



Minutes
August 11, 2026
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Yuma Union High School District Office
3150 S Avenue A, Yuma AZ 85364

Attendees:

Adriana Martinez Anaya	Arizona Western College	School
Adrienne Noriega	Arizona Western College- Student Health & Wellness	School
Alejandra Lopez	Yuma Union High School District	School
Amy Rivera	Easterseals Blake MECSH nurse home visiting	Healthcare Professional
Anthony Legros	Yuma Police Department	Law Enforcement
Art morales	National Bank of Arizona	Business
Avanikkha Elayappen	Onvida Health	Healthcare Professional
Berenice Ortiz	TLCR	Substance Use Organization
Bethany Gonzalez	The Salvation Army	Religious or Fraternal Organization
Beto Garcia	Charlie Health	Healthcare Professional
Beverly Cade	NAACP	Civic/Volunteer Organization
Camryn Amrhein	YUHSD	School
Casandra Wakefield	Easterseals Blake Foundation	Business
Cesar Meza	Wellton Police Department	Law Enforcement
Clarissa Callahan	The Mind Body Counseling Center	Healthcare Professional
Crisanto Herrera	YUHSD - Somerton High School	School
Cristina Mcinnes	Child & Family Services of Yuma	Civic/Volunteer Organization
Dale Dumo	Travis Manion Foundation Yuma Chapter	Civic/Volunteer Organization
Danny Koolick	Horizon Health and Wellness	Healthcare Professional
Dennis Gasrow, Jr.	Yuma Fire Department	State, Local or Tribal Governmental Agency
Dusty Fields	Arizona Western College	School
Elena Cañez	AZ Complete Health	Healthcare Professional
Elvis Kost	Regional Center For Border Health	Healthcare Professional

Lief Erickson	Community Medical Services	Substance Use Organization
Estrella Fitch	The Healing Journey	Healthcare Professional
Gina Thompson	AZ Impact Center	Non-Profit Organization
Ginny Legros	YCMHC	Coalition Staff
Heith Daniels	Yuma Police Department	Law Enforcement
Henry Gonzalez	YUHSD	School
Isa Tydingco	YCADC	Youth
Jaime Burnett	CDC Foundation	Substance Use Organization
Jamie Santos	Transitional Living Center Recovery	Substance Use Organization
Janette Hernandez	Easterseals Blake Foundation	Healthcare Professional
Jeffrey Ross	Yuma Police Dept/Mental Health Unit	Law Enforcement
Jennifer Hulbert	Yuma County Public Health Services District	State, Local or Tribal Governmental Agency
Jessica Hubbard	Castle Dome Middle School	School
Joanne Fiser	YCADC	Coalition Staff
Jodi Courter	Exceptional Community Hospital- Yuma	Healthcare Professional
Jonathan Palacio	A Cut Above Hospitality	Business
Jorge Flores	RAZE	Youth Serving Organization
Keith Francis Jr.	AZ Complete Health	Healthcare Professional
Kellan Trammel	Yuma Fire Department	State, Local or Tribal Governmental Agency
Kelly Dale	YUHSD	School
Kim Seh	Somerton School District	School
Lili Campa	YUHSD 70	School
Lisa Anderson	Consultant	Business
Maria Chavoya	AZ Complete Health	Healthcare Professional
Marissa Callahan	The Mind Body Counseling Center	Healthcare Professional
Marissela Hodges	NCHP SSG Fox Veteran Suicide Prevention	Healthcare Professional
Mark Martinez	Yuma City Council	Local Government
Marlene Roman	Community Health Associates	Healthcare Professional
Martha Remenar	Kofa High School	School
Matthew Wills	US Border Patrol	Law Enforcement

Mazzy Dae Andrade	Onvida Health	Business
Melissa Jardeleza	Exceptional Health	Healthcare Professional
Michelle Gutierrez	Yuma County Juvenile Justice Center	State, Local or Tribal Governmental Agency
Miguel Burciaga	Crossroads Mission	Substance Use Organization
Miriam Limon	Onvida Health	Business
Monica Cortez	US Border Patrol	Law Enforcement
Nallely Amador	Easterseals Blake Foundation	Healthcare Professional
Nallely Amador	Easterseals Blake Foundation	Healthcare Professional
Nancy Valenzuela Rivera	Cactus Heart Counseling LLC	Healthcare Professional
Natalia Rosas	Self-Representation	Youth
Nidia Herrera	ARIZONA@WORK	Youth Serving Organization
Nidya Casas	First Things First	State, Local or Tribal Governmental Agency
Oscar Pena	RAZE	Youth Serving Organization
Patricia Martinez	The Mind Body Counseling, PLLC	Healthcare Professional
Paulina Sanchez	Building Steps Behavioral Health	Healthcare Professional
Pepper Mellon	RL Jones	Business
Raquel Sutton	Mind Body Counseling	Healthcare Professional
Raul Castillo	S.M.I.L.E	Youth Serving Organization
Reyes Moreno	Horizon Health and Wellness	Healthcare Professional
Robert Wright	Yuma Police Department	Law Enforcement
Roxanne Irra	Community Medical Services	Substance Use Organization
Ruben Ornelas	Crossroads Mission	Substance Use Organization
Ryan Butcher	Yuma County Public Health Services District	School
Sandy Biggers	Padagis Naloxone	Business
Santini Omidvar	Practical Solar Pros	Business
Sarah Chavez	Private practice	Healthcare Professional
Sergio Bobadilla	US Border Patrol	Law Enforcement
Shelley Mellon	RL Jones	Business
Sonia Salcido	Amberly's Place	Youth Serving Organization
Stephanie Dressler	Easterseals Blake Foundation	Healthcare Professional

Steve Legros	Retired	Media
Tim Collins	TLCR	Substance Abuse Organization
Tim Hariper	Yuma PD	Law Enforcement
Timothy Keller	YUHSD	School
Ulises Torres	YUHSD	School
Valenzuela	Horizon Health and Wellness	Healthcare Professional
Vanessa Pérez	Onvida Behavioral Health	Healthcare Professional
Victoria Gonzalez	Yuma County Sheriff's Office	Law Enforcement
William Lloyd	YPG	State, Local or Tribal Governmental Agency
Yescina Cuming	Yuma Union High School District - Cibola High School	School

Approval of Minutes -

Pledge/July 2026 Meeting Minutes – A motion was made by Jamie and seconded by Bernice. Minutes approved.

Welcome Champion Introductions & Community Updates -

Yuma County Public Health Services District – Jennifer Hulbert

Contact: Jennifer.Hulbert@yumacountyaz.gov

MATFORCE Monthly Messages: Kratom & 7-OH: Understanding the Risks

The free webinar from MATFORCE provides an overview of kratom and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), including their effects, increasing availability, health risks, and signs of misuse. The presentation will also discuss how these products are marketed, common misconceptions about their safety, and opportunities for prevention and community response. The presentation highlights rising concerns about kratom in Arizona, including a 175% increase in kratom-related deaths from 2024 to 2025 and a 51% increase in past-year use among teens from 2023 to 2024.

Register: <https://matforce.org/event/matforce-messages-kratom-7-oh-understanding-the-risks/>

TLCR – Berenice Ortiz

Contact: bortiz@crbhs.com

5th Annual Halloween Event

TLCR is looking for community agencies and organizations interested in participating in its **5th Annual Halloween Event** on October 30.

The first planning meeting will be held:

August 26

11:00 a.m.

TLCR – 1360 S. 4th Avenue, Yuma, AZ

Community partners interested in participating are encouraged to attend the planning meeting and help make this year's event another great opportunity for families and youth.

Flyer:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fWMCiA_wECw8baqF8OayJxIfHeqaiq73

Charlie Health – Beto Garcia

Contact: jose.garcia@charliehealth.com

Charlie Health is now accepting **SMI/SED clients for Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) services**, expanding access to behavioral health support for individuals who may benefit from a higher level of outpatient care.

Travis Manion Foundation – Dale Dumo

Contact: Daledumo81@gmail.com

The Travis Manion Foundation Yuma Chapter continues to provide meaningful opportunities for youth through its **Character Does Matter** youth mentorship program.

This summer, TMF sponsored more than a dozen youth, including youth connected with Crossroads Mission, to participate in local summer camps, gym and wellness memberships, and other enrichment opportunities.

Summer 2026 engagements included:

- MLK Youth Center
- Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area kids camps
- Yuma County Juvenile Justice Center
- TMF Back to School Character Day & Success Workshop

TMF currently partners with the **Yuma County Juvenile Justice Center, Centennial Middle School, Crossroads Mission, Yuma County Anti-Drug & Mental Health Coalition, The Lab, and Tranquility Wellness.**

The organization is also seeking additional organizations interested in Character Does Matter programming, including **Castle Dome Middle School and Cibola High School HOSA.**

Upcoming Event: 2026 TMF 9/11 Heroes 5K Run/Walk/Ruck

September 12, 2026

Colorado River State Historic Park

Community members are invited to participate in the 5K, volunteer, sponsor or donate, or simply come out and support the event. Participants and volunteers are also encouraged to line the route with American flags, 9/11 fallen heroes posters and tributes, or patriotic gear to inspire and motivate runners.

The event honors and celebrates current and past **law enforcement officers, first responders, and military heroes** while supporting the mission of the Travis Manion Foundation.

Event Flyers:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1dGHvgFHQNZyqYituYjzpycxE-hWyMu5H>

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1GQhZyiyBNBNnyFDgZ-5OcsKc8R_xSuzY

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Py8OEUED2Mo-tNUVAOYqD1RLcmelmsqM>

https://drive.google.com/open?id=16_uCJ-r9EYLSdXsXkh2-ucCAHo0XnXcT

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=14sJp4GVyAiWr-vxQOxe9FPfP8qesFzY8>

Community Medical Services (CMS) – Leif Erickson

Contact: Leif.Erickson@cmsgiveshope.com

CMS will host its **Community Care Fair** in September.

September 26

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Additional details and flyers will be shared as they become available.

The Healing Journey – Estrella Fitch

Contact: e.fitch@thjaz.org

The Healing Journey shared information about an upcoming **Domestic Violence Awareness Walk**. Additional details will be shared as they become available.

RAZE – Jorge Flores

Contact: jorge@raze.org

RAZE is launching its first **RAZE Leaders Cohort** at the MLK Building on August 22.

The inaugural cohort will include **29 high school students** who will have the opportunity to develop leadership skills and become advocates for prevention and positive change in their schools and community.

Arizona Complete Health – Keith Francis Jr.

Contact: Keith.Francis@azcompletehealth.com

Arizona Complete Health hosted its **3rd Quarter Yuma County Crisis System Meeting** on August 17, bringing community partners together to discuss the local crisis system and opportunities for continued collaboration.

Onvida Health – Mazzy Dae Andrade

Contact: mandrade3@onvidahealth.org

Onvida Health shared a community resource flyer with coalition partners.

Flyer:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vdwQWdDAV1Cf7MGQ26nva7hnO6lLQgHW>

Cactus Heart Counseling LLC – Nancy Valenzuela Rivera

Contact: Contact@cactusheartcounseling.com

Cactus Heart Counseling is celebrating its **Grand Opening!**

Community partners are encouraged to learn more about this new resource and connect with Cactus Heart Counseling as it becomes part of Yuma County's network of behavioral health and wellness services.

Flyer:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=18Bw9hj3CNTRDFuWiT1yajuaeXFXvI7yZ>

First Things First – Nidya Casas

Contact: Ncasas@firstthingsfirst.org

Fostering Hope Conference

The **Fostering Hope Conference** will take place in September and offers an opportunity for professionals, families, and community members to learn, connect, and strengthen support for children and families.

September 19

Yuma Civic Center

Community partners are encouraged to spread the word to families and individuals who may benefit from attending. The conference is also accepting exhibitors.

Flyer:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=10XhjOtabKjmRMXd7zIRpl8UYBjsGSbbj>

The Mind Body Counseling, PLLC – Patricia Martinez

Contact: patricia@themindbodycc.com

The Mind Body Counseling Center shared a community resource flyer with coalition partners.

Flyer:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Wd8zUAgvCIBjVfZUf51wZHSKsgtfgezP>

Building Steps Behavioral Health – Paulina Sanchez

Contact: p.sanchez@buildingstepsbehavioralhealth.com

Building Steps Behavioral Health shared additional resources and information with coalition partners.

Flyers:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1DUTFgBtOamWo3RDEdb7AEqIUv_GoyJmC

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=17qG2rQuXe6DursYDmCO30xAuaW2NSezC>

S.M.I.L.E. – Raul Castillo

Contact: Outreachcoordinator@smile-az.org

S.M.I.L.E. continues providing services and support for **youth, adults, and seniors with disabilities**, helping individuals and families access resources and opportunities that promote independence, connection, and quality of life.

Flyer:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=14ftoD58vB0Q9vUD7BTWXmiNWE6GWFdfP>

Padagis Naloxone – Sandy Biggers

Contact: Sandy.biggers@padagis.com

Padagis Naloxone is now a **new naloxone provider through the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS)**.

This expanded provider network creates another important opportunity to increase access to naloxone and strengthen overdose prevention efforts throughout our community.

Yuma County Sheriff's Office – Victoria Gonzalez

Contact: Victoria.Gonzalez@ycso.yumacountyaz.gov

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office is working with YCADC on **Jail Re-Entry Program planning**, creating an opportunity to strengthen connections and support for individuals transitioning back into the community.

This partnership represents an important step toward connecting individuals with prevention, treatment, recovery, behavioral health, and community resources as they re-enter Yuma County communities.

YCADC UPDATE: Joanne Fiser, Executive Director of YCADC

YCADC continues to expand our prevention outreach throughout Yuma County, connecting with youth, families, and community members through strong partnerships and community events. Here are just a few of the outreach efforts made during this busy back-to-school season:

- Regional Center for Border Health – Back to School Health Fair: YCADC participated by sharing prevention education, resources, and community information with local families.
- City of Yuma – Back to School Rodeo: YCADC was proud to support this highly attended event by donating 2,000 prevention folders, which were included in each of the 2,000 backpacks distributed to students. Coalition staff also hosted a resource table, connecting with families among the approximately 3,000 attendees.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Center – Back to School Event: YCADC was grateful to be invited to participate in another successful community event, sharing prevention resources and connecting with families among the 600+ attendees.

Presentation

Jennifer Hulbert, Injury Prevention Coordinator, *Yuma County Public Health Services District*

Presentation

Kellan Trammel, Co-Responder Unit, *City of Yuma Fire Department*

Champion Thank You's

- *Steve Legros – CONNECTION Podcast Production Manager*
A heartfelt thank you to Steve Legros for generously volunteering his time, talent, and expertise to produce our CONNECTION Podcast. Your continued dedication and behind-the-scenes work help us share important prevention messages, highlight our community champions, and extend the reach of our coalition. Your time and commitment are appreciated more than you know!

- *To Our Community Champions*

A special thank you to our incredible community champions who invited Yuma CARES Coalition to participate in their Back-to-School events and provided opportunities for us to present directly to local youth. These partnerships allow us to meet youth and families where they are, strengthen relationships, and create a greater impact throughout our community. *Connection is Prevention. Together, we are making a difference.*

Introduce New Champions

We are excited to welcome our newest Coalition Champions attending their first meeting! Through referrals and community outreach, we continue to grow our network of champions committed to prevention, mental health awareness, and a healthier Yuma County. Welcome—we are grateful to have you join our coalition.

Good of the Order: Ginny Legros, Executive Director of YCMHC

– (Friendly Reminders: Please double check that you signed in with the QR code. *Please leave your badges at your seat.

Adjourned:

The meeting is Adjourned 1:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 8, 2026

Yuma CARES unites community partners, prevention leaders, and mental health professionals to promote wellness, resilience, and recovery across Yuma County. By addressing substance use prevention and mental health awareness together, we take a whole-person, whole-community approach—because healthy minds and healthy choices go hand in hand.

