



**Substance Misuse and Mental Health Alliance  
Referral and Treatment Task Force  
Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2019  
3:00-4:30 PM  
CODAC, 380 E. Ft. Lowell Rd.**

**In Attendance**

Alexis Spalla, Burning Tree West  
Alex Fernandez, CODAC  
Beth Wiese, Church of Safe Injection – Tucson  
Brenda Bond, CODAC  
Brian Thompson, Tucson Fire Department  
Bryanda Acuña, CODAC  
Chris Thomas, Sonoran Prevention Works  
Chris Wildblood, Tucson Police Department  
Cynthia Potter, The Haven  
De Anna Barber, Catholic Community Services  
Debbie Krueger, Community Provider of Enrichment Services  
Edna Admas, Banner Health  
Elisa Sabyan, HOPE Inc.  
Eric Morales, Tucson Police Department  
Ismael Solis, HOPE, Inc.  
James Briseno, Community Health Associates  
Jamie Patricks, CODAC  
Joby De La Rosa, Church of Safe Injection – Tucson  
John Malson, Oxford House  
Kari Mcfarkind, Oxford House  
Karla De La Cruz, Community Prevention Coalition  
Kaye Godbey, University of Arizona, Campus Health  
Ken McCulloch, Pima County Adult Probation  
Kevin Curiel, Cornerstone Behavioral Health  
Lee Ann Landphair, Palo Verde Behavioral Health  
Leigh-Anne Andrew, Connections  
Leslie Pickett, Counter Drug Task Force  
Lina Trujillo, Cenpatico  
Linda Everett, Pima County Behavioral Health  
Maggie Myers, Marana Prevention Alliance  
Mark Person, Pima County Health Department  
Matthew Duncan, Oxford House  
Mayra Leon, HOPE Inc.  
Mayra Ramos, Pima County Administration  
Miranda Gali, La Frontera  
Muriel McGillicuddy, Pima County Sheriff  
Nic Cogdall, Pima County Health Department  
Patrick Sullivan, Community Medical Services  
Paul Giordano, Community Medical Services  
Peggy Glider, University of Arizona, Campus Health  
Rachel Cummings, Pima County Health Department  
Richard Barcelo, HOPE Inc.  
Rudy Trinidad, Community Bridges  
Sara Locarnini, Counter Drug Task Force  
Shannon Fowler, Southwest Institute for Research on Women  
Stacey Cope, Sonoran Prevention Work  
Stacey Heinrich, Coyote Task Force  
Steve Lee, CODAC  
Tamara Sargus, University of Arizona  
Tania Long, Arizona Complete Health  
Terry Nordbrock, Pima County Health Department  
Tony Anderson, Sonora Behavioral Health  
Victor Hightower, Gospel Rescue Mission

**Welcome and Introductions**

Tania Long, Arizona Complete Health, welcomed everyone in attendance and a round table of introductions was completed. Tania also informed the group that there will be a newsletter for the group and asked for content from the organizations in attendance. If you have information that you would like shared in the newsletter, please reach out to Tania Long at [talong@azcompletehealth.com](mailto:talong@azcompletehealth.com).

Additionally, Tania provided the group with cards with contact information for 24/7 access to opioid treatment providers. These cards are intended to be shared with a variety of providers to help provide wrap-around services. These contact numbers include:

- Cochise County – Community Bridges: 520-354-0511
- Graham County – Community Partners Integrated Healthcare: 480-387-0614
- Greenlee County – Community Partners Integrated Healthcare: 480-387-0614
- La Paz County – Community Health Associates: 928-503-1170
- Pima County – CODAC: 520-202-1786; Community Bridges: 520-354-0511



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- Pinal County – Community Bridges: 520-354-0511
- Santa Cruz County – Community Health Associates: 520-334-9943
- Yuma County – Community Bridges: 928-328-8482

**Pima Helpline Update**

Rachel Cummings, Pima County Health Department, provided the group with information on the launch of the Pima Helpline website. The website successfully launched on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and is intended to help individuals easily find mental health and addiction treatment, services, and support. Additionally, Rachel provided contact cards with the website's address [www.pimahelpline.org](http://www.pimahelpline.org). Organizations that have not yet been included on the website have been asked to provide their contact information, services provided, and logo to Rachel Cummings at [Rachel.Cummings@pima.gov](mailto:Rachel.Cummings@pima.gov).

**Update on the Center of Opportunity**

Victor Hightower, Gospel Rescue Mission, provided an update on the Center of Opportunity which opened on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The facility, open from 7AM to 7PM, had 229 of its 250 beds filled. While the center is willing to help anyone, Victor stressed that the center is primarily for individuals who are not currently receiving services of any kind. Victor also clarified the medically assisted treatment policy for the center, noting that long-term programming will result in individuals tapering off, however, this is not required in the interest of helping as many people as possible. Gospel Rescue Mission's Program Director will be asked to provide additional information at the next meeting.

Additionally, if individuals are interested in touring the facility, they can provide Victor with 2-3 dates and times by phone at (520) 740 1501 or via email at [vhightower@grmtucson.com](mailto:vhightower@grmtucson.com).

**Sonoran Prevention Works Update**

Chris Thomas, Sonoran Prevention Works, informed the group that some outreach teams have expressed concern about encounters with police who have confiscated harm reduction materials and naloxone. Chris stressed that the criminalization of this drug is detrimental, that distributing outreach materials is not illegal, and emphasized the need for messaging to be shared with the broader law enforcement community.

The group also discussed concerns from neighborhood associations regarding outreach materials from Sonoran Prevention Works and needles being found in parks. While it may not be likely that the needles were from the outreach teams, the group discussed approaches to cleaning up parks including taking back used needles. The group noted that there are legal liabilities related to mobile outreach volunteers having used needles, however, these discussions will need to happen at a higher policy level.

**Report Development**

Mark Person, Pima County Health Department, provided an update on a consolidated report on prescription drug overdoses in Pima County. Mark provided feedback from the survey that was conducted at the last meeting to help guide the development of the report. Key findings included a preference for a quarterly report, interest in types of existing comorbidities, type of opioid-involved in the overdose, and comparison with state-wide trends. Mark did note that some data including the address of the overdose, identifying characteristics, and protected health information could not be shared in the report.



### **Lighthouse Project Update**

Shannon Fowler, Southwest Institute for Research on Women, provided an update on their services. The Lighthouse Project is a support service system that is both LGBTQ+ affirming and trauma-informed for individuals ages 18-24 that are experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the Lighthouse Project provides trainings on LGBTQ+ topics to service providers.

### **Oxford House Update**

Matthew Duncan, Oxford House, shared that their organization will be expanding to southern Arizona. Oxford House, which helps to provide housing to help individuals achieve long-term sobriety from all substances, will be opening up one house for men and another for women on July 15<sup>th</sup> with 100 houses planned over the next 5 years. Matthew informed the group that individual living in Oxford houses are self-run and self-supporting, with individuals paying their own rent and running the house democratically.

### **Success Story**

Bryanda Acuña, CODAC, read a letter that an individual had submitted who had gone through the deflection program to receive treatment. The letter expressed appreciation for the deflection program and the officer who helped them through the process. Since the program has started there have been over 400 individuals who have sought treatment through the deflection program.

### **Next Task Force Meeting**

#### **Referral and Treatment Task Force**

**Date:** Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Time:** 3:00-4:30 pm

**Location:** CODAC, 380 E. Ft. Lowell Rd.

### **Adjourn**