

DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

INTENDED OUTCOMES OF MEETING:

Share status of community connections/meetings, Annual Progress Report, and upcoming events with Coalition members

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting of the DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION called to order at 4:05 PM. on August 8, 2023, at the UAM College of Technology, Crossett, and via Zoom by Janie Carter.

PRESENT IN PERSON		PRESENT VIA ZOOM
Janie Carter	Amanda Morris	Robert Deen
Shelley Carter	Brick (Tank) Morris	Barron Griffin
Officer Robert Black	Bro. Mike Neal	India Holt
Sherri Hendrix	Arlyn Richards	Jennifer Johnson
Katie Hernandez	Lisa Riels	Rick Matheny
Victoria Herrera	Linda Rushing	Julie Robertson
Rev Ephraim Johnson	Daniel Shelton, Jr.	Superintendent Tracy Streefer
Dennis Maxwell	Eric Shoffner	Mary Vaughn
Gina Morgan	Elizabeth White	Evelyn Woods

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the August 8, 2023, meeting were approved as written. Daniel Shelton, Jr. initiated the motion for approval and Eric Shoffner followed with a second. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INTRODUCTIONS:

Everyone introduced him/herself, and first-time attendees and new supporting members Katie Hernandez and Victoria Herrera were welcomed to the Coalition. Youth sector attendees were Victoria Herrera and Tank Morris. Janie thanked new active member Gina Morgan for supplying the meeting attendees with copies of September meeting agendas and minutes from the August meeting.

REPORTS/EVENTS:

SCHOOL EVENTS:



August 1

Hamburg School District Started Fall 2023 Semester



August 3

Meeting with Crossett School District Administrators and Curriculum Consultants

August 4

CHS Freshman Orientation

August 11

OPEN HOUSE Crossett High School and Crossett Middle School

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

August 5

Ashley County United with Love and Diversity Back-to-School Bash; Crossett United Methodist Church

August 24

Janie Carter, Daniel Shelton, Jr. & Christi Carter met with Mayor Carolyn Harris and Ebony Jackson in Wilmot to share information on preparing their proposal for a DFC Grant in spring 2024.

August 25

Parent Meeting (Prospective Parents, Phoenix Staff, and D-FAC members)

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TRAINING/CONFERENCE REPORTS:

- August 21-24** **DFC Coordinators completed the final week of CADCA National Coalition Academy Training.** Lisa and Liz are completing the project assignments that include: 1. A community assessment that includes information gathered over the past two years as well as current surveys completed by parents in both school districts; 2. Logic models that delve into the substance abuse problems and why they are occurring in our county; 3. An evaluation process for the progress of grant goals; 4. A sustainability plan for continuing the work of the coalition after the end of the Drug-Free Community Grant; 5. Evaluation of communication; and 6. A strategic action plan.
- August 30-Sept 2** **Vice Chair/Chair Elect Daniel Shelton, Jr. attended 2023 Peer Recovery Conference** in LR: Daniel reported that Peer Recovery is exploding not only in Arkansas but all over the country. There are peer recovery specialists employed successfully in police departments, hospitals, schools, drug courts, overdose response projects, and treatment facilities. The “lived experience” of individuals in long-term successful recovery is proving to be the best source of encouragement and accountability for individuals in treatment and/or in the various stages of recovery. Daniel expressed gratitude to the Coalition for allowing him the opportunity to attend and learn more about how peers are trained and used successfully in Arkansas.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- September 22** **Law Enforcement Appreciation Lunch** – Speaker: Eric Shoffner; Pharmacist/Owner Gammel’s Pharmacy; Location: Mt. Olive Baptist Church, N. Crossett
- October 14** **Wiggins Cabin Festival:** several parents desire to man an informational table at the Wiggins Festival in Crossett. Please contact Liz White (whitedfc1@gmail.com) to see what time slots are needed.
- October 23-31** **Red Ribbon Week:** different events are being scheduled in both school districts to take place during Red Ribbon Week; read more about the origin of Red Ribbon Week at www.redribbon.org
- October 28** **AR TAKEBACK DAY;** Take unused prescription drugs to a TakeBack location: Gammel’s Pharmacy in Crossett; Crossett Police Department; Hamburg Police Department; Wilmot Police Department. D-FAC Coalition will assist in takeback events-volunteers are needed.
- November 8** **AR Stop Overdose Summit,** Little Rock, Statehouse Convention Center; sponsored by the Arkansas Attorney General’s Office; no registration fee is required. but individuals must register. <https://arkansasag.eventsmart.com/events/2023-stop-overdose-summit/>

DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS:

- Eric announced that he and his wife will contribute two \$100 gift cards to Southern Spice Boutique to be used as door prizes for the Law Enforcement Appreciation Lunch!
- Members made contributions to pay the registration fee for Wiggins Cabin as well as to defray costs for the Law Enforcement Appreciation lunch. A total of \$100 was donated.
- Results of the Training/Support survey from the August meeting were discussed. The top needs are:
 - #1) Engaging the general community in substance use prevention initiatives.
 - #2) Engaging key partners (e.g., school personnel, parents) in substance use prevention initiatives.
 - #3) Recruiting/engaging populations of focus e.g., youth/students) in prevention initiatives.
- The October meeting will include a parent guest to speak and recognition of an outstanding youth coalition member.
- The In-Kind Match for the DFC Grant now totals \$192,293.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 10 - 4:00 PM at UAM College of Technology Crossett

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.
Minutes submitted by: Janie Carter