

DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION

MEETING MINUTES

11-12-2024

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>

Meeting of the DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION called to order at 4:15 p.m. on September 10, 2024, at UAM-CTC in person and ZOOM by Mike Neal, DFC Project Director and Vice-Chair 2024/2025

IN PERSON		ZOOM
MSgt Josh Adams [Visitor]	Judah Morris	Tempest Alexander
Officer Matt Brooks	Mandy Morris	DeVonda Brown
Christi Carter	River Morris	Officer Allyson Carter
Janie Carter	Tank Morris	Yolanda Johnson-Martin
Victoria Herrea	Mike Neal	Kimberly Lewis
Katie Hernandez	Arlyn Richards	Sharron Mims, AR Drug Dir. Off.
Jennifer Johnson	Sarah Stagg	Giyermina Mondragon
Dr. Roger Mason	Kristi Stocker	Agent Terri Rogers
CW3 McMullen [Visitor]	Tracy Streeter	Linda Rushing

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Hearing no corrections or additions, minutes from the October 10, 2024, meeting were approved as written, with Katie Hernandez initiating the motion and Janie Carter following with a second. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INTRODUCTIONS:

New Members' Active-**Dr. Roger Mason** (Substance Abuse Treatment Provider and owner of the new Healing Hands Treatment Center in Crossett); Supporting- **Sarah Stagg** (Media); **DeVonda Brown**, (Volunteer/Civic Organization)

REPORTS/EVENTS:

REPORT ON OCTOBER EVENTS:

October 12, 2024

Wiggins Cabin Festival in Crossett; great turnout with members and youth making and giving away balloon animals; raised \$102 selling donated items

October 26, 2024

Semi-Annual TAKEBACK DAY; successful in Crossett, Hamburg, and Wilmot

HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS:

Janie reported for Lisa Riels and Liz White

October 23-31 - Both districts had multiple Red Ribbon Week activities including pumpkin decorating, door and poster decorating competitions in Hamburg with prizes provided by the Coalition. Crossett had mini-lessons, games, and discussion on prevention and prizes during lunch breaks.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

THE DECEMBER 10 MEETING WILL BE OUR ANNUAL FESTIVE CELEBRATION

*****Please bring potluck refreshments; there will be fun activities and door prizes as well as recognition for outstanding youth and adult members!**

In Kind Contributions²: Coalition members were reminded to report in-kind service hours and donations to Janie Carter, Interim Treasurer.

DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS:

SECTOR LEADERS:

- A new sector leader for Youth has been finalized and will be introduced at the December meeting.
- Faith-Based Organization Sector will make presentation December 10, 2024

COALITION SECTOR

REPRESENTATIVE

Youth	McKenzi Reynolds
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

SPEAKER: MSGT Josh Adams from the Arkansas National Guard Counterdrug Unit, Drug Demand Reduction Office (DDRO), made a presentation on the capabilities of his unit. He introduced his colleague, CW3 McMullen who is a pilot with the ARNG. MSgt Adams described the history of and mission/goals of his unit. “The DDRO Program provides training and support in leadership, organizational analysis, planning, decision making, and interagency collaboration while advancing law enforcement community prevention efforts to develop, implement, and evaluate prevention strategies. The DDRO mission focus is to advance prevention efforts to develop, implement, and evaluate prevention strategies for communities they serve. Support key stakeholders in developing and operationalizing substance use and misuse prevention initiatives by utilizing military skill set to promote public health and safety.”

DDRO/CO Roles in the Community include the following:

- “Preventing initiation of illicit drug use through education and evidence-based prevention programs.... [using] the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) process [as provided by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)].
- Strategic planning, motivating and creating teams for a common goal.
- Our presence in communities enhances community relations, ethics/moral character, and confidence within the scope of the field.
- Our profession instills trust and confidence with schools, communities, coalitions and local leaders by demonstrating character, competence and commitment.
- Media Support; social media, videos, commercials, advertisements (through collaboration with National Guard Public Affairs Office).
- Facilitating, coaching, and evaluating current coalition meetings and processes.
- Community support with town hall events, community events, school events, camps, youth engagements.
- Delivering curriculum in school-based settings and trainings.
- Data workgroup and analysis at the Federal, State, and local level.
- Collaboration across all sectors, force multiplying, recruiting, and capacity building.
- Grant Writing and Resources.
- Panelist for drug forums.”

D-FAC members were very receptive of the presentation and information and look forward to future partnerships regarding potential block parties and a mobile “classroom” being created to educate parents about keeping drugs and paraphernalia out of their homes. Mandy Morris asked if MSgt Adams can assist D-FAC in processing a new youth survey this year, and he assured her that he and his civilian operations analyst will gladly do so.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at UAM College of Technology-Crossett

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. and minutes were submitted by Janie 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 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 (as of 2023) at \$27.74 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”*.