

# DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION

## MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 8, 2024

### INTENDED OUTCOMES OF MEETING:

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

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

Meeting of the DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION called to order at 4:05 p.m. on October 8, 2024, at UAM-CTC in person and ZOOM by Eric Shoffner, Chairperson 2024/2025

IN PERSON		ZOOM
Adams, MSgt Josh, ARNG DDRO	Neal, Mike	Brown, Devonda [CASA, 1 <sup>st</sup> time visitor]
Alexander, Tempest, PFS	Richards, Arlyn	Johnson, Arthur (AJ) [1 <sup>st</sup> time visitor]
Black, Officer Robert	Riels, Lisa	Mims, Sharron, AR Drug Director Office
Carter, Janie	Rogers, CW4 Richard, ARNG DDRO	Mondragon, Giyermina
Hernandez, Katie	Schoffner, Eric	Riley, Johnny, Jr. (RPR/PFS 1 <sup>st</sup> time)
Hillier, Harry	Shelton, Daniel, Jr., PRSS 5 <sup>th</sup> Jud. Dist.	Rogers, Terri
Maxwell, Dennis	Stagg, Sarah [ANO, 1 <sup>st</sup> time visitor]	
Maxwell-Hendrix, Sherri	White, Liz	

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Hearing no corrections or additions, minutes from the September 10, 2024, meeting were approved as written, with Officer Black initiating the motion and Daniel Shelton, Jr. following with a second. The motion carried.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS/INTRODUCTIONS:

**New Members:** Supporting- **Amanda Chidister** (Volunteer) and **Tylaria Williams** (Youth-Serving); Extended- **Alton & Jeanette Stephenson**

**First-time visitors F2F and Zoom:** MSgt Josh Adams, CW4 Richard Rogers, Sarah Stagg, Johnny Riley, Jr., Arthur Johnson, DeVonda Brown

### REPORT ON SEPTEMBER EVENTS:

- September 17, 2024** Domestic Violence Conference sponsored by Phoenix Youth & Family Services & Naloxone Training
- September 25, 2024** Naloxone Training at Hamburg High School

**HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS:** **Lisa Riels – Hamburg**



There is poster and door decoration competition at the schools in support of Red Ribbon Week. For the elementary schools, D-FAC has sponsored rewarding the class with the winning poster with individual books entitled *No Smoking, No Drinking, No Drugs* by Sally Huss. In November, students in both leadership groups will be working on the project with Johnny's Ambassadors (Marijuana Prevention) to do presentations to peers regarding the dangers of marijuana.



**Liz White – Crossett**

Several Crossett students will be helping at Wiggins Cabin Festival and at the AR TAKE BACK event at Gammel's Pharmacy in Crossett. There is also discussion about participating in a video presentation competition with the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA).

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- October 12, 2024** **Wiggins Cabin Festival** in Crossett. D-FAC will have a booth to provide information, do fund-raising, and make balloon animals to give away. Eric is sponsoring two Dragon Boats and can designate one for D-FAC if anyone wants to compete.
- October 26, 2024** **AR Take Back Day**, Crossett, Hamburg, Wilmot, 10 am-2 pm. Need volunteers
- November 11 or 12** **5<sup>th</sup> GRADE D.A.R.E. Graduation** at CHS Auditorium. SRO Black will inform when date is finalized.

**FUNDING AWARD:** We have been notified by Tempest Alexander of the award of a mini-grant for \$2,000 from the Community Empowerment Council, Inc. in Pine Bluff. The funds will provide workshops regarding community engagement projects for youth to

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be presented by Robert Holt, our consultant from Healing Waters Ministry and Let Our Violence End (L.O.V.E.) in Shannon Hills, AR. Dates and details are being worked out.

**IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS:** Coalition members were reminded to report in-kind service hours. The volunteer rate for 2023 is \$27.74 per hour.

### DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS:

**1. MSgt Josh Adams and CW4 Richard Rogers** from the Arkansas National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Outreach (DDRO Counterdrug Unit) visited and shared briefly their mission of “reducing substance misuse and its destructive impact on our communities.” Information they provided states “Utilizing our unique leadership skills and techniques, we are able to work with coalitions and community base organizations to enable team building, problem solving, and strategic planning. [The] DDRO program provides training and interagency collaboration while advancing prevention efforts across the state.” MSgt Adams and Chief Rogers will provide more in-depth information at the November meeting as to their capabilities of assistance to coalitions.

### 2. SECTOR LEADERS:

- A new sector leader for Youth is being finalized and will be announced at the November meeting.
- Presentation for November 12 will be by MSgt Josh Adams, ARNG Counterdrug Unit, DDRO
- Faith-Based Organization Sector presentation December 10

COALITION SECTOR	REPRESENTATIVE
Youth	To be announced
Parents	Mandy Morris
Law Enforcement	HPD Chief Johnny Oliver
Education	Tracy Streeter
Businesses	Kristi Stocker
Media	Dennis Maxwell
Youth-Serving Organizations	Roshunda Davis Johnson
Faith-Based Organizations	Ronnie Donaldson
Civic & Volunteer Groups	Sherri Maxwell Hendrix
Healthcare Professionals	Dr. Barron Griffin
State, local & tribal agencies	Sharron Mims
Treatment	Yolanda Johnson-Martin

**3. SPEAKER:** In recognition of the DEA TAKEBACK event on October 26, **Eric Shoffner**, D-FAC Chair and owner/pharmacist of Gammel’s Pharmacy in Crossett and ICare Pharmacy in Newport, spoke about the distribution chain of pharmaceutical products from manufacturer to distributor to pharmacy and finally to the consumer. He stated that Law Enforcement is the end recipient of drugs that are reclaimed during TAKEBACK so that the cycle is complete, and drugs do not get reintroduced into society. He explained that the gaps that have occurred in the past are being addressed between now and the end of the calendar year that strengthen the “Track and Trace” capabilities. Bar codes that reveal lot numbers, manufacture date, serial numbers and expiration dates are being applied to all prescription drugs. No longer will facilities be able to “borrow or loan” to other pharmacies even when it would seem harmless to do so. The strengthening of the tracking system is intended to disable illicit exploitation that has occurred.

**4. DFC Project Director/Vice Chair Mike Neal** informed the group that it appears Treasurer Gina Morgan has moved out of state. He asked for a motion to vacate the position so that the Executive Committee could fill it temporarily until the election in December. Janie Carter made the motion to vacate the position and Eric Shoffner seconded. The motion passed. Mike said that Janie would fill the position temporarily until a new treasurer was elected.

**5. Harry Hillier** asked that everyone examine the draft copy of the updated Welcome Guide he has been working on.

**6. Johnny Riley, Jr.,** Regional Prevention Provider and Partnership for Success (Region 3) expressed appreciation for the Coalition and encouraged us to be sure to get our school districts engaged in the Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment (APNA) Survey. He hopes to attend in person next month.

**7. Arthur Johnson** is a Crossett High School and UAM graduate who is educated and experienced in the field of chemical dependency, SUD treatment, Adult and Juvenile Drug Court, and is a radio personality who works actively in community engagement. He is very interested in assisting his hometown of Crossett/Ashley County in our efforts.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at UAM College of Technology-Crossett

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. and minutes were submitted by Janie Carter.