

DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

INTENDED OUTCOMES OF MEETING:

Share status of community connections/meetings, upcoming events and build knowledge/capability.

AGENDA ITEMS:

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS: D-FAC Coalition Website: <https://www.drugfreeac.org>

Meeting of the DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION called to order at 4:00 PM. on December 12, 2023, at UAM-CTC in-person ONLY by Cathie Hillier.

IN PERSON MEETING ONLY [Holiday Fellowship]		
Christi Carter		Gina Morgan
Ronnie Donaldson		Amanda Morris
Olivia Gentry	[Guest]	Judah Morris [Guest]
Kacy Jo Gill [CMS]	Curriculum Consultant	River Morris, [Guest]
Jessica Griffith [HHS]	Curriculum Consultant	Tank Morris, Youth Member
Sherri Hendrix		Brother Mike Neal
Roman Herbert	Guest	Arlyn Richards
Katie Hernandez		Lisa Riels
Victoria Herrera	Youth Member	Linda Rushing
Anthony Haloman	Thread of Hope [Guest]	Daniel Shelton
Cathie Hillier		Eric Shoffner
Harry Hillier	Guest	Lesli Switzer [CHS] – Curriculum Consultant
Rev Ephraim Johnson		Prostell Thomas
Dennis Maxwell		Elizabeth White

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Hearing no corrections or additions, minutes from the November 14, 2023, meeting were approved as written, with Dennis Maxwell initiating the motion and Amanda Morris following with a second. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INTRODUCTIONS:

Lisa Riles/Liz White introduced Kacy Jo Gill [CMS] and Lesli Switzer [CHS], both school librarians, who serve as Curriculum Consultants for the Coalition.

REPORTS/EVENTS:

New Members¹ There have been no new members joining our coalition this month.

In Kind Contributions²: D-FAC Coalition received \$500.00 donation from Ashley County United Fund
Ronnie Donaldson reported N=45 participants, Thread of Hope Meetings for Oct – Dec/2023.

REPORT ON NOVEMBER/DECEMBER EVENTS:

November 29, 2023, Coalition members attended Faith-Based Conference

December 7, 2023,



Phoenix Youth & Family Services, Inc. conference on “MISSING LINKS ...”: Meth Prevention Conference 9:00am – 1:00pm, Crossett Community Center

Discussion of critical missing pieces to end methamphetamine abuse in our region.

- December 12, 2023,** **DELTA UPDATE:** Carolyn Harris, Executive Director Heart2Heart Connections/Mayor
- youth survey results regarding vaping and opioid knowledge from October/23 were presented at Parent/Teacher Meeting [*survey results attached*].
 - fundraising ideas are being generated to cover costs for two youth to attend 2024 CADCA Mid-year Conference.
 - Prevention brochures and coloring books will be distributed on December 20, 2023, during “Christmas Break Event” Heart2Heart Connections

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- December 16, 2023.** Naloxone Training Wilmont Community Center 2:00 – 4:00 pm
- January 16, 2023,** Eric Shoffner indicated he would lead discussion for **HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS SECTOR** at January/24 D-FAC Coalition meeting. *Other sectors encouraged to identify the month they would be interested in leading conversation for their sector to present to coalition membership.*

COALITION SECTOR	REPRESENTATIVE	PRESENTATION DATE
Youth	Rachel Richardson	
Parents	Mandy Morris	
Law Enforcement	Chief Johnny Oliver	
Schools	Tracy Streeter	
Businesses	Julie Roberson	
Media	Dennis Maxwell	
Youth-Serving Organizations	Roshunda Davis Johnson	
Faith-Based Organization	Ronnie Donaldson	12/12/23
Civic & Volunteer Groups	Sherri Maxwell Hendrix	
Healthcare Professionals	Eric Shoffner	01/16/24
State, local & tribal agencies	Sharron Mims	
Treatment	Barron Griffin	

- January 24, 2024,** Food Drive

DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS:

- Faith-Based Sector Presentation:** Each presenter shared his personal story and importance of their contributions and membership to our D-FAC Coalition
- i. Ronnie Donaldson & Bro Anthony Haloman: Thread of Hope Addiction Ministries: Meetings Tuesday evening at South Main Baptist Church Crossett, AR 7:00 p.m. Spoke about their work on recovery with inmates and individuals attending meetings reminding coalition members about importance of asking for God’s help and encouraging us to be compassionate and not judge. Ronnie also mentioned **BE AWARE** - there is an emerging opioid derivative of codeine “Krokadil” from Russia which is the world’s deadliest drug.
 - ii. Bro Mike Neal: Echoed previous comments that only God can fill that emptiness or “hole” inside that most addicts experience. He shared a portion of his upcoming sermon, the story of the Wisemen, “*star gazers*”, or thought of as Magi, reminding us there is always a way God can use you to help those in need– He has a plan, and we need to trust Him.
 - iii. Bro Ephraim Johnson: “I’m a nobody, talking about **SOMEBODY** that can save everybody!!! He also emphasized how essential is to know Jesus, to accept Him and allow Him in your heart.

Nomination and decision on 2024/5 Coalition Officers:

Sherri Hendrix, on behalf of Nominating Committee [Sherri Hendrix, Brother Mike Neal & Daniel Shelton, Jr.], presented nominations for Members to vote on for 2024/5 Officers.

Recommendations were voted on and unanimously approved by members.

Chairperson:	Eric Shoffner [2-year]
Vice Chair/Chair Elect:	Bro Mike Neal [2-year]
Secretary:	Christi Carter [1-year]
Treasurer:	Gina Morgan [1-year]

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, January 9 at 4:00 PM at UAM College of Technology-Crossett

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned 5:00 p.m. and minutes submitted by: Cathie Hillier

1 TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

ACTIVE: Must be a resident of or employed in Ashley County, Arkansas, attend a minimum of six [6] monthly meetings and be actively involved in the work of the Coalition. Active members have voting rights that can be revoked if attendance falls below required threshold.

SUPPORTING: May not be able to attend all meetings regularly but is familiar with the work of the Coalition, supports prevention efforts and has a vested personal or professional interest in the community. Supporting members have no voting rights; however, if their meeting attendance reaches a total of three [3], they have one vote.

EXTENDED: Not necessarily aware of the day-to-day work of the Coalition but is an individual or community leader who may be contacted occasionally regarding specific prevention issues and or specific tasks.

- 2 Our 5-year grant has the possibility of being extended to a maximum of ten years. The match for the first six years is at 100%. One thing that is very important is attendance. Anyone who attends meetings, in person or virtually will contribute to the match at more than \$23 per hour - a resource considered a fair amount per hour for public volunteerism in Arkansas. Every volunteer event, everyone in attendance, including youth and volunteers, is a "good in-kind match".