

DRUG-FREE ASHLEY COUNTY COALITION

Minutes for July 14, 2026

12-1 pm at HSD Administrative Conference Room, Hamburg



IN ATTENDANCE: Hamburg Chief of Police Johnny Oliver, Hamburg Mayor David Streeter, Joel Whitenton, MSGT Joshua Adams, Bubba Stafford, Cathie Hillier, Harry Hillier, Arlyn Richards, Linda Rushing, Roman Hebert, Chris Hammond, Sherri Hendrix, Ally Tyler, Eric Shoffner, Tristan Traylor, Sharron Mims, Cheryl Allen, Hester Handley, T'Pring McComb-Shirey, Janie Carter. On Zoom: Lisa Riels, Liz White, Clifford Hawkins, Giyermine Mondragon, Jennifer Johnson, Officer Terri Rogers, Officer Allyson Carter, Vivian Guimbellot

OPENING:

- **Prayer** led by AC Baptist Association Missionary Joel Whitenton;
- **Pledge of Allegiance** led by MSGT Joshua Adams, ARNG Counterdrug Unit

MEETING OBJECTIVES:

- Recognition of **July 2026 National Make a Difference to Children Month**
- Share status of community connections/meetings and upcoming events with Coalition members

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

- **Recognize First-Time Attendees and/or Visitors:** Tristan Traylor, AR Highway Safety Office; Sharron Mims, AR Drug Director's Office; Cheryl Allen, DHS, AR Drug Director's Office

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES: *(Minutes are posted on the website and were attached to the reminder for the July meeting.)* Motion to approve was made by Cathie Hillier; seconded by Chris Hammond and passed unanimously.

REPORTS ON EVENTS SINCE LAST MEETING:

COMMUNITY EVENTS: June 30 at Crossett Centennial Park 250th Birthday Celebration for USA

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **July 12-16:** Mike, Lisa, and Liz were attending the CADCA Mid-Year National Meeting in Orlando, FL
- **August 1, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.:** Back-to-School Bash at E. C. Crossett Youth Center
- **August 19:** Improving Youth Engagement & Outcomes Conference in Little Rock
- **August 20:** Improving Youth Engagement & Outcomes Conference in Pine Bluff
- **August 31:** International Overdose Awareness Day
- **Dates to be announced:**
 - **Hamburg Back-to-School Celebration**
 - **Sector Leader Workshop/Training**
 - **FALL FUN DAY in Hamburg (*Boo in the Park*)**
 - **Operation Parent Handbook Sessions** (Early Fall in small, facilitated groups. Contact Janie, Liz, or Lisa for more information.)

TODAY'S PROGRAM & DISCUSSION:

- Mrs. Sharron Mims from the AR Drug Director's Office introduced Mr. Tristan Traylor, Program Manager/Coordinator, Arkansas State Police, Highway Safety Office.

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- Tristan's energetic presentation included handouts on Road Safety 101, a traffic safety guide; the AR Move Over Law; and Tips for Bicyclists and Pedestrians. He talked about medications and allergic reactions that can cause serious health and safety crises for drivers and their passengers.
- Mr. Traylor reported that seat belt usage in Arkansas has declined and needs to be given new emphasis. At present, seat belt usage has been determined to be only 78% -- which is BAD! We all need to remember the promotional warning, **"Click it or Ticket!"**
- He gave in-depth information on the Graduated Drivers' License (GDL) program for teens aged 14-17 which includes nighttime driving restrictions (11 pm-4 am); passenger limitations; seat belts for all passengers; and some of the activities that constitute distracted driving hazards. He stated that parents need to be sure they understand the GDL requirements inside and out. He also informed us about Arkansas and Ashley County driving statistics with an interactive website:
<https://cdan.dot.gov/DataVisualization/DataVisualization.htm>
- Tristan reported that between 2019 and 2023, five of the 20 traffic fatalities in Ashley County (25%) were young drivers, and he further reinforced the problems law enforcement officers face with highway safety when substance abuse is present for any age driver.
- **CELEBRATING SUCCESSES FROM DFC GRANT 2022 – 2026**
 - Janie Carter asked members to review a report that compares student survey responses on the Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment Surveys - (see handout comparing APNA Survey reports from Fall 2022 and Fall 2025). In Past 30-Day Use, students reported an increase in use of inhalants only, and in Lifetime Use an increase in the use of inhalants and steroids. The comparison details a great deal of improvement in substance use from 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in Ashley County.
- **EVALUATION TIME!! WHAT'S BEEN GOOD? WHAT COULD BE EVEN BETTER?**
 - Janie also asked new and old members alike to respond to a 3-question evaluation of the efforts of the Coalition and return it to a DFAC officer or staff member (see handout attached). All feedback is helpful in planning to meet the needs of our youth.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 4:00 p.m., August 11, E. C. Crossett Youth Center, Crossett

Minutes submitted by Janie Carter

Ashley County Youth APNA Changes – Lifetime Use
Combined (6, 8, 10, 12 Graders)

	Fall 2022	Fall 2025	Better/Worse
1. Alcohol	24.5%	19.1%	Better
Cigarettes	11.0%	8.5%	Better
Smokeless Tobacco	7.6%	6.3%	Better
2. Marijuana	9.7%	6.9%	Better
Hallucinogens	1.0%	0.9%	Better
Cocaine	0.4%	0.0%	Better
Inhalants	2.5%	4.0%	<i>Worse</i>
Opiates/Heroin	0.2%	0.0%	Better
Steroids	0.2%	0.9%	<i>Worse</i>
Ecstasy	1.0%	0.0%	Better
3. Prescription Drugs	5.4%	1.6%	Better
Over-the-Counter Drugs	1.7%	1.3%	Better
Alcopops	12.0%	7.0%	Better
CBD Products	6.0%	3.1%	Better
Any Drug	17.0%	11.3%	Better
Vape Flavoring	11.8%	7.8%	Better
Vape Nicotine	17.5%	11.7%	Better
Vape Marijuana	8.7%	6.3%	Better
Any Vaping	20.6%	14.7%	Better
Injection of Illegal Drugs	1.2%	0.7%	Better

#1, 2, & 3: Targeted with the Drug-Free Communities Grant

**Ashley County Youth APNA Changes – Past 30-Day Use
Combined (6, 8, 10, 12 Graders)**

	Fall 2022	Fall 2025	Better/Worse
1. Alcohol	10.0%	5.8%	Better
Cigarettes	2.7%	1.3%	Better
Smokeless Tobacco	2.7%	2.2%	Better
2. Marijuana	6.3%	3.4%	Better
Hallucinogens	0.6%	0.0%	Better
Inhalants	2.3%	2.9%	<i>Worse</i>
Meth	0.2%	0.0%	Better
Steroids	0.4%	0.2%	Better
Ecstasy	0.2%	0.0%	Better
3. Prescription Drugs	3.3%	0.9%	Better
Over-the-Counter Drugs	1.3%	0.2%	Better
Alcopops	6.0%	2.2%	Better
CBD Products	4.8%	0.9%	Better
Any Drug	12.8%	7.8%	Better
Vape Flavoring	8.2%	3.8%	Better
Vape Nicotine	13.2%	7.0%	Better
Vape Marijuana	6.1%	3.8%	Better
Any Vaping	14.9%	8.5%	Better
Binge Drinking	5.8%	1.8%	Better
Suspended from School	14.1%	13.0%	Better
Drunk or High at School	6.6%	3.9%	Better

#1, 2, & 3: Targeted with the Drug-Free Communities Grant

Drug-Free Ashley County Coalition Evaluation Years 2021 – 2026

Length of time affiliated with or aware of the Coalition:

_____ **All Five years**

_____ **About 1 year**

_____ **3-4 years**

_____ **Between 6-11 months**

_____ 1-2 years

_____ **Just in the past 1-5 months or less**

Things I think are GOOD about the Coalition and what has been accomplished:

[illegible]

Things I think could make the Coalition even more effective in the future:

[illegible]

Other helpful comments:

[illegible]

SAVE THE DATE

August 20, 2026 - Pine Bluff

Influence in Action: Practical Strategies to Improve Youth Engagement and Outcomes

01

Understanding Behavior and Decision Making

Explore how environments, peer dynamics, and perceived rewards influence behavior, and why awareness is often insufficient to drive change.

02

The Role of Perception, Communication, and Identity

Outline plans for market research, target audience identification, marketing channels, and competitive positioning.

03

Reinforcement, Environment, and Behavior Patterns

Gain insight into how behaviors are formed and sustained over time, including the role of reinforcement, repetition, and environmental influence.

04

Application and Strategy Development

Translate key concepts into practical strategies they can apply immediately within their roles and settings to improve engagement and influence behavior.