

DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

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>

A meeting of the DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION was called to order at 4:05 p.m. on February 13, 2024, at UAM-CTC in-person and on ZOOM by Eric Shoffner, Chairperson.

IN PERSON		ZOOM
Carter, Christi	Black, Officer Robert	Rogers, Officer Terri
Carter, Janie	Smith, Lucille	Mondragon, Gyermina
Hendrix, Sherri	Bowles, Rene	Sivils, Officer Timothy
Herrera, Victoria	Brooks, Matt	Stocker, Kristi
Johnson, Ephraim	Hernandez, Katie	Carter, Officer Allyson
Morgan, Gina	Gentry, Olivia	Guimbellot, Vivian
Morris, River	Morris, Judah	Jones, Bridgett
Morris, Tank	Morris, Amanda	Holt, India
Neal, Mike	Shelton, Daniel	Riels, Lisa
Oliver, Johnny	Mitchell, Mary Jo	
Shoffner, Eric	Richards, Arlyn	
Streeter, Tracy	Kilcrease, Beau	
White, Liz		

Hearing no corrections or additions, minutes from the January 9, 2024, meeting were approved as written, with Daniel Shelton initiating the motion and Mandy Morris following with a second. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INTRODUCTIONS:

New Members¹ **Adult Active Members:** Rene Bowles [Parent]; Judge Teresa French [Law Enforcement/Judicial]
Adult Supporting Members: Judge Robert Gibson, III; Terri Rogers; Allyson Carter; Bobette Callahan; Matt Brooks; Gyerminia Mondragon [All Law Enforcement/Judicial]
Adult Extended Members: Timothy Sivils, Whitley Hickman [Law Enforcement/Judicial]

REPORTS/EVENTS:

HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS:



- Provided prevention information in Spanish for Parent Night at HMS
- Coordinators and students are planning a mini-summit for March 8
- Providing information at Parent/Teacher Conferences

DELTA UPDATE:
February 18, 2024:

Written report by Carolyn Harris attached
 Will be providing Naloxone Training for community members in Wilmont

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 29 Go Red Gala
March 4 Life Choices Banquet (D-FAC will sponsor a table)
March 8 Teen Mini-Summit

DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS:

1. **LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTOR PRESENTATION:** Officer Robert Black did a presentation on “How Can We Work Together?” *Presentation notes are included at the end of this document.*
2. **SECTOR LEADERS:** *Each sector was encouraged to identify the month they would be interested in leading conversation for their sector to present to coalition membership. Rene Bowles volunteered to present in March on the perspective of parents of youth with special needs.*
 - a. **NOTE:** *Need to find replacement for Business: Julie Roberson [unable to lead due to business travel] and Healthcare Professionals: Eric Shoffner [currently serving as Coalition Chair]*

COALITION SECTOR	REPRESENTATIVE	2024 PRESENTATION
Youth	Rachel Richardson	
Parents	Rene Bowles	March 12
Law Enforcement	Officer Robert Black	✓ February 13
Schools	Tracy Streeter	
Businesses	Julie Roberson	
Media	Dennis Maxwell	
Youth-Serving Organizations	Roshunda Davis Johnson	
Faith-Based Organization	Bro Mike Neal	June 11 & October 12
Civic & Volunteer Groups	Sherri Maxwell Hendrix	
Healthcare Professionals	Eric Shoffner	✓ January 9 October 8
State, local & tribal agencies	Sharron Mims	
Treatment	Barron Griffin	



3. Superintendent Streeter and Chief Johnny Oliver contributed that Hamburg Police Department and Hamburg School District already have such a process but will check into officially enrolling in this program, [PAYCheck Program Overview: \[PAY: Protecting Arkansas' Youth\]](#) part of Criminal Justice Institute's Maltreatment & Drug Endangered Children initiative for school district designed to protect children impacted by a traumatic event away from school and could exhibit academic, emotional and/or behavioral problems at school because of exposure.
4. The Coalition brochure and Welcome Guide are in the process of being updated.
5. ²Coalition members were reminded to report in-kind service hours to Gina Morgan [Treasurer] for Grant tracking documentation.

¹TYPES 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 the 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.

²IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS:

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 \$25 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”.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, March 12 at 4:00 PM at UAM College of Technology-Crossett

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned 5:05 p.m. and minutes submitted by: Christi Carter

LAW ENFORCEMENT & D-FAC:

How Can We Work Together?

OFFICER BLACK "OB"
CROSSETT POLICE DEPT/CROSSETT SCHOOL DIST.
PATROLMAN/SRO

INTRODUCTION

Married - Shannon - 24 years
Family - 4 Sons, 7 Grandkids, 2 Sisters, Mom's alive, Dad deceased
Police Officer - 24 years - Auxiliary, Full time - El Dorado, Crossett
School Resource Officer (SRO)- 12 years (all CSD)
Ashley County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year - 2016
Arkansas SRO of the Year Nominee - twice - 2015 & 2021
Field Training Officer (FTO), Certified Instructor,
A.L.I.C.E. Instructor, D.A.R.E. Instructor

How Can Law Enforcement & D-FAC Work Together?

- Must Have More Participation from Both Sides
- Find Common Ground
- Learn From One Other
- Be Open to Expanding Your Perspective and Accepting New Roles
- Maintain a Community Focus

Must Have More Participation from Both Sides.

As of right now, there are 10-12 Law Enforcement Officers actively involved in D-FAC (including myself).
There are around 100 Law Enforcement Officers in Ashley County (CPD, HPD, ACSO, Parole & Probation, Wilmot PD, Juvenile Parole & Probation, ... etc).
That is around 10% of the officers in Ashley County who are actively involved in D-FAC.
THERE SHOULD BE 100% INVOLVEMENT!!

How Can We Get More LEO's Involved?

- Actively Recruit
- Explain the Importance of a Partnership between LEO's & D-FAC
- Maintain that Partnership

Find Common Ground

Before even talking about what strategies to implement, we first have to ask ourselves, what are we trying to accomplish?
Be a Drug-Free County

Learn From One Other

The key is to respect each other and try to understand where the other side is coming from.

We have to work with organizations we have not considered partnering with before. This approach allows us to attack the problem from multiple angles.

Be Open to Expanding Our Perspective and Accepting New Roles

Learn what is going on in the community
Are there things we could be doing differently?

Be open to suggestions from others

This isn't a health problem, and it isn't a police problem. It is everyone's problem.

Maintain a Community Focus

We all need to remember that the ultimate goal of this partnership is to help our communities.

We need to keep an eye towards the community at all times

We need to ask people throughout the community for feedback and ideas. Not only will this lead to a more effective Coalition, but it will also help build trust.

Focusing on getting people into treatment rather than on simply arresting them is an unprecedented idea for law enforcement.

Police never saw themselves in this role, but given the opioid epidemic, it is one that is critical for us to take on.

At some point, as you look at the lives lost and the harm to the communities that opioids have caused, you have to weigh whether arresting and incarcerating someone outweighs trying to get people who are addicted into treatment

“We cannot fix the drug problem with a pair of handcuffs”

HEART2HEART CONNECTIONS

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February 20, 2024

D.A.A.F Youth Coalition

January 2024:

- Carolyn Harris attended CADCA - Leadership Conference.
- Youth Coalition meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

February 2024: NARCAN Training

- Carolyn Harris & Evelyn Woods - First Narcan training was held on February 18, 2024. This was our first training, we anticipated (6) attendees but only (3) attended.
- We are communicating with the local churches to conduct another training for the month of March.

