

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 13, 2026 12:00 P.M - 1:00 PM MEETING OF THE DRUG FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION

**THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:** Tempest Alexander, Danielle Camacho (ULM College of Pharmacy intern), Cathie Hillier, Janie Carter, Nicole Carter, Clifford Hawkins, Harry Hillier, Kim Johns, Brandon Kelley, Fushia McDonald, O'Brennan Moss, Mike Neal, Chief Johnny Oliver, Arnetta Pugh, Lisa Riels, Arlyn Richards, Linda Rushing, Eric Shoffner, David Streeter, Elizabeth White, Jessie Charpentier. **Via Zoom:** Miriam Beverly (new parent sector member), Scott Bransford, Terri Rogers, Allison Bussmann, Giyeminia Mondragon, Jennifer Johnson

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Mike Neal opened the meeting with introduction of guests, identification of Zoom attendees and recognition of Law Enforcement for attendance and engagement. Reminder was made that Sarah Stagg transitioned to Coalition Secretary. Mike announced her name/email as freedbirdone@yahoo.com. Attendees encouraged to make sure to check SPAM folder in email to be sure her emails are not getting lost.

**Old/New Business:**

Motion to approve December minutes: Elizabeth White and Giyeminia Mondragon, motion seconded by Linda Rushing.

Announcement: Tempest Alexander from Community Empowerment Council in Pine Bluff has agreed and got permission from her leadership team to be the new sector leader for Youth-Serving Organizations.

**Recent Conferences/Community Events Information:**

12/12/25: Governor's Office Faith-Based Meeting, Little Rock (pilot for Union, Pulaski, and Pope Counties) referencing Luke 10:33 Parable of the Good Samaritan encouraging individuals to reach out to each other, eliminate stigma and bias and promoting the need for more Jesus and better understanding of addiction.

**Upcoming Events:**

1/13/25: Governor's Office Faith-Based meeting continued conversation to review initiative and focus on detailing where individuals in recovery can find resources. D-FAC participating and learning but not part of the 3-county pilot program.

2/6/25: Youth Summit (expecting 55) led by Liz White and Lisa Riels will provide games, speakers, round table discussion and lots of food. Volunteers welcome.

TBD: Sector Leader Training.

**Presentations:**

- O'Brennan Moss, Tobacco Prevention Coordinator for surrounding six counties, shared his personal background and current interests as an artist to support managing social media awareness of the dangers of vaping. Moss went over the different types of ingenious devices that are hiding in plain sight and easily available to youth, disguised as pens, markers, etc. all masked to hide drug

paraphernalia. Moss emphasized the need for conversation and use of creativity. A father of six and in recovery for three years, O'Brennan shared that he feels it is a privilege to live, is excited about tomorrow and recognizes the need to guide youth and adults to make good choices. Consensus is our youth are stressed, looking for relief, an outlet and support services. He reminded the group that this work requires love and mentorship in the same way Jesus led his 12 disciples.

- Eric Shoffner introduced his intern Danille who will be working with him at Gammel's for the next six weeks. Eric noted that vaping today will be similar to the current cancers being reported from individuals who previously used tanning sunbeds. He asked members of the law enforcement to share insights they are experiencing because of current political changes, reclassification of marijuana, cartels, and the Venezuela and border shutdowns. Chief Oliver shared there is a reduced amount of fentanyl due to border shutdown, but fears once the warehoused supply is gone, individuals will return to home labs to manufacture meth. Drugs are cheaper on the streets than in dispensaries. There is a need to reduce the desire and stress response with healthy choices, supporting community and most importantly the desire for God.
- Mike Neal emphasized that our lungs are designed to transfer oxygen from the air to the blood and to release carbon dioxide from the blood to the air. They are not designed to process unknown poisonous substances and metals from vapes.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 10 at 4:00 p.m. at the Crossett Youth Center on Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard.