously mentally ill at the Legislative & agency levels; in Arizona and federally. Organized as a grassroots movement, fueled by lived experiences, **we offer a different perspective than agencies.** As parents, we want different things for our loved ones, and we are educating agencies about the needs of our loved ones, which are different from what the agencies believe to be the needs. There are misconceptions about needs and parental wants for their children from agency services and housing.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN MOMS, DADS, SIBLINGS, GRANDPARENTS, FAMILY & FRIENDS**

**MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT**  
Participate or listen, it's up to you.



**WORLDWIDE**

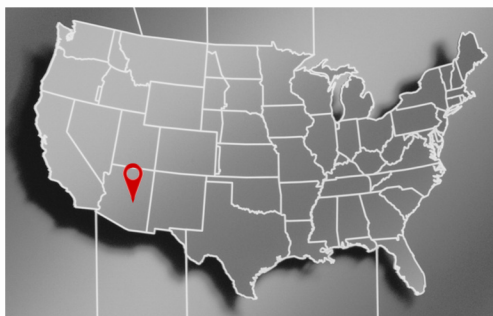
**1-hour ZOOM every Monday Night (\*)**

*Arizona does not recognize daylight zones.*

(\*) Spring is PST 6:00 and Fall is MST 5:00.

Spring PST **6:00** | MST 7:00 | CST 8:00 | EST 9:00

Fall PST 4:00 | MST **5:00** | CST 6:00 | EST 7:00



**ZOOM MEETING ID: 278 888 6237**

**PASSCODE: FAMILY**

**OR CALL IN BY PHONE:**

**DIAL IN - (345) 248-7799**

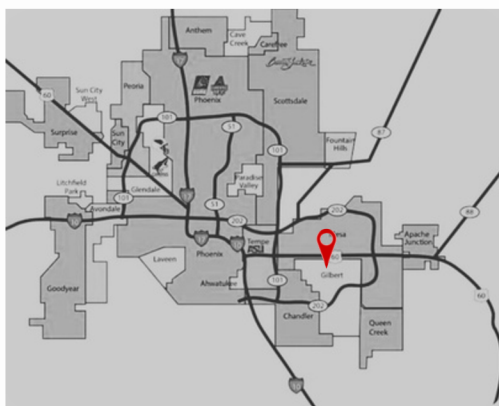
**PHOENIX METRO**

**2-hour In-person Support Group**

**Meetings every Friday Night (\*)**

*Arizona does not recognize daylight zones.*

(\*) Year-round: **6:00 to 8:00 pm.** RSVP by calling or texting Twila Lake (602) 550-3158.



**SOUTH EAST VALLEY**

Grace Outreach Center

1530 W. Elliot

Gilbert, AZ 85233

**COMING SOON**

We are EXPANDING in-person support group's locations to the Metro Phoenix North and West valleys this summer 2025!



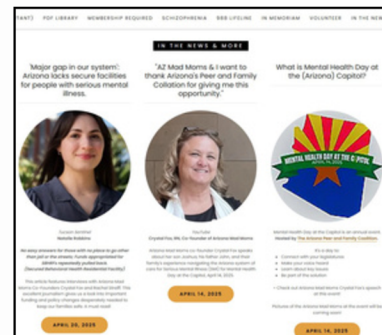
**Mental Health Day at the Capitol**

April 14th was Mental Health Day at the Capitol. The Arizona Mad Moms were one of the sponsors of the event, attracting approximately 500 vendors and participants. Mad Moms coordinated the raffle and prize giveaways.

Fifteen Mad Moms supported the event at the Mad Moms table. "A big thank you to all who worked that day setting up, taking down, and working our table. It was a great event and everyone enjoyed the day!"

**SAVE THE DATE** Monday, April (tbd) 2026, the Arizona Mad Moms are invited to be one of five non-profits/agencies to be on the planning team. A bigger role than sponsorship.

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR THESE ARTICLES**



**The Tucson Sentinel newspaper** wrote a wonderful article on the "Major Gaps in our System Arizona" which lacks secure housing for people with mental illness.

**And our very own** Arizona Mad Moms co-founder, Crystal Fox, was one of five keynote speakers addressing better treatment avenues and affordable and supported housing issues.

**C O N T A C T U S**

Weekdays 9:00 to 4:00

**Rachel Streiff, B.S. CHE, co-founder or Crystal Fox, RN, BSN, co-founder**  
**Main: (602) 550-3158**

Most replies same day up to 72 hours.

**hello@arizonamadmoms.com**

**www.arizonamadmoms.com**



## Hi! WELCOME COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Welcome Committee was hosted by Crystal and Twila at their home.

- The main topic of discussion was possible changes/cuts to Medicaid and the loss of services to our loved ones.
- We also discussed communication with new members and how to best help them.

**In May**, co-founders Crystal Fox and Rachel Streiff will be traveling to California for speaking engagements.

Also, Crystal, along with several other Mad Moms, will be traveling to Washington D.C. to attend the Schizophrenia and Psychosis Action Alliance conference.



Schizophrenia  
& Psychosis  
Action Alliance

**The Decriminalization Team** is looking for Mad Mom Members to join Crystal Fox's team. People with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) often face legal consequences for actions that stem from their mental health conditions. Wear your Mad Moms T-shirt and attend a trial(s) for people with SMI. We are standing up to advocate against the criminalization of mental illness. The team will attend court hearings and stakeholder meetings to gather pertinent information regarding upcoming cases. The team will identify gaps and failures in the courts and mental health systems. Contact Crystal to join this team and delve into the complicated court systems, please email [crystfox65@gmail.com](mailto:crystfox65@gmail.com) or call/text (602) 565-4606.

## LEARNING NEVER ENDS TERMS/ACRONYMS OF THE MONTH:

### PCP = Primary Care Physician

including but not limited to Internal Medical Doctor or Nurse Practitioner.

**The Peer Recovery Group** went to Cave Creek for lunch and spent time with the horses.



It was a very successful and fun outing.

And made new friend!



*Y'all join our next adventure to be announced!*

### HELLO

#### from our growing Communications Team!

Newsletter - Twila Lake & many helpers, Website - Debby Anderson, Janet Nash and Maureen Petkiewicz and our Social Media volunteer - is that YOU?

We are looking for a Social Media Specialist to join our Communications Team. Do you enjoy social media, Instagram, Linked In, X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, etc? We need to introduce our platform more on these and other social sites and we need you! Some experience, we will train you. Contact Debby Anderson @ (602) 620-8193.

**Please research our website at [www.arizonamadmoms.com](http://www.arizonamadmoms.com)**

OUR WEBSITE HAS A HOST OF INFORMATION IE. newsletters, articles, speeches, information, and forms for your education and use!

**April wrapped up the Legislative sessions with four SMI bills being passed** by the Arizona House of Representatives and Senate and waiting for the Governor's signature to become laws. Special thanks to Arizona Mad Moms who testified in front of House and Senate committees, telling their personal experience stories explaining that having these new laws in place would have changed the outcome of the situations with their loved ones.

These are the four bills that made it to the Governor's desk for signature.

#### This is an abbreviated explanation

- House Bill HB2944 - stops counting jail days as inpatient hospital treatment on (COT) court-ordered treatment.
- Senate Bill SB1604 - separates non-competent/non-restorable defendants from civil court-ordered patients in secure behavioral health residential facilities and enables facility openings.
- House Bill HB2492 - requires counties to pay for professional evaluation needed for guardianship.
- House Bill HB2706 - creates judicial oversight for court-ordered treatment the ability for a judge to order intensive services,

Please go to [azleg.gov](http://azleg.gov) to view the entire bills as written.

### The 1981 Arnold v. Sarn Lawsuit

The Arnold versus Sarn lawsuit is on Mad Moms' agenda. The State is not compliant with the agreement to provide housing for the mentally ill. FILED IN 1981, 44 YEARS!?!



*The State was supposed to build housing as part of the community services for the mentally ill, and the State has "kicked the can" down the road and used the funds allocated for housing for other purposes.*

The State is now out of compliance and is vulnerable to the lawsuit being reopened for not fulfilling their portion of the settlement.



**988**  
SUICIDE & CRISIS  
LIFELINE

24/7 free and  
confidential  
support

CALL OR TEXT: 988  
CHAT: 988LIFELINE.ORG

Call 988 even for basic advice on a mental illnesses.

If you have an immediate psychiatric problem in your home or family, please call 988 to be connected to local crisis services.

If you must call for your local police, be sure to let dispatch know you are dealing with a psychiatric situation and ask for crisis-trained officers.

*The information in Mad Moms newsletters are not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional legal, medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.*