

Arizona Youth Mental Health Alliance Task Force

_Advocacy and Policy Task Force Report

Meeting Date: April 25, 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, Jennifer Regan

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 April 2019 – June 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

Meeting with Pima County Schools Superintendent (Judy Kaegy). Discussion on steps to implement S. AZ or statewide policies to increase mental health education in AZ schools.

- III. Legislative Session Update (Joshua Ashton)

IV. Youth and Provider Forum (Arcy Cornidez)

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

V. Update from AHCCCS Public Forums

VI. Follow up on issues from last meeting

VII. Discussion on Leadership – new task force leadership / Joshua Ashton

VIII. Next Steps

Accomplishments since last meeting:

- Judy Kaegy and Cindy Godwin met with Pima County Superintendent Dustin Williams to discuss informing all Pima County Superintendents about HH4Y and strategies for adopting mental health education as part of state education standards.
- Arcy presented to MEC on HH4Y and obtained input on how to engage youth in the initiative and how best to create a youth task force.
- State Superintendent Kathy Hoffman invited to speak at quarterly Alliance meeting.
- Joshua Ashton volunteered to become task force leader.

Highlights of Discussion:

Judy Keagy provided an update of the meeting with Dustin Williams. He suggested we form a group to develop our recommendations for state standards on mental health education. He thought a well-developed proposal would be well received at the state level. He also thought we should meet with the Chair of Pima County's Superintendent's group rather than the entire group.

Susie Huhn, reported on the Good Behavior Game a school based classroom management tool and students in the classroom. There is interest from AHCCCS and ADE in this evidence based curriculum currently being utilized at some schools within Flowing Wells School District and the state agencies observed the curriculum this week in action.

Joshua Ashton reported on legislative session. Legislature is now working on the budget. The Suicide prevention education bill and community schools bill could be addressed within the budget negotiations. The Governor's request for money for school counselors and resource

officers is also part of the budget. Michelle suggested thanking supportive legislators and providing a small giveaway to remember HH4Y like a stress ball.

Susie Huhn and Michelle Crow reported on the AHCCCS public hearings on the proposed work requirements for AHCCCS members ages 19-49. We discussed ramifications for the youth we serve and concerns that any attestation requirements for a work search or job participation will result in people being less likely to sign up for AHCCCS and more likely to be removed from the roles. We will urge a message of providing positive job training and skills to AHCCCS members, rather than a strategy to penalize them. We'll also provide info on the new work requirements when implemented and collect stories on impact.

Ryan Daily reported on PIMA Community College plan to eliminate school counselors, outsource mental health counseling and change the current role to only academic advising. The PCC board is meeting on May 8 to consider public comment and a study session is set on the issue for April 29.

Joshua Ashton has agreed to become the new task force chair and will be transitioning to the role with Leslie's help this month.

Assignments for next meeting:

- **Leslie will draft info to send to Alliance members on bills and budget negotiations (Leslie)**
- **Inform Alliance members about change in school counseling role at PCC and upcoming meetings/ways to address (Ryan and Arcy)**
- **Follow up with Superintendent Hoffman's office on contacts with other counties and speaking at Alliance meeting. (Arcy)**
- **Provide status report on subcommittee with E&T and A&P overlap (Judy and 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 developing state standards for mental health education.
- Support more funding for school counselors, social workers and school resource officers based on the needs of the individual schools, community schools funding and suicide prevention training.

Next Meeting: TBD

Location: Casa de Los Ninos