

## **DRUG FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION**

Minutes for April 14, 2026

4:00 – 5:00 pm. E. C. Crossett Youth Center, Crossett

### **MEETING OBJECTIVES: RECOGNITION OF APRIL as NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH; SHARING OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Cathie Hillier, Harry Hillier, Linda Rushing, Roman Hebert, Chief Clint Bradberry, Roy B. Langstaff, Sr., Lisa Riels, Sherri Hendrix, Hester Handley, Ally Tyler, Tyisha Johnson-Fletcher, Ephraim Johnson, Daniel Shelton, Jr., Liz White, Mike Neal, Janie Carter

Zoom: Jennifer Johnson, Arnetta Pugh, Giyermina Mondragon, MSgt Josh Adams, India Holt, Sundee Rushing

#### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:**

Eric Shofner opened the meeting by recognizing individuals in attendance, first-time attendees Roy Langstaff and Ally Tyler, and Zoom participants.

#### **OLD | NEW BUSINESS**

Approval of March 10, 2026, Minutes. Minutes were approved with note of three spelling corrections. (Revised March minutes and all previously approved minutes are posted on the Drug-Free Ashley County Coalition website: <https://drugfreeAC.org>.)

#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS (since last meeting):**

March 3-6: Staff and volunteers read to students in Crossett and Hamburg for Read Across America Week

March 11, 18, & 31: Operation Parent Handbook Planning Sessions

April 8: DFC Staff spoke about D-FAC at the Century Next Bank Monthly Employee Meeting

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

April 18: Teen Talk: Inspiring Future Leaders; E. C. Crossett Youth Center

April 25: Arkansas Rx Take-Back – Gammel's Pharmacy; 10 am to 2 pm (Note: drop boxes are available at our Police Stations and Sheriff's offices 24/7)

May 1: Sustainability Training for Non-Profits by Tempest Alexander, Community Empowerment Council

May 9: Teen Driving ROADeo (for teens & parents); at E.C. Crossett Youth Center, AR Highway Patrol, Community Empowerment Council and Phoenix Youth & Family Services

May 30: FUN DAY at E. C. Crossett Youth Center

#### **PRESENTATION/SPEAKER:**

Chairman Eric introduced Crossett Chief of Police Clint Bradberry, who spoke on his background and the ongoing drug challenges facing Ashley County. Chief Bradberry shared that he was raised in DeWitt, Arkansas, served in the United States Navy, and has prior experience working with a regional Drug Task Force. He also noted that he has firsthand experience with drug and alcohol addiction within his family, which influenced his decision to pursue a career in law enforcement.

Chief Bradberry stated that when he accepted the position of Chief of Police in Crossett in May 2025, he was aware of the significant drug-related issues in Ashley County and was committed to being part of the solution.

He reported that since May 2025, the Crossett Police Department has seized multiple illegal narcotics, including approximately 21 grams of fentanyl and 149 dosage units of other opioids. He emphasized the dangers of fentanyl, noting that a high percentage of counterfeit pills may contain a potentially lethal dose. He further advised that the estimated street value of the drugs seized is approximately \$20,000.

Chief Bradberry also informed the coalition that the department was awarded a two-year grant through the Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership. This grant funds both a criminal investigator and a Peer Recovery Specialist (PRS). He explained that the investigator works alongside law enforcement officers to identify and pursue individuals responsible for supplying illegal narcotics,

often coordinating with federal partners such as the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The Peer Recovery Specialist provides support to overdose victims by connecting them with treatment and recovery resources, conducting follow-up outreach, and promoting long-term recovery. In the event of a fatal overdose, the PRS assists family members by referring them to appropriate grief counseling and support services. The PRS also engages in community education efforts related to the prevention of substance abuse and collaboration with local organizations and schools.

Chief Bradberry concluded by reiterating his commitment to addressing drug-related issues in Ashley County through a combination of enforcement, intervention, and community partnership.

**DISCUSSION:**

DFC Grant Director Mike Neal shared that he would welcome feedback about the prospect of inviting Crossett mayoral candidates to address the Coalition before the election.

Janie and Lisa mentioned that a new grant from ARORP may come available in the next two years that will allow school districts to hire full-time Prevention Specialists. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

In recognition of April being National Child Abuse Month, Janie told attendees that she has made available multiple handouts specifically about child sexual abuse and noted the strong correlation between abuse and mental health issues leading to addiction, depression, and suicide. Mike concluded the meeting with a true story about a horrific story that exposed the tragedy of underage human trafficking to meet needs of an adult addicted to drugs.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Next meeting Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>; 12:00 – 1:00 pm at Hamburg School District Administration Building