

## **DRUG FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION**

Minutes for March 10, 2026 (Rev. 4-14-26)

12:00 – 1:00 PM – Hamburg Public Schools Administration Building

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Tempest Alexander, Kathay Brown, Cathie Hillier, Janie Carter, Clifford Hawkins, Harry Hillier, Mike Neal, Chief Johnny Oliver, Lisa Riels, Arlyn Richards, Eric Shoffner, Bubba Stafford, David Streeter, Elizabeth White, Nicole Carter, Arnetta Pugh, Whitley Hickman, Vivian Guimbellot, Jordan Bailey, Jennifer Johnson, Kim Johns

Zoom: Yulanda Johnson-Martin, Fushia McDonald, Josh Adams

### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:**

Eric Shofner opened the meeting recognizing individuals in attendance, new member, Sabrina Blankenship, Parent Sector and Zoom participants and he reviewed D-FAC Coalition Goals - "the kids are our future"

He asked members of the Law Enforcement to share insights they are experiencing because of current political changes, reclassification of marijuana, Cartels, Venezuela and border shutdown. Chief Oliver shared there is a reduced amount of fentanyl due to border shutdown and confirms vaping continues to be prevalent in the schools.

### **OLD | NEW BUSINESS**

Approval of February 2026 Minutes: **NOTE:** monthly meeting minutes have been posted on drugfreeac.org *PLEASE take a moment to review February's minutes online and let Mike or Eric know about any corrections.*

### **PRESENTATION/SPEAKER:**

Clifford Hawkins shared his experiences from work and life - 20-year military service, Human Resources and regional prevention resource officer with Phoenix, business leader at Georgia Pacific - a life focused on building relationships with our youth encouraging us to listen, share what we know and be proactive vs. reactive.

Janie Carter shared parent handbook series, available to us for use in lunch-n-learn, weekly discussion or church group conversations to learn about parenting in today's world. We can't expect our children to know - we need to share and model the following behaviors/life schools. Operation Parent Handbook [elementary and middle/high school application] ... currently discussing how to use information in small groups.

Empathy - I'm looking from your perspective

Gratitude - thankful for what we have

Forgiveness - teach and show our kids through our actions

Humility - you are valued and I'm not more important than you

**DISCUSSION:** what causes our kids to chase drugs? Answer is always the same ... they have nothing to do, there continual impact of social media and peer pressure. There is a need to reduce the desire and stress response with healthy choices.

Mike shared the coalition hopes to have more youth FUN events similar to last year – bouncy house, balloon characters, games, etc. Expressed interest following up on Cliff's comments to take kids to see and ride horses. He encouraged those in attendance from Hamburg area to continue to keep him informed of upcoming events

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

3/11: Crossett Administration to discuss Operation Parent Handbook

3/12: Picnic with the Arts: Crossett Library 4:00 – 7:00 pm

4/25: Arkansas Take-Back – Gammel's Pharmacy: Note: drop boxes are available at our Police Stations and Sherrif's offices 24/7

*Appreciation extended to Hamburg Middle School Cafeteria for catering lunch*

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next meeting Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 4:00 – 5:00 Crossett