

Arizona Youth Mental Health Alliance Task Force

_Advocacy and Policy Task Force Report

Meeting Date: March 28, 2019

Location: Casa de Los Ninos Offices

Task Force Leadership and Membership:

Chair: Leslie Cohen (interim)

Attendees: Arcy Cornidez, Judy Keagy, Susie Huhn, Mark Person, Ryan Daily, Joshua Ashton, Michelle Crow

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. Introductions
- II. Strategy for policy adoption: mental health education in schools

Discussion on steps to implement S. AZ or statewide policies to increase mental health education in AZ schools. Meeting with State Superintendent and Pima County Superintendent.

- III. Legislative Session Update

IV. Youth and Provider Forum

Input from youth at the MEC. Developing plan for bringing youth, providers and managed care organizations together to hear issues involving services for youth

V. AZ Complete Care

Current status and work of the task force to education and inform.

VI. Discussion on Developing Leadership – task force leader

VII. Next Steps

Accomplishments since last meeting:

- Leslie and Arcy met with Communications Director for Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Superintendent Kathy Hoffman with the following outcomes: 1. ADE will connect us to Superintendents in the rural counties: Santa Cruz, Cochise, and Pinal; 2. ADE is forming internal committees and we will be invited to policy committee once formed; 3. Arcy will be HH4Y representative on ADE Jed Foundation committee meeting on curriculum and resources for schools in AZ; 4. Superintendent Hoffman will be asked to speak at quarterly HH4H meeting.
- Judy Kaegy and Cindy Godwin will be meeting with Pima County Superintendent Dustin Williams to discuss informing all Pima County Superintendents about HH4H.
- Policy paper finalized on providing mental health education in schools and other states
- Alliance members provided with information on mental health/youth related bills in AZ Legislature and how to comment on them.

Highlights of Discussion: Discussed call with Superintendent Hoffman's office- see above. Decided to invite her to speak at either July or Oct. meeting. Also discussed upcoming meeting with Dustin Williams, upcoming meeting with MEC around working with youth/getting youth input on policy, and current status of legislative bills (all dead except for Community Schools and AHCCCS curriculum for suicide prevention in schools). Discussed youth councils in various school districts and the use of peers. Also talked about AHCCCS upcoming public forums on further integration of system and members will attend and report back.

Assignments for next meeting:

- **Support flexibility in budget for new monies and advise members of the issues – school districts to decide between counselors and school research officers. (Judy and Leslie)**
- **Meeting with Dustin Williams (Cindy and Judy)**
- **Talk to MEC about issues/forum (Cindy and Judy and Arcy)**
- **Invite Superintendent Hoffman to speak at quarterly HH4Y meeting (Arcy)**

Recommendations to the Alliance:

- Develop youth 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.
- Support more funding for school counselors, social workers and school resource officers based on the needs of the individuals schools.

Next Meeting: April 25, 2019 at noon

Location: Casa de Los Ninos