

DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

INTENDED OUTCOMES OF MEETING:

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

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

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

Meeting of the DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION called to order at 4:07 PM. on April 9, 2024, at UAM-CTC in-person and ZOOM by to Eric Shoffner, Chairperson.

IN PERSON		ZOOM
Janie Carter	Christi Carter	Yolonda Johnson
Arlyn Richards	Victoria Herrera	Tracy Streeter
Asher Johnson	Rayce Johnson	Carolyn Harris
Ryker Johnson	Jennifer Johnson	Evelyn Woods
Olivia Gentry	Gina Morgan	Lachandra Williams
Sherri Hendrix	Dennis Maxwell	Lisa Riels
Katie Hernandez	Eric Schoffner	Linda Rushing
Ephraim Johnson	Daniel Shelton	
Ronnie Donaldson	Harry Hillier	
Brenda Sedberry	Cathie Hillier	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Hearing no corrections or additions, minutes from the March 12, 2024, meeting were approved as written, with Cathie Hillier initiating the motion and Carolyn Harris following with a second. The motion carried.

REPORTS/EVENTS:

DELTA UPDATE: Carolyn Harris, Executive Director Heart2Heart Connections/Mayor reported that she and her coalition members are finalizing their drug free communities support grant to be submitted April 17. Spring Clean-up with Heart2Heart Connections-D.A.A.F. Youth Coalition will spend Saturdays in April cleaning senior citizens' yards in three communities. H2H Connection and Wilmot Police Dept. will participate in the Drug Take-Back Program on April 27.

MEDIA REPORTS:

Website: Arlyn Richards reported that over a 12-month period, the total "hits" to the website was 558,445 which is over 46,500 monthly. The total number of "visits" was 72,989.

Radio PSA's (October 2022-September 2023): More than 4,000 PSA's and news stories were contributed by QLite, KAGH, and KWLT radio stations during the first year of the DFC Grant.

REPORT ON MARCH/APRIL EVENTS:

HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS:



districts

2023 School District events and accomplishments [Lisa Riles & Elizabeth White]

- Lisa and Liz had Student Leadership Group meetings for both



COMMUNITY EVENTS:

MARCH 21: Coalition members attended the Juvenile Justice Reform seminar at UAM.

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MARCH 27: Coalition members attended the Crossett Area Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn featuring speaker Staci James who started the Hope Movement Coalition after her son lost his life due to Fentanyl poisoning. <https://hopemovementcoalition.com/>

APRIL: The Coalition lost a valued new member, Rene Bowles, and her children, Kristy and Christopher in a tragic automobile accident. Please keep their family in your prayers. At the family's request, in lieu of flowers, the coalition contributed a memorial gift to Jones-Hartshorn Funeral Home.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 17, 2024:** Mental Health First Aid Training, AR Rural Health Partnership
- April 18, 2024:** Crossett Prom Accident Reenactment
- April 18, 2024:** Naloxone Training at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Hamburg
- April 27, 2024:** AR TAKE BACK DAY: Gammel's in Crossett (AR Opioid Recovery Partnership Deputy Director Tanesha Barnes is scheduled to attend)
Hamburg Police Station; Wilmot Police at Wilmot Community Center
- May 25, 2024:** Fun Day in Wilmot

DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS:

1. **HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS SECTOR PRESENTATION:** Eric Shoffner lead discussion on Vaping (notes attached)
2. **SECTOR LEADERS:** Each sector was encouraged to identify the month they would be interested in leading conversation for their sector to present to the coalition membership.
NOTE: Need to find replacement for Healthcare Professionals Sector Leader since Eric Shoffner is currently serving as Coalition Chair.

COALITION SECTOR	REPRESENTATIVE	2024 PRESENTATION
Youth	Rachel Richardson	
Parents	Mandy Morris	
Law Enforcement	Officer Robert Black	February 13
Schools	Tracy Streefer	
Businesses	Kristi Stocker	
Media	Dennis Maxwell	
Youth-Serving Organizations	Roshunda Davis Johnson	
Faith-Based Organization	Ronnie Donaldson	June 11 & December 10
Civic & Volunteer Groups	Sherri Maxwell Hendrix	
Healthcare Professionals	Eric Shoffner	January 8; April 9 (Vaping) October 8
State, local & tribal agencies	Sharron Mims	
Treatment	Barron Griffin	

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 14 at 4:00 PM at UAM College of Technology-Crossett

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned 5:11 pm. and minutes submitted by: Christi Carter

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 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.

- 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".

ERIC SHOFFNER: HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS' PRESENTATION

4/9/24 – Summary Notes

(Topic Brought up at the Crossett Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting Recently)

BROCHURES DISTRIBUTED/AVAILABLE TO COALITION MEMBERS:

Vaping – How It Affects the Body. www.PTRPress.com

The Real Truth – About Rx and OTC Medicine Abuse: www.StopMedicineAbuse.org/pubs

How To Tell If Your Child is Vaping THC: www.PTRPress.com

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

www.toosmarttostart.samhsa.gov

www.drugfree.org

www.DXMstories.com

www.AbovetheInfluence.com

CHPA – Consumer Healthcare Products Association, founded in 1881, represents the leading manufacturers and distributors of nonprescription, over the counter [OTC] medicines and dietary supplements, and engages in initiatives to combat teen OTC cough medicine abuse.

www.StopMedicineAbuse.org

CADCA: Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America works on behalf of over 5,000 community coalitions across the country to realize its mission of building and maintaining safe, healthy, drug-free communities.

www.CADCA.org

PhRMA: The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America represents the country's leading pharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies, which are devoted to inventing medicines that allow patients to live longer, healthier and more productive lives.

www.PhRMA.org

DEFINITIONS:

What is Vaping: E-cigarettes are devices that use batteries to heat liquid nicotine and flavoring that mimics the taste and sensation of smoking tobacco. It's *BIGGER* than you know.

Need to understand why vaping in the first place. *DON'T BE FOOLED* or *FORGET* – Everyone needs to consider vaping to be the same as smoking. Marketing moved from "e-cigarettes" and transitioned to Vaping – because cigarettes have negative connotation.

Historically, smoking was attractive in 1930's and continued to "Smoke 'em if you got 'em!" (in the Armed Services) in 1940's. In the 1950's every Hollywood actor was smoking; in the 1960's we saw the James Dean profile. By the 1970's, there was an expectation to smoke; however, in the 1980's, smoking was beginning to cause friction, and in

the 1990's, there was even greater promotion to stop smoking. By the 2000's, smoking had been banned in most public places and now the trend has moved to e-cigarettes.

Electronic devices are available in attractive shapes & sizes; some shaped like pipes, highlighters, string ties of a pull-over and all with flavor varieties. There are now vape detectors in our school bathrooms – it's a recognized problem. Nicotine was not meant to be consumed – it's a health consideration/choice.

FALSE ADVERTISING: to invite the next generation of smokers – ages 10-18 and comparing vaping to cigarettes. "Vaping does less damage!" "It's cheaper!", "Affordable", "More Cost Effective", "No Smoky Odor.", "Vapor & nicotine output Control." There is an underbelly to E-Cigarettes – all advertisements target our youth.

DETRIMENTS:

- Damage will come later in life – serious lung disease and vapor/respiratory related deaths.
- A drop of pure nicotine in the palm of your hand will kill you.

FOCUS TO CONSIDER: We're going to need to put into "sweat equity" – set an example, talk about it, ask hard questions, ask the WHY's and let them know it matters and that WE CARE. [Sweat equity originally referred to the value-enhancing improvements generated from the sweat of one's brow. So when people say they use sweat equity, they mean their physical labor, mental capacity, and time to boost the [value](#) of a specific project or venture.]

We know the end game History will repeat itself - this tells us that such behavior leads to addiction and health issues.

We need to help our next generation know the facts. We need to work with state legislation to change laws. There are currently seven (7) distributors in Crossett, AR, with three recent popup locations.

The truth always matters:

- 90% of current smokers started before the age of 18.
- 98% of current smokers started before the age of 26.

EVALI: new medical condition **E-cigarette or Vaping use Associated with Lung Injury** – originally known as VAPI [vaping associated pulmonary illness] – symptoms initially present in ER as pneumonia – "but 18-year-olds don't get pneumonia!!!" [E-cigarette or Vaping Use-Associated Lung Injury \(EVALI\) | American Lung Association](#)

Other inevitable illnesses are asthma, lung scarring, addiction, and eventually cancer. There is also secondhand exposure, 3rd party exposure, [*filtrates as dust from the air or when cleaning up a mess, i.e. highway cleanup*].

RECOMMENDATION: D-FAC should be spearheading this initiative. We cannot ignore, do nothing, or leave this promotion to chance; we need to be vocal and decide what we need to do to help.

CAUTION: Priorities for D-FAC Coalition: Vaping is not a substance; it is a method of consumption. ... Through our DFC Grant efforts, we can **ONLY** address vaping through its potential to advance the use of marijuana. "Vaping THC is a growing problem and deadly problem!". There are vaporizers that transform dry leaf marijuana, "wax", "dab" or concentrate forms and THC oil infused e-liquids. Any e-cigarette vaporizer can be used to vape THC, even Juuls can be modified and filled with THC e-liquids.

"The bottom-line is that vaping THC is a risky business that may lead to serious health consequences and even death."