

Arizona Youth Mental Health Alliance Task Force Advocacy and Policy Task Force Report

Meeting Date: Feb 26, 2019

Location: 655 N. Alvernon (FCM Offices)

Task Force Leadership and Membership:

Chair: Leslie Cohen (interim)

Attendees: Judy Keagy, Michelle Crow, Ryan Daily, Cindy Godwin, and Arcy Cornidez

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. 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.

II. Youth and Provider Forum

Developing plan for bringing youth, providers and managed care organizations together to hear issues involving services for youth

III. AZ Complete Care

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

IV. Discussion on Developing Leadership – task force leader

Accomplishments since last meeting:

Invited Children's Action Alliance to join group and Michelle Crow attended meeting. Reviewed standards for mental health education from other states and developed a policy paper on current status of mental health education in schools and what other states are doing. Reviewed relevant legislative issues on mental health and youth for distribution to Alliance members. Developed plan for utilizing MEC Youth in a focus group format as the first step in process to bring youth and providers together.

Highlights of Discussion:

Discussed current legislative actions around mental health and youth in the schools. This included a discussion on school counselor funding and ratios, the School Safety Plan and other measures to increase physical education in schools and to develop a community school pilot. Discussed AHCCCS Complete Care and task force objective to educate and inform consumers and request to have them share their stories with navigating the changes. Finally discussed sending out information on current legislation to alliance members.

Assignments for next meeting:

- **Set up meeting with State Superintendent of Public Instruction (Judy K)**
- **Talk to MEC Town Hall AZ about issues/forum – getting youth input (Cindy and Judy)**
- **Send out to Alliance information on current legislation (Leslie)**
- **Develop information for website on AZ Complete Care and develop mechanism for collection stories. (Leslie and Cindy)**

Recommendations to the Alliance: None specifically other than to stay informed of legislation impacting mental health and respond to bills as warranted.

Next Meeting: March 28 at noon

Location: Casa de los Ninos, 1120 N. 5th Ave