



Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2025
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Yuma Union High School District Office
3150 S Avenue A, Yuma AZ 85364

Attendees:

Sector	Member Name/Title	Organization Name
YCADC	Joanne Fiser	Executive Director, YCADC
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Ryan Butcher	Yuma County Public Health Services District
Business Community	Pepper Mellon	RL Jones Insurance
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Berenice Ortiz	TLCR
Federal Govt/military	Virgil Tapispisan	MCAS Yuma
Schools	Nikki Hage	AWC
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Sonia Salcido	Amberly's Place
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Cameron Curtis	Yuma County Attorney's Office
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Ruben Ornelas	Crossroads Mission
Schools	Dubia Zaragoza	AWC - U of A Yuma
Healthcare Professionals	Ramesh Neerpat	Exceptional Community Hospital
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Kamell Nicholson	Veterans Justice Outreach
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Felipa Castellanos	Safe House
Business Community	Courtney Starkey	Community Partners Inc.
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Jessica Valadez	AZ Dept of Liquor & License Control
Healthcare Professionals	Margie Hiatt	Clarvida
Youth	Natalia Rosas	Youth Leader - GRHS

Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Leif Erickson	Community Medical Services
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Eric Jones	South County Anti-Drug Coalition
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Carlos Flores	TLCR
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Keith Francis	AZ Complete Health
YCADC & YCMHC	Shelley Mellon	Chair/RL Jones Insurance
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Beto Garcia	Charlie Health
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Nidya Casas	Yuma County Juvenile Court
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Elvis Kost	Yuma Homelessness Coalition
Schools	Angelina Biondi-Brookins	Hickory Recovery
Schools	Miguel Buriciaga	Crossroads Mission
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Cale Thompson	Yuma Police Department
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Matthew Wills	USBP Yuma Sector
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Sebastian Ochoa	USBP Yuma Sector
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Dan Ruiz	USBP Yuma Sector
Healthcare Professionals	Emanuel Porchas	USBP Yuma Sector
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Ben Reno	USBP Yuma Sector
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Marissela Hodges	Veterans Services
Youth	Isa Tydingco	Youth Leader - Cibola High School
Federal Govt/military	William Lloyd	YPG
Schools	Henry Gonzalez	YUHSD
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Lucia Wilson	Achieve Human Services
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Jen Hulbert	Yuma County Public Health Services District
Federal Govt/military	Amie Zaja	MCAS Yuma
Healthcare Professionals	Angelina Brookins	Hickory Recovery Network
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Raycheal Jesser	Yuma County Courts

Law Enforcement	Victoria Gonzalez	Yuma County Sheriff's Office
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Matthew Pappan	Victory Homes
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Linda Elliott-Nelson	AZ Town Hall
Healthcare Professionals	Jordin Aguilar	Onvida Health, Behavioral Health Dept

Welcome and Introductions

- Joanne called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

Introductions and Agency Updates

- Ryan Butcher, Yuma County Public Health District – Overdose information and presentation will be brought to our coalition.
- Beverly Cade, NAACP – Juneteenth was a success. Thank you to YCADC for sponsorship.
- Jordin Aguilar, Onvida Health Behavioral Health Dept – Behavioral health has a dedicated intensive for mental and substance health. Make a referral by calling.
- Jen Hulbert, Yuma Conty Public Health District– Shared they provide NARCAN training to any agencies.
- Nidya Casas, Yuma County Best for Babies Juvenile Court – Made of parents with lived experience. Two moms and one dad form a parent advisory board to improve program practices.
- Marisella Hodges – Suicide Prevention for Vets, mental health crisis support, and groups.
- Natalia Rosas, Youth Leader – Thanked YCADC for the support of furthering her education on Yellow Ribbon.
- Dubia Zaragoza, U of A Yuma – AWC outreach program seeking internships or community service opportunities.
- Berenice Ortiz, TLCR – 4th Annual Serenity Sunsplash – Valley Aquatic Pool fun day. Registration for tickets by phone. Event this Saturday.
- Ruben Ornelas, Crossroads Mission – Crossroads Mission provides meals and life change support. Oct 4th fundraiser for the Hope Center; looking for water donations. Contact Ruben for details.
- Mathew Pappan, Victory Homes – 2 beds open for the men's home to serve the community and God.
- Eric Jones – South County Anti-Drug Coalition – Back to School Rodeo event; thanks to Border Patrol for presentation.

- Linda Nelson, AZ Town Hall – Thank you to YCADC for sending out the email and sharing the virtual meeting information.
- Racheal Jesser – Nidya Casas has an evaluation on the 101 class to involve parents for success and will extend to other agencies.
- Margie Hiatt, Clarvida – Adolescent and adult counseling via telehealth; transitional age youth referrals with drug court.
- Virgil T., MCAS Yuma – Drug demand reduction program on Marine Base; lowest drug positive rate in Marine Corps.
- William Lloyd, YPG – Narcan training presented by Jen Hulbert at YPG; YPG also receives suicide prevention support.
- Lisa Brazel, Exceptional Community Hospital – Greater Yuma Water Alliance at Back to School Rodeo; Jennifer Blackwell radio show every two weeks. Blood donations encouraged. EC is looking to be a Narcan distribution site.
- Henry Gonzales, YUHSD – Health and wellness support for students and staff (just under 12K in Yuma). SROs, clinically trained social workers, and trained nurses available to respond to drug-related issues. Appreciation to YCADC and all we do for our community, we make things happen.
- Jessica Valadez, AZ Liquor License & Control Dept – Main focus is Title 4 training throughout the state.

Presentation

- US Border Patrol, Yuma Sector with K9.

Good of Order: Shelley Mellon, Chair

- Expressed collaboration at the meeting in every way to help in any way.

Adjourned:

- Meeting adjourned 12:55p.m.

Vision: The victimization caused by the misuse and abuse of alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, prescription and other drugs will be eliminated from the Yuma County by the community members.

Mission: To eradicate the misuse and abuse of alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, prescription and other drugs in Yuma County

