

# Arizona Youth Mental Health Alliance Task Force

## \_Advocacy and Policy Task Force Report

Meeting Date: November 2, 2018

Location: 655 N. Alvernon (FCM Offices)

### **Task Force Leadership and Membership:**

Chair: Leslie Cohen (interim)

Attendees: Judy Keagy, Patricia Quiroga (Child and Family Resources); Alana Gonzales, Center for Neurosciences / Brain Bus.

### **Overall Task Force Goals & Objectives**

- Develop fact sheets and resources to inform community about policy issues in youth mental health
- Advocate for policy adoption to decrease stigma and increase help seeking activity
- Engage provider community in increasing and coordinating access to care

### **Intermediate Task Force Objectives for January 2019 – March 2019**

- **Develop document outlining other State's requirements for mental health education in schools (both teachers and students)**
- **Town Hall/youth voice –utilizing Town Hall and existing youth council mechanisms for developing the youth advocacy voice and bringing providers and youth together**
- **S. Arizona School Superintendents and State Superintendent – get on agenda to discuss mental health education in schools(begin planting the seed)**
- **Support activities aimed at increasing funding and numbers for school counselors and social workers.**

### **Meeting Agenda:**

- I. Purpose of the Task Force (short recap) - priorities adopted:
  - A. Mental Health Education/Information in Schools
  - B. Providers / families / youth – advocacy and discussion around gaps/better access to services
- II. AZ Legislative and State Agency Work
  - A. Potential Meetings
  - B. Following developments
  - C. Alerts and info to Alliance members and supporters

- III. Follow up on items from last meeting (notes from last meeting attached)
  - A. Meeting with School Districts/superintendents
  - B. Meeting between providers and youth/ Town Hall
- IV. Discussion on Developing Leadership – task force leadership and additional members

### **Accomplishments since last meeting:**

Members met with Metropolitan Education Commission on Town Hall and learned that Mental health is a priority area for the MEC youth. Contacted new State Superintendent regarding the alliance. Investigated likely state issues in this legislative session reaching out to stakeholder groups. Advised Alliance members, supporters and partners how to become part of legislative process/request to speak mechanism. Sent info to Alliance members on TUSD resolution on increasing funding for school counselors.

### **Highlights of Discussion:**

Discussed opportunities to meet and begin to work with local and state superintendent's office on how to get education in schools on mental health as part of the curriculum for students and part of teacher continuing education. Also, learned more about reach of Brain Bus and Child and Family Resource programming. Discussed alliance participation in advocacy on increasing the number of school counselors. Finally discussed additional task force membership and sending out information on legislative session to alliance members.

### **Assignments for next meeting:**

- **Set up meeting with State Superintendent of Public Instruction (Leslie)**
- **Set up meeting with Dustin Williams (Cindy and Judy)**
- **Talk to MEC Town Hall AZ about issues/forum – getting youth input (Cindy and Judy)**
- **Review state standards for MH education / other states (Leslie)**
- **Invitation to join group – Children's Action Alliance and B.H. Providers (Leslie and Arcy)**

### **Recommendations to the Alliance:**

- Develop youth cadre, group or task force to inform and direct our work
- Provide evidence based curriculum on mental health education in schools for us to utilize in speaking to School Superintendents organization and State Superintendent's office.

**Next Meeting: TBD**

**Location: 655 N. Alvernon, RM 221**

