



Meeting Minutes
February 11, 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 Health District
Business Community	Pepper Mellon	RL Jones Insurance
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Berenice Ortiz	TLCR
Schools	Alejandra Lopez	YUHSD
Schools	Nikki Hage	AWC
Parent	Cori Rico	Secretary YCADC
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Jamila Sanchez	Safe House
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Jose Vidal	Crossroads Mission
Schools	Joe Waterford	AWC - EMS
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Reyes Moreno	Horizon Health & Wellness
Healthcare Professionals	Melanie Jackman	Community Health Associates AZ
Healthcare Professionals	Amy Rivera	Easterseals Blake Foundation
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Felipa Castellanos	Safe House
Business Community	Courtney Starkey	Community Partners Inc.
Civic Volunteer Group	Valeria Bejar	RAZE
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Rene Sonoqui	Crossroads Mission
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Cesar Acosta	Crossroads Mission
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Candice Brown	Marine Corps Community Services
Religious/Fraternal organizations	Rick Phillips	First Responder Chaplain
Religious/Fraternal organizations	Vince Harman	Yuma Lutheran Church
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Bethany Gonzalez	Victory Outreach

YCADC & YCMHC	Shelley Mellon	Chair/RL Jones Insurance
Law Enforcement	Oscar Morales	USBP Yuma Sector Chaplain
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Nidya Casas	Yuma County Juvenile Court
Healthcare Professionals	Lisa Brazeel	Exceptional Health Hospital
Schools	Kelly Dale	YUHSD
Schools	Cindy Zalvala	AWC
Schools	Martha Remenar	YUHSD
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Leif Erickson	Community Medical Services
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Marissela Sanchez	Community Medical Services
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Annette Pappan	Victory Homes
Healthcare Professionals	Zane Culver	Charlie Health
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Ruben Ornelas	Crossroads Mission
YCMHC	Ginny Legros	Executive Director YCMHC
Youth	Isa Tydingco	Youth Leader - Cibola High School
Federal Govt/military	William Lloyd	YPG
Schools	Henry Gonzalez	YUHSD
Law Enforcement	Raul Fiveash	Yuma Police Dept
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Jen Hulbert	Yuma County Health District
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Jamie Burennett	AZHIDTA
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
Law Enforcement	Roberto Arriola	Yuma County Sheriff's Office
Schools	Yescina Cuming	YUHSD
Healthcare Professionals	Jordin Aguilar	Onvida Health, Behavioral Health Dept

Welcome and Introductions

- Joanne called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve by Pepper Mellon, seconded by Ryan Butcher. Minutes were approved.

Introductions and Agency Updates

Attendees introduced themselves and shared agency updates:

- Shelley Jones & Pepper Mellon – RL Jones Insurance
- Angelina B. – Hickory Recovery Network: Detox Center located in Kingman
- Amy Rivera – Easter Seals Blake Foundation: Nurse home visitation program (presentation below)
- Zane C. – Outpatient Program
- Rick Phillips – Chaplain, First Responder Program
- Joe Waterford – EMS Program, Arizona Western College (AWC)

- Steve Legros – Champion Volunteer and Connection Podcast Producer
- Vince Harman – Pastor, Christ Lutheran School & YLS: 3v3 tournament organized by Sara Harman, proceeds to YCADC
- Nikki H. & Cindy Z. – Arizona Western College
- Marissela S. & Leif Erickson – Community Medical Services
- Valeria B. – Rural Arizona Engagement: Seeking facilitators (flyers shared)
- Berenice – Transitional Living Center Recovery: Mental Health Palooza in May; planning meeting on 2/13
- Courtney Starkey – Clinical Supervisor, Community Partners
- Cesar Acosta – Crossroads: Men's center breaking ground; March sober softball tournament
- Ruben Ornelas – Crossroads Mission
- Jose Vidal
- Reyes M. – Outreach Specialist, Horizon
- Renee S. – Crossroads Shelter: 30 children in need of housing/resources
- Oscar Morales – Chaplain, U.S. Border Patrol: Thanked coalition for recent event partnership
- Jordin Aguilar – Onvida Behavioral Health: 24/7 crisis assessments for adults; 2 IOP tracks
- Melanie Jackman – Community Health Associates: Suicide prevention and emergency assist programs
- Jamila Sanchez & Felipa C. – Safe House
- Sgt. Raul Felix – Yuma Police Department (YPD)
- Raycheal J. – Yuma County Juvenile Court: Symposium at AWC on May 8 – RSVPs encouraged
- Nidia Casas – Best for Babies: Accepting referrals; business cards provided
- Victoria Gonzalez & Lt. Robert Arriola – Yuma County Detention: April gathering to discuss partnership
- Juanita V., Annette, & Bethany – Victory Outreach Homes: Open beds; starting neighborhood Bible study
- Jen H. – Yuma County Health District: Confidential opioid referral cards/magnets available
- Yescina C. & Kelly Dale – Cibola High School: Counselor and Social Worker
- Martha R. – Kofa High School Counselor
- Alexandria L. – San Luis High School Counselor
- Candice Brown – MCAS School Liaison Officer: Supporting military-connected students in K-12
- Lisa Brazeel – Exceptional Community Hospital: Heart Fair on Feb. 18; live cooking demos, free BP checks by AWC EMS students
- William Lloyd – Yuma Proving Ground
- Jamie Burnett – Arizona HIDTA
- Ryan Butcher – Yuma County Health Department: Naloxone Distribution Program available for agency setup, Suicide mortality orientation scheduled for March and Annual fatality report in progress; possible subcommittee

Updates: Ginny Legros, Executive Director

- Connection Podcast:

Officially launched in January in partnership with YCMHC.

Huge thanks to RL Jones Insurance for full sponsorship and to Steve Legros for editing/production.

- U.S. Border Patrol Sector Yuma:

Coalition provided wellness and resilience resources; special thanks to Chaplain Morales.

- Youth Coalition at Kofa High School:

Presented to CTE students about Youth Coalition Leaders. Plans to expand to all high schools.

- Jack Mellon Building Open House:

Held February 1 during Redondo Days. Thank you to RL Jones Insurance for sponsoring the meeting and podcast space.

Upcoming Events

- Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention & Awareness Training:

Train-the-trainer format led by Ginny Legros & Natalia Rosas.

- Salida Del Sol Assembly:
Vaping awareness presentation for 5th–6th graders by AZ National Guard Counter Drug Task Force.

Appreciation

- Special recognition given to Grad Nite 2024 volunteers for their role in celebrating Yuma County graduates.

Presentation

Amy Rivera – Nurse Supervisor, Easter Seals Blake Foundation

Topic: Nurse Visitation Program

- Free home visiting for pregnant/postpartum mothers
- Transition support following long NICU stays
- MESCHS model – evidence-based, originated in Australia
- 2 nurses currently serving Yuma County
- Serving 20 families, capacity for 50

Services Offered:

Ages & Stages developmental assessments

Parent-child interaction and video feedback

Depression screenings (pre and post pregnancy)

Oral health promotion

Substance-exposed mother support

Educational incentives throughout the program

Referral Sources Needed From:

Onvida NICU, Labor & Delivery, OC Johnson, Mary Megui, Best for Babies

Wrap-Up

- Grad Night 2025 volunteer sign-up sheet circulated
- Final encouragement to continue building meaningful community connections

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Next Meetings:

- YCADC: March 11, 2025 | 11:30 a.m. | Yuma Union High School District Office

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

