



**Meeting Minutes**

**August 12, 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
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Arisil Gill	TLCR
Schools	Nikki Hage	AWC
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
Schools	David Cade	Vista High School
Healthcare Professionals	Ramesh Neerpat	Exceptional Community Hospital
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Jessica Valadez	AZ Dept of Liquor & License Control
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Eric Jones	South County Anti-Drug Coalition
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Carlos Flores	TLCR
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
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Ruben Ornelas	Crossroads Mission

State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Cale Thompson	Yuma Police Department
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Raul Fiveash	Yuma Police Department
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Dusty Fields	Yuma Fire 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
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Victoria Gonzalez	YCSO
Federal Govt/military	William Lloyd	YPG
Federal Govt/Military	Candace Brown	MCGS / MCAS Yuma
Federal Govt/military	Cesar Rio	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
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Rachael Jesser	Yuma County Courts
Law Enforcement	Victoria Gonzalez	YCSO and YCJJC
Healthcare Professionals	Jordin Aguilar	Onvida Health, Behavioral Health Dept
Schools	David King	YUHSD
Business	Abel Garcia	Allo Fiber
Healthcare Professionals	Celeste Luna	Exceptional Community Hospital
Schools	Martha Remenar	KOFA High School
Association	Lisa Bednar	AFMA
Schools	Brianna Villa	UofA Yuma
Non-Profit	Jamie Burnett	CDC Foundation
Foundation	Dale Dumo	Travis Manion Foundation
Religious Organization	Vince Harmon	Christ Lutheran Church
Schools	Lauren Spurlock	MAP / YUHSD
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Carol Smith	City of Yuma
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Karen Watts	City of Yuma Council
Coalition	Lucia Wilson	Yuma Coalition to End Homelessness
Foundation	Alex Vieyra	ACF Yuma

Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Oswaldo Rodriguez	YCJJC
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Cameron Curtis	YCAO
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Carlos Garcia	YCSEC
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Joseline Leal	CDTF / DDRO
State, local, and/or tribal government agencies	Carlos Sosa	CDTF / DDRO
Schools	Crisanto Herrera	SHS
Schools	Chris Reese	SHS
Schools	Ulises Torres	GRHS
Schools	Kim She	SSD
Coalition	Steve Legros	YCADC / YCMHC
CIVIC / NON PROFIT / VOLUNTEER GROUPS	Michelle Valadez	Colorado River Behavioral Health System
Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Use	Timothy Collins	TLCR
CIVIC / NON PROFIT / VOLUNTEER GROUPS	George Flores	RAZE

11:30 Lunch/Connector Question – School is in Session! What's in your Back to School Bag? This bag (Ginny's picks) includes a writing utensil, something to write on (event if it's a napkin lol), a stress reliever, and something sweet. Share with your neighbor what your favorite essentials are in your bag.

11:45 Pledge/Approve July Meeting Minutes

### Welcome and Introductions

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

11:55 Welcome/Agency 60 second Updates

### Introductions and Agency Updates

- Shelley Mellon, YCADC / YCMHC Chair – Welcome
- Ryan Butcher, Yuma County Public Health District – Overdose Fatality Report was submitted to DHS. Information and presentation will be brought to our coalition in October. Update on all four (4) Naloxone distribution sites. By September, all will have “newspaper style” distribution displays in lobbies, open to the public.

- Beverly Cade, NAACP –
- Dave Cade, Principal, Vista High School - Continuing with the back-to-school initiatives... numbers look strong so far. Any events their students can volunteer for, please let them know.
- Jessica Valadez, AZ Liquor License & Control Dept – Main focus is underage drinking / serving throughout the state. “Nothing major to report, but we’re here to support wherever needed.”
- Lisa Bednar, Arizona Food Marketing Alliance – represent grocery, convenience stores etc. Umbrella program called “BASIC” – focused on underage drinking prevention. Here to support and share messaging.
- Candace Brown, MCAS Yuma School Liaison – Shared resources for Military Family Life Counselors: 6 providers available at several schools. Connecting Military families to resources. Children and adult counseling available.
- Jen Hulbert, Yuma County Public Health District – Shared that they provide Naloxone training Cibola HS. Thanked the coalition for the connection. They also teach Youth Mental Health First Aid. They have a few spots available. They pay for the training.
- Brianna Villa, UofA Yuma – Seeking Corporate Partnerships. Reach local workforce offering 10% discounts, free applications, etc., promoting continued education.
- Dale Dumo, Travis Manion Foundation – Youth Mentorship. Provide information and face-to-face mentor life skills to children.
- Vince Harmon, Pastor at Christ Living Church – Glad to be here.
- Dusty Fields, YFD – Retiring from YFD in September.
- Berenice Ortiz, TLCR – Preparing for upcoming Halloween Event. Biggest Resource Fair 5k attendance. Inviting businesses to set up a booth. Planning meeting tomorrow. Lunch provided.
- Dr. Nikki Hage, Dean at AWC – Coming up, Kicking off the School year.
- 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.
- Lucia Wilson, Yuma Coalition on Homelessness – Update Homeless & Housing Conference in November. Save the Date, November 6. Also shared Coordinated Entry Assessment fliers for information on unsheltered homelessness contacts into and services available.
- Kim Seh, Assistant Superintendent, Somerton - Here to learn.
- Oswaldo Rodriguez, YCJJC – Annual Fostering Hopes Conference, September 20 at the Yuma Civic Center. For information, contact Dianna Ortega at First Things First.

- Karen Watts, COY Council Member / Nurse – Happy to be here.
- Carol Smith, COY & Nurse Educator at Onvida – If you provide resources for newborns or pediatrics, please reach out.
- Victoria Gonzalez, YCSO and YCJJC – YCSO is seeing a 12% increase in adult incarcerated persons, with drug and mental health being the biggest issues. YCJJC just took over the medical operations. They are looking for support with behavioral health and support services.
- Jordin Aguliar, Onvida Health Behavioral Health Dept – Behavioral health has a dedicated intensive for mental and substance health. Make a referral by calling.
- Eric Jones – South County Anti-Drug Coalition – Next meeting August 20, invite all to attend. Also have Kick Out Drugs Kickball Tournament Event October 25.
- Beto Garcia, Charlie Health – no updates. Kickball Kick Out Drugs Kickball Tournament.
- Alex Vieyra, Advisor at ACF – here to support. Grant Cycle closes soon.
- Abel Garcia, Allo Fiber – here to support events with sponsorship.
- Lauren Spurlock, YUSC, Master of Arts Program – Getting kids connected with art.
- Cameron Curtis, Yuma County Attorney's Office – On assignment. Continue efforts in Drug Courts. Working with the adult probation department. Available to come to schools or help with presentations from our attorneys or paralegals. Reach out.
- William Lloyd, YPG – Narcan training presented by Jen Hulbert at YPG; YPG also receives suicide prevention support.
- Ulises Torres, Social Worker, Gila Ridge HS – Updates: Stats at Gila Ridge. Reentry meetings, crisis meetings 13 meetings last year, 18 school safety plans created, 40 referrals to McKinney rental programs, Integrated Health Care partnership, school bus services for 48 students referred. Over 42 students have been identified as "High Risk Students".
- Several other social workers at local high schools introduced themselves.
- Ramesh Neerpat, Exceptional Community Hospital – Shared that YCACC is a valued community partner. This coalition has a huge impact on the Yuma Community. Help provide Naloxone to our community.
- Jamie Burnett, Arizona Public Health Analyst for the Overdose Response Strategy for the CDC – Plug for "Stop It" Campaign ADE ADHS DDRO HYDA, improve naloxone access to schools.
- Steve Legros, YCMHC Podcast Producer – new podcast coming soon.

- Matthew Wells, Yuma Sector Border Patrol, thank you for inviting the K9 Handlers out. Anti-Drug presentation for , law, and public safety classes. Trying to reach all high schools.
- Sergeant Sosa, National Guard – support military personnel, Reminder about Red Ribbon Week
- Henry Gonzales, YUHSD – Health and wellness support for students and staff (just under 12K in Yuma). SROs, clinically trained social workers, and trained nurses are available to respond to drug-related issues. Appreciation to YCADC and all we do for our community, we make things happen. Two highlights of collaboration w/ Health District and Narcan at the schools. Social Workers provide mental health support, thank you to them.
- George Flores, RAZE, Engagement – provide youth space to come learn about civic engagement.

### **YCADC UPDATES, Joanne Fiser, Executive Director YCADC**

- Participated in Salida Del Sol Elementary School's two-day open house, where we distributed cinch bags filled with resources to over 600 families and students.
- The Back to School Rodeo was a great success! We distributed 1,000 SACLaz toolkit materials and school notebooks. The Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses & Control also joined us, handing out fun glow bracelets.
- Jennifer Blackwell invited us to the Today in Yuma Radio Show, where we shared our campaign, "Mental Health Deserves a Seat in the Class."
- Henry Gonzales, YUHSD Director of Health & Safety, invited YCMHC to present to school nurses and social workers about our collaborative efforts, and where they can find our local resources on our websites. It was wonderful to see so many coalition champions in attendance—thank you for all you do!

### **Upcoming Event:**

- *Research Transforming Communities Symposium* hosted by Onvida Health has invited our coalitions to present. Shelley Mellon and Joanne Fiser will deliver a presentation titled *The Connection*, sharing our collaborative impact and vision for Yuma County.

### **Appreciation:**

- A heartfelt thank-you to John Abarca from CBI for being our podcast guest.
- Special thanks to Beverly Cade for sharing our resources during one of the days at the Salida Del Sol Elementary open house.
- Thank you to Jessica Valadez from the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses & Control for assisting us at the Back to School Rodeo event.

### **Presentation:**

**12:20 PM** – Presentation by Counter Drug Task Force – Drug Demand Reduction and Outreach “*The Rise of Fentanyl*”

Good of Order: Shelley Mellon, Chair

Adjourned:

- Meeting adjourned 12:55 p.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

