

# DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION

## MEETING MINUTES

02-11-2025

### INTENDED OUTCOMES OF MEETING:

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

### AGENDA ITEMS:

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

The meeting of the DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on February 11, 2025, at UAM-CTC in person and on ZOOM by Mike Neal, Vice Chair 2024/2025 and DFC Grant Director.

IN PERSON		ZOOM
MSGT Joshua Adams	Mike Neal	DeVonda Brown
Tempest Alexander	Chief Johnny Oliver	Allyson Carter
Janie Carter	Arlyn Richards	Vivian Guimbellot
Roman Hebert	Linda Rushing	COL Erica Ingram, IPP, ARNG-Visitor
Katie Hernandez	Daniel Shelton, Jr.	Sharron Mims
Victoria Herrera	Sarah Stagg	Giyermina Mondragon
Harry Hillier	Elizabeth White	Arnetta Pugh
Ephraim Johnson	Ivory Collins-Visitor, FDE, Inc.	Terri Rogers
Rayce Johnson	Gaynelle Raybon-Visitor, FDE, Inc.	Chad Sims
Ryker Johnson	Kenesha Wallace-Visitor, FDE, Inc.	
	Dr. Lula Williams-Visitor, FDE, Inc.	

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from the January 14, 2025, meeting were approved as written with Linda Rushing initiating the motion and Harry Hillier following with a second. The motion carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/INTRODUCTIONS:** In-person visitors from Family Development Enterprise, Inc., and Zoom visitor Col (Ret) Erica Ingram, Integrated Primary Prevention Officer from Camp Robinson were introduced.

**NEW MEMBERS:** There were no new members to introduce.



### JANUARY EVENTS:

#### JANUARY 28, 2025

The second annual D-FAC Youth Summit was held at the Hamburg First Baptist Church ROC Activities Building. Students evaluated the event as very effective. Speakers were the following:

- Sean Upton, Youth Minister for First Baptist Church, Hamburg;
- Daniel Shelton, Jr., Peer Support Specialist for the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Adult Drug Court;
- Janie Carter, D-FAC Parent/Grandparent
- Tempest Alexander and Alexis Anderson, Region 4 PFS Prevention Services;
- Robert Holt, the Youth Consultant who has been working with the Coalition since 2022;

Multiple donors provided refreshments and supplies for activities. Also present were Prevention partners from Phoenix Youth and Family Services, Inc.

Coordinators are working with the student youth groups on the Johnny's Ambassador project for peer-led presentations about the dangers of today's marijuana. More information will be shared as the project develops.

### DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS:

✓ MSGT Joshua Adams announced that the DEA has determined their Spring 2025 TAKEBACK Day to be Saturday, April 26. He informed Chief Oliver that pickup of returned medications should be conducted during the week (or so) following that event.

✓ By-law changes being discussed by the D-FAC officers will be sent to the members at least two weeks prior to the March meeting. The changes are regarding changing the levels of members to only two: "Active" and "Supporting" by combining some of the description

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of the existing level of “Extended” and incorporating that into the “Supporting” level. Another projected change is to combine the positions of Secretary and Treasurer into one position and rather than being an elected position, it would be one appointed by the Executive Committee. Clarification of the makeup of the Executive Committee and the voting rights of those members will be addressed. Voting on the by-laws will be done at the March meeting by members who are eligible to vote. Members who have attended at least three meetings are eligible to vote one time.

✓ Mike stated that he was working with the Crossett Youth Center Board and MSGT Adams for a future county-wide block party event and for a possible new sector leader for youth-serving organizations.

**Program presenters** are needed for 2025! Please let Mike and your Sector Leaders know if you are feeling like it is your turn to express why your sector is important to the work of the D-FAC Coalition!

COALITION SECTOR	REPRESENTATIVE-LEADER	PRESENTATION-PROGRAM
Youth	McKenzi Reynolds	
Parents	Mandy Morris	
Law Enforcement	HPD Chief Johnny Oliver	<b>January 2025:</b> Chief Oliver/Officer Kelley
Education	Tracy Streeter	
Businesses	Kristi Stocker	
Media	Dennis Maxwell	
Youth-Serving Organizations	(Position To be filled)	<b>Feb. 2025:</b> Dr. Lula Williams & Staff, FDE, Inc. <b>March 2025:</b> Devonda Brown, CASA
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	

### PROGRAM

Dr. Lula Williams and her staff presented the program explaining the “*Let’s Talk Offline*” Workshops sponsored by the Family Development Enterprise, Inc. Dr. Williams is a dental surgeon, originally from Pine Bluff, AR, who now lives in Northeast Louisiana. Her initiative is a community-based organization that provides workshops for youth ages 10-19 to empower them in positive life skills, decision-making skills, and all aspects of life. Her curriculum and methods are scientific and evidence-based. The workshop facilitators are certified to address the needs of youth by tailoring delivery appropriately by age group. Parents can participate in the workshops that are delivered either virtually or in person. She stated that there is a parent component that includes the needs of teen mothers. She commented that she can empathize and relate to young people through her personal life experiences. She described a few of the workshops that are available, stating that the “Love Notes Program” is a 13-module workshop that, when completed, will qualify participants to receive a \$75 incentive. Other workshops include “Rights of Passage,” “Healthy Relationships,” “The Chemistry of Attraction,” “Financial Literacy,” and several others.

The program director, Gaynelle Raybon, told members that parental permission is required, and that the structure of the workshops provides students with a success sequence and an abundance of resources. One of the facilitators, Ivory Collins, enthusiastically talked about how she strives to make the workshops fun for participants and said something she values is the discussions on expectations in relationships. A minimum of 10 participants are required to conduct a workshop, and Kanessa Wallace in Hamburg is the Professional Development Coordinator who is working with Ms. Raybon and Dr. Williams to set up workshops in Ashley County. Find more information on the program at: <https://letstalkoffline.org/about-us/>

**In Kind Contributions:** Coalition members were reminded to report in-kind service hours and donations to Janie Carter, Interim Treasurer. The most recent donation was \$1,200 from the Ashley County United Fund. The current balance of donations is \$4,851.42. These funds are used to support the mission of the Coalition and are very helpful as the CDC federal funds are limited to \$3 per person when food is used as an incentive for participating in events. (Guess what? Teenagers are always hungry and thirsty! So, the donations help tremendously!)

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at UAM College of Technology-Crossett

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. and minutes were submitted by Janie Carter.