

# DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

### INTENDED OUTCOMES OF MEETING:

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

The meeting of the DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION was called to order at 4:05 PM. on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at UAM-CTC in person and on ZOOM by Eric Shoffner, Chairman.

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

New members present: **Tyisha Fletcher & Chad Sims** (Civic/Volunteer Sector); **Stacey Barnett** (Substance Abuse Treatment Sector); **Jessica Lingo** (Business Sector); **Tempest Alexander**, Region 4 Prevention Partner with the Strategic Prevention Frameworks-Partnerships for Success Coordinator (Youth-Serving Sector)

**Robert Holt**, Our Let the Violence End (L.O.V.E.) Youth Consultant attended on Zoom.

**Tempest Alexander** works for Community Empowerment Council in Pine Bluff as the Region 12 Coordinator for the Partnership for Success (PFS) Grant and covers all substances while working with youth and adults. The Region 4 PFS program helps build new or sustain co-existing community coalitions in the 10 southeast Arkansas counties served. The PFS grant will provide mini-grants for community coalitions and will help build empowerment teams.

**Bridgett Jones (AR Department of Health)** informed the group that she is currently the Health Program Specialist for the Arkansas Department of Health and covers 14 counties. Her former position of Health Educator for Ashley County Health Unit was recently filled.

IN PERSON		ZOOM
Tyisha Fletcher	Stacey Barnett	Allyson Carter
Jessica Lingo	Dennis Maxwell (Sector Leader)	Linda Rushing
Sherri Hendrix (Sector Leader)	Arlyn Richards	Jennifer Johnson
Daniel Shelton	Eric Shoffner	Terri Rogers
Harry Hillier	Ephraim Johnson	Elizabeth White
Katie Hernandez		Bridgett Jones
Victoria Herrera		Sharron Mims (Sector Leader)
Mike Neal		Tempest Alexander
Janie Carter		Robert Holt
Yolanda Johnson-Martin (Sector Ldr)		Chad Sims
Lisa Riels		India Holt

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

### REPORTS/EVENTS:

**DELTA UPDATE:** Carolyn Harris, Executive Director Heart2Heart Connections/Mayor of Wilmot has informed us that the Drugs And Alcohol Free (D.A.A.F.) Delta Youth Coalition will be inactive for an undetermined period of time, and she will not be able to contribute monthly reports to the regular D-FAC Coalition meetings. In the future, she may be able to pick back up on more regular meetings and will continue to hold activities for youth and adult community members periodically. For this fall, the Heart2Heart Connections non-profit organization will not have an after-school program. Recently an integral member of the organization moved out of state thus forcing hard decisions regarding resources and manpower. Mayor Harris acknowledged that there may be opportunities to reinstate the program in the future, of which she is hopeful. Mayor Harris and Ms. Evelyn Woods will continue to participate in our monthly meetings as their schedule allows although their monthly city council meetings currently conflict with our second Tuesday meeting time. There is still a potential for them to apply for the DFC Grant funding next spring, but she is uncertain about that undertaking until she has further resolution with her other duties and responsibilities.

### HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS:



- Lisa Riels and Elizabeth White reported that they have met with their respective school districts to get the fall semester kicked off.
- Lisa presented information about the 2023-2024 inclusion of the drug-free curriculum lessons summarizing that both administrators and teachers felt it has been very successful. Three of the four nine-week pre-and post-test results showed an increase in understanding and

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knowledge by students. The last subject area, Mental Health, did not show improvement. Considerations discussed about that issue included the tendency of students to lose focus as the end of school nears. More consideration and revisions will be made for the current year. She also reported that lessons have begun in Hamburg as it is now their third week of classes. A report from the Hamburg curriculum coordinators is attached.

- Elizabeth has met with parents and administrators in preparation for the start of the Crossett school year. For the Ninth Grade Orientation, she and Janie Carter were asked to present information on Naloxone to parents and students. A training session was offered to parents that will take place at the high school on Thursday, August 15. Elizabeth has been assigned a classroom at the high school where she can meet with the student leadership team and provide space for small group meetings of students and/or parents as needed.

### JULY/EARLY AUGUST COMMUNITY EVENTS COMPLETED:

- July 29 Hamburg first day of school
- Aug. 2 D-FAC Sector Leader Training
- Aug. 3 Community Block Party at Gates Chapel AME
- Aug. 13 Crossett first day of school

### UPCOMING AUGUST/SEPTEMBER EVENTS:

- Aug. 17 Atwood's Fundraiser from 9-2
- Aug. 24 Partnership for Success Conference: Clear Mind, Clear Path, White Hall, 9 am-3 pm
- Sep. 17 Phoenix Domestic Violence Conference

### DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS:

Jessica Lingo is a new business sector member and the Kinetic/Windstream Community Advocate for our area. She gave a heartfelt presentation about breaking the generational cycle of substance abuse. Jessica relayed that her grandfather was alcoholic and that one of her parents was both alcoholic and drug dependent. She shared the tragic story of being a child who was forced into premature adulthood because she was required to provide care for her mother. She said that she left home at age 16 and determined that she would not only distance herself from the negative factors of her childhood but also vowed to never get caught up in addiction herself. She was adamant about the fact that she had "broken the cycle" of addiction and wants young people to understand and truly believe that is their option as well. She said she did not realize (as many children don't) that what her life was like was *not normal*. She began skipping school to take care of her mom yet did all her assignments; however, she was informed that she would not pass for the year because of absences even though she had good grades. That desperation was the breaking point for her and when she determined she could no longer survive in her family environment. She encouraged all of us to reach out to hurting youth and give them hope. She is now a successful businesswoman and a testament to potential for survival and personal growth.

### Presentation opportunities are open for September and November.

COALITION SECTOR	REPRESENTATIVE	2024 PRESENTATION
Youth		
Parents	Mandy Morris	
Law Enforcement	HPD Chief Johnny Olliver	February 13 (Officer Robert Black)
Education	Tracy Streeter	June 11 (FAS & Drug Dependent Babies-Dr. Alisa White)
Businesses	Kristi Stocker	April 9 (Vaping Shops Concern-Eric Shoffner) August 13 (Jessica Lingo-Windstream Community Advocate-personal story)
Media	Dennis Maxwell	
Youth-Serving Organizations	Roshunda Davis-Johnson	
Faith-Based Organization	Ronnie Donaldson	July 9 & December 10
Civic & Volunteer Groups	Sherri Maxwell Hendrix	
Healthcare Professionals	Dr. Barron Griffin	January 8 (Eric Shoffner) October 8
State, local & tribal agencies with expertise in SUD	Sharron Mims, AR Drug Director's Office	
Treatment	Yolanda Johnson-Martin	May 14 (Fentanyl Awareness Day-Mike Neal)

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned 4:55 p.m. and minutes submitted by: Christi & Janie Carter

Grades:  
8th  
9th  
10th  
11th  
12th

# DRUG CURRICULUM DATA



# TAMBURG

**405**  
Total Minutes

## Marijuana

Pre-Assessment:  
333 students  
Avg score:  
**75.68%**

Post Assessment:  
103 students  
Avg score:  
**79.53%**

## Alcohol

Pre-Assessment:  
145 students  
Avg score:  
**57.73%**

Post Assessment:  
37 students  
Avg score:  
**68.56%**

## Prescription Drugs

Pre-Assessment:  
406 students  
Avg score:  
**79.5%**

Post Assessment:  
223 students  
Avg score:  
**87.53%**

## Mental Health

Pre-Assessment:  
424 students  
Avg score:  
**70.22%**

Post Assessment:  
208 students  
Avg score:  
**70.11%**

Students were exposed to a different drug related topic each nine weeks of the school year. Each topic contained six to seven 15 - 20 minute lessons on information about that drug and how it affects teenagers specifically.

