



Minutes
September 8, 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	AWC	School
Anthony Legros	Yuma Police Department	Law Enforcement
Berenice Ortiz	TLCR	Substance Use Organization
Bethany Gonzalez	The Salvation Army	Religious or Fraternal Organization
Beto Garcia	Charlie Health	Substance Use Organization
Beverly Cade	NAACP	Non-Profit Organization
Christian Hernandez	Onvida Health	Healthcare Professional
Courtney J Starkey, LPC	The Mindful Works & Mystic Therapist	Business
Courtney Starkey	Community Partners Integrated Healthcare	Healthcare Professional
Crisanto Herrera	YUHSD - Somerton High School	School
Dennis Gasrow, Jr.	Yuma Fire Department	State, Local or Tribal Governmental Agency
Dusty Fields	Arizona Western College	School
Elvis Kost	Regional Center for Border Health	Healthcare Professional
Fred Rodriguez	Achieve Human Services	Healthcare Professional
Henry Gonzalez	YUHSD	School
Isabella Nicholls	Yuma Southwest Contractors Association	Civic/Volunteer Organization
Jacob Weitzman	Homeland Security	Law Enforcement
Jen Hulbert	Yuma County Public Health Services District	State, Local or Tribal Governmental Agency
Jeremy Heith Daniels	Yuma Police Department	Law Enforcement
Jessica Hubbard	Castle Dome Middle School	School
Joanne Fiser	YCADC	Substance Use Organization

Jonathan Palacio	A Cut Above Hospitality	Business
Kelly Dale	Yuma Union High School District	School
Kimberly Castro	Yuma County Sheriff's Office	Healthcare Professional
Leif Erickson	Community Medical Services	Substance Use Organization
Lili Campa	YUHSD	School
Linda Elliott-Nelson	Arizona Town Hall	Civic/Volunteer Organization
Lisa Anderson	Anderson Connections LLC	Business
Lynne Pancrazi	Yuma County	State, Local or Tribal Governmental Agency
Marlene Roman	Community Health Associates	Healthcare Professional
Martha Dominguez	Yuma County Sheriff's Office	Law Enforcement
Matthew Belin	Fort Yuma Healthcare Center	Healthcare Professional
Maty Gatón	Church for the City/Optimal Care and Wellness	Healthcare Professional
Mazzy Dae Andrade	Onvida Health	Healthcare Professional
Miriam Limon	Onvida Health	Business
Monica Cortez	United States Border Patrol	Law Enforcement
Nidia Herrera	Arizona@Work-Yuma	Youth Serving Organization
Olivia Porchas	Yuma High School	School
Raul Castillo	SMILE Center for Independent Living	Youth Serving Organization
Robert Wright	Yuma Police Department	Law Enforcement
Ruben Ornelas	Crossroads Mission	Substance Use Organization
Ruby Wilson	American Made Recovery, Inc.	Substance Use Organization
Ryan Butcher	Yuma Co Health District	Local Government
Sarah Chavez	Private Practice	Healthcare Professional
Sarah Figueroa	Kofa High School/YUHSD	School
Sasha Pisano	Onvida Health	Business
Shelley Mellon	RL Jones Insurance	Business
Stephanie Dressler	Easterseals Blake Foundation	Healthcare Professional
Steve Legros	YCADC	Advocate

Timothy Keller	YUHSD #70	School
Wayne 'Pepper' Mellon	RL Jones Insurance	Business

Approval of Minutes -

Pledge/September 2026 Meeting Minutes – A motion was made by Henry Gonzales and seconded by Bernice Ortiz. Minutes approved.

Welcome Champion Introductions & Community Updates -

TLCR – Berenice Ortiz

Contact: bortiz@crbhs.com

5th Annual Halloween Event

TLCR is currently seeking agencies and community organizations interested in participating in its **5th Annual Halloween Event!**

Friday, October 30
4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Carver Park

Community agencies interested in participating are encouraged to connect with TLCR and help make this year's event another fun and meaningful opportunity for local youth and families.

Charlie Health – Beto Garcia

Contact: Jose.garcia@charliehealth.com

Charlie Health continues to offer **Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)** services for kids, teens, and adults experiencing mental health, substance use, and/or co-occurring conditions.

- Services available for children, teens, and adults
- In-network with AHCCCS and commercial insurance plans
- Support available for mental health and substance use needs

The Mindful Works & Mystic Therapist – Courtney J Starkey, LPC

Contact: Mystictherapistcourtney@gmail.com

Courtney shared a new online resource through **The Mindful Works & Mystic Therapist**, offering mindfulness tools developed by a licensed therapist.

The resource features **trauma-informed healing tools** designed to support nervous-system regulation, mindful living, and intuitive self-connection. Resources blend clinical grounding with a gentle, approachable style to help individuals feel calmer, clearer, and more connected.

Community members can also find books, meditations, podcasts, and educational resources through the website.

Website: www.themindfulworks.com

Community Partners Integrated Healthcare – Courtney Starkey

Contact: Cstarkey@communitypartnersinc.org

Community Partners Integrated Healthcare is currently accepting **new referrals for all ages** for outpatient mental health services.

Services include:

- Case management
- Psychiatric services
- Medical management
- Counseling and therapy
- Family support
- Primary care services

In addition, **Intermountain Yuma Foster Care** is seeking individuals and families interested in becoming foster parents.

Community partners are encouraged to share this opportunity with individuals who may be interested in supporting children and families in Yuma County.

Community Medical Services – Leif Erickson

Contact: Leif.Erickson@cmsgiveshope.com

Community Medical Services will host its **Community Care Fair** this month!

September 26

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

225 S. 1st Avenue, Yuma, AZ

The Community Care Fair will provide an opportunity for residents and community partners to connect with valuable local resources and services.

Onvida Health – Mazzy Dae Andrade

Contact: mandrade3@onvidahealth.org

Onvida Health's **Evening Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)** has officially begun!

The program meets:

Three times per week

5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Community agencies interested in learning more about the program or arranging an **in-service or tour of the Behavioral Health inpatient facility** are encouraged to contact Mazzy.

Flyers:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1EKQuQWsD_QByCCK30-UAIGeh6CPzf9-H

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1QeysDp1DNaI5f5sNEPon7PAw6xztepeC>

Mazzy also shared information about the **Travis Manion Foundation 9/11 Heroes Run**, taking place this month.

Arizona@Work – Yuma – Nidia Herrera

Contact: nherrera@ypic.com

Arizona@Work – Yuma shared information about an upcoming **Job and Education Fair**, connecting community members with employment, education, and career opportunities.

Flyer:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1YpdRGBs_8QaSzgydr3DbCYFiOJ_gEKvt

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qthcOx8r0h8B6QWSKseKfH9YxV83ftAo/view?usp=drive_link

S.M.I.L.E. Center for Independent Living – Raul Castillo

Contact: Outreachcoordinator@smile-az.org

S.M.I.L.E. Center for Independent Living shared information about resources specializing in **Social Security**, providing individuals and families with additional support and information as they navigate Social Security-related needs.

Flyer:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vp8a6Jv7x8XGtpHuUWimz8GtKEenELG9L>

American Made Recovery, Inc. – Ruby Wilson

Contact: rwilson@americanmaderecovery.org

American Made Recovery, Inc. shared a community resource with coalition partners.

Resource:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1nwkdIN5iSqtEXWKUvWwpsz8qbnFRy55W>

Community Suicide Prevention Awareness Event - Sarah Chavez

Contact: sjchavez18@gmail.com

Flyer: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GWkBRtJfUNWDiCdFQp4bFwfjokdZYrqw/view?usp=drive_link

City of Yuma - Jenn Reichelt, Deputy City Administrator

Contact: Jennifer.Reichelt@yumaaz.gov.

The City of Yuma is connecting with community organizations and key stakeholders to provide educational presentations and important information about Proposition 436.

Resource: yumaaz.gov/Prop436

YCADC UPDATE: Joanne Fiser, Executive Director of YCADC

- We are grateful for the opportunity to travel alongside the Yuma County Sheriff's Office to tour the Yavapai County Re-Entry Program. The visit was extremely successful and provided valuable insight and opportunities for collaboration. We look forward to the next steps in exploring the development of a re-entry program here in Yuma County.
- Yuma CARES Coalition is excited to continue expanding prevention messaging throughout Yuma County through PSAs on our local radio stations and monthly appearances on the Today in Yuma Show with Jennifer Blackwell and Theresa Straub. These opportunities allow us to highlight prevention campaigns, share community resources, and extend important prevention messages throughout Yuma County.
- We are incredibly thankful to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona for their generous \$12,500 sponsorship in support of Red Ribbon Month. This investment will help YCADC expand our reach, strengthen our prevention efforts, and make an even greater impact throughout our community. We are truly grateful for their continued support and commitment to prevention in Yuma County.

Presentation

Ginny Legros- Executive Director/Yellow Ribbon Trainer, Yuma County Mental Health Coalition/Yellow Ribbon Program

Champion Thank-Yous

- A special thank you to our **Co-Responder Unit** for being our podcast guests and sharing valuable information and resources. We appreciate your partnership and commitment to helping us strengthen and grow a healthier, safer Yuma County.
- A special thank you to **Ginny Legros** for being our podcast guest and sharing valuable information with our community. We are grateful for your time, insight, and continued support in helping us make a positive impact and build a healthier, safer Yuma County.

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:

Meeting is Adjourned 1:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: October 13, 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.

