



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 |

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| 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 |

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| 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

