

MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2026 3:00 P.M - 4:00 PM MEETING OF THE DRUG FREE
ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:

Janie Carter, Elizabeth White, Linda Rushing, Roman Hebert, Cathie Hillier, Harry Hillier, Lisa Riels, Sarah Stagg, Sherri Hendrix, Eric Shoffner, Danielle Camacho, Kathay Brown, Fushia McDonald, Matthew Solomon, Tempest Alexander, Chad Sims, Arnetta Pugh, and Mike Neal.

Welcome and Introductions:

Eric Shoffner called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. and asked for a show of first time attendees. There was one guest attending for the first time.

Eric introduced new members Jessie Charpentier and O'Brennan Moss.

Old/New Business:

Eric gave time for attendees to review the minutes from the January meeting.

Cathie Hillier made a motion to approve the January Minutes. Chad Simms seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Recent Conferences/Community Events Information:

Eric discussed sector leadership workshops calling them "worth our time".

Eric brought up the April 25, 2026 DEA Drug Take-Back Event. He explained what these take-back events typically take in in pounds of medication.

Eric explained that drug take-back is a 24/7 ability in Ashley County with both locations to turn unused medications in being area law enforcement facilities. He explained that these facilities can be an intimidating place to turn in un-used medications.

Because of that, Eric said these open take-backs are a good idea.

Eric relayed that DFAC has a lot of materials left over from the Youth Summit and invited attendees to take some and place them around their work area or public places they frequent.

Eric let everybody know that the next regular meeting of the DFAC will be in Hamburg at the Hamburg School District Administration Building.

Eric stated our whole purpose is for kids. He went over "staggering" numbers released that day about marijuana. "In 1996 there was roughly one million people who had smoked 21 days out of a month. That number has risen to 18 million. Marijuana has now jumped over alcohol."

Eric gave the floor to Liz White and Lisa Riels to give an overview of the Youth Summit.

Liz and Lisa said the Youth Summit on February 6, 2026 welcomed 51 students from both Hamburg and Crossett. Lisa recognized the DFAC members who attended: Arnetta and Tempest presented fun activities; Janie spoke to the group; Cathie and Harry helped set up. Liz and Lisa noted the theme for the day was kindness.

Liz and Lisa recounted a story told by Youth Summit guest speaker SRO Matt Brooks regarding his son who befriended a bully victim. Liz stated that out of 51 kids, 39 filled out surveys and turned them in. They noted that they were able to give out door prizes for the first time.

Upcoming Events:

Mike Neal took the floor and welcomed the E.C. Crossett Youth Center members in attendance.

Mike revealed plans for another big event at the youth center in the spring.

Mike went over the perks of having events including community engagement, bringing leaders in education an awareness of where to go for treatment, implementation of programs and evaluations, fundraising, community empowerment.

Mike concluded saying DFAC needs its members at events.

Mike adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 10 at 12:00 p.m. at the Hamburg School District Administration Building.