



**Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2023
10:00 AM**

A general meeting of the Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention convened on January 18, 2023. Notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the Parents Commission.

Members Present (5)	Members Absent (3)
Kristine FireThunder (Co-Chair)	Denise Beagley (Chair)
Lori Robinson	Chief Robert Martin
Marina Lantsman-Waugh (Proxy Arcenio Garcia)	Raynee Schneider
Nicholas Stavros (Proxy Tina Braham)	
Michael Klinkner	
Staff and Guests Present (5)	
Director Tonya Hamilton	Melissa Adams
Nicole Valenzuela	Trina Curry
Kainoa Spenser	Blanca Acosta
	Eva Zuniga
	Jessica Gallego

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair FireThunder called the Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention meeting to order at **10:01 a.m.** with 5 members present and 3 members absent.

ROLL CALL

Co-Chair FireThunder welcomed members and guests. **Co-Chair FireThunder** took attendance via roll call at 10:02 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Co-Chair FireThunder requested a review of the **November 8, 2022** meeting minutes. **Commissioner Robinson** motioned to accept the minutes. **Commissioner Klinkner** seconded the motion at 10:05 a.m. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

PARENTS COMMISSION MEETING PRESENTATIONS

Homeward Bound, Parents Commission SFY23 Grantee **Ms. Melissa Adams**

Co-Chair FireThunder welcomed and introduced **Ms. Melissa Adams** to the meeting. **Ms. Adams** thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present. **Ms. Adams** shared a detailed overview of the organization and the programming funded through the Parents Commission Grant.

- **Ms. Adams** shared Homeward Bound was established in 1990 and began offering transitional housing and wraparound services in 2000 for individuals experiencing homelessness. **Ms. Adams** stated that in 2021, Homeward Bound transitioned to 76 emergency housing units due to limited funding offered through the federal government for transitional housing.
- **Ms. Adams** discussed the programs Homeward Bound offers:
 - The Shelter Program implemented the Housing First model and approach for their services. Residents can live in emergency housing for six months and in transitional housing for one year. In 2022, 362 families were served through Homeward Bound's Shelter Program.
 - The Prevention Program provides resources and supportive services to qualified individuals for utility and rental assistance. In 2022, the Prevention Program served 800 individuals allowing 119 of those individuals to stay in their homes.
 - Workforce Development is available on their campus to residents and non-residents. They are provided assistance and tools to secure employment and/or increase their income at their place of employment. The residents had a 79% employment rate and 40% of off campus clients increased their income.
 - The Youth Development Program provides life skills and healthy social emotional well-being for youth in their program through evidence-based curriculum and programs.
 - The Strong Foundations Early Learning Center is a licensed early education learning center. In 2022, 69 children were served and 92% of them exceeded developmental milestones.
 - HB University is an online portal that offers resources, opportunities and classes; including parenting. To date, there are 251 users on the portal.
- **Ms. Adams** discussed how Homeward Bound has been a recipient of the Arizona Parents Commission Grant for a fourth year. **Ms. Adams** shared how the organization refocused their program design to increase parental engagement. **Ms. Adams** discussed that with the new emergency shelter model, residents are not mandated to attend programming as a criterion to remain in housing.
- **Ms. Adams** stated Homeward Bound implements Botvin's Life Skills for the youth in their after-school program; Botvin's Life Skills Parenting Program; and family fun events for prosocial opportunities with prevention messaging and materials.
- **Ms. Adams** shared that a community-based approach was utilized when restructuring the parenting programming. By identifying when most people were on campus, Homeward Bound offered monthly in-person Parent Cafes to share information about the program and receive input from the residents. With feedback from both residents as well as case managers, Homeward Bound condensed programming to a 3-day series referred to as, Family Coping Skills. **Ms. Adams** stated that the restructure of the program has improved recruitment and participation in the parenting classes. **Ms.**

Adams stated that there has been positive feedback received from parents and youth in their program.

- Homeward Bound's presentation can be found on the Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention website at goyff.az.gov/PC.

Co-Chair FireThunder thanked **Ms. Adams** for her presentation and asked the commission if they had any questions.

- **Commissioner Robinson** asked **Ms. Adams** how individuals access the emergency housing resources. **Ms. Adams** shared that the individuals must call the Family Housing Hub for an assessment of needs and are placed at the shelter based on the level of need and availability. **Ms. Trina Curry**, Vice President of Programs at Homeward Bound, stated that for additional emergency resources, individuals can work with Prevention Services or by applying online.
- **Commissioner Robinson** asked **Ms. Adams** what issue she wished could be remedied with their residents. **Ms. Adams** stated improved reading and literacy skills for the youth they serve. **Ms. Adams** discussed the impact trauma and displacement has on developmental milestones and literacy skills specifically, and makes it hard to overcome the deficits in a short period of time. **Commissioner Robinson** asked what the average length of stay in the shelter was. **Ms. Adams** stated that at this time, the average stay is approximately six months.

Circles of Peace, Parents Commission SFY23 Grantee
Ms. Blanca Acosta, Ms. Eva Zuniga, and Ms. Jessica Gallego

Co-Chair FireThunder welcomed **Ms. Blanca Acosta, Ms. Eva Zuniga, and Ms. Jessica Gallego** to share their presentation with the commission. The team thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present.

- **Ms. Blanca Acosta** introduced the team working on the Parents Commission grant funded programming, and stated how 2023 is the seventh year of receiving this funding. **Ms. Acosta** shared they are located in Santa Cruz County in Nogales, AZ and are one block from the United States/Mexico border.
- **Ms. Acosta** shared the evolution of the agency from being a domestic violence treatment provider to expanding programming for the community that is inclusive of prevention and intervention strategies. **Ms. Acosta** stated that the organization was internally reflective in identifying how to better respond to the learning and understanding of the community and their needs. **Ms. Acosta** stated that in an effort to be responsive to the caregivers in the community, they transitioned to the evidence-based program Active Parenting in this grant cycle.
- **Ms. Eva Zuniga** shared detailed information about the unique geographic and demographic composition of the community. **Ms. Zuniga** stated that due to the proximity to the border they have significant challenges with human trafficking and drug smuggling.
- **Ms. Zuniga** stated that they incorporate a restorative justice approach and continuum of care model. She reported that the agency strives to educate and advocate at the community level. **Ms. Zuniga** shared that the agency strategies and approaches are

designed to repair harm and transform conflict to become a catalyst for sustainable change. **Ms. Zuniga** stated that the agency implements programming that is just and equitable education opportunities to meet the community where they are at; work, home, and in the community. **Ms. Zuniga** stated that participants often want to return due to their positive experiences with the programs. She stated that the agency creates opportunities for the individuals to get involved through volunteering and attending additional programming.

- **Ms. Zuniga** shared that the “restoration” can be viewed as a skill that can be learned. **Ms. Zuniga** stated the following steps to learning the skills for restorative practices:
 - Empathy
 - Honest Expression
 - Asking Questions
 - The Art of Requests
 - Mindfulness
- **Ms. Zuniga** shared that the goal is to identify systems in place and to see where there are issues in the system. She stated then solutions can be found to create a system of support related to prevention through community engagement with applied trauma informed care principles. **Ms. Zuniga** stated that as an agency they are not “gatekeeping” their approaches, but seek opportunity to partner and share solutions.
- **Ms. Jessica Gallego** shared that Active Parenting is the evidence-based program funded by the Parents Commission grant. **Ms. Gallego** stated they transitioned to the Active Parenting program because it was the program most responsive to the needs that were identified in the community. **Ms. Gallego** stated that the scheduling of the program is flexible to ensure there were ample opportunities for caregivers to attend. **Ms. Gallego** stated that they follow-up with families to support them as they apply the principles they learn. **Ms. Gallego** stated that a key to their recruitment and retention has been to provide opportunities for the families to be included in other organizational activities. **Ms. Gallego** stated that, when necessary, they will provide referrals to resources for families.
- **Ms. Gallego** stated the agency utilizes the 6 Guiding Principles to trauma informed practices which are safety, trustworthiness and transparency, peer support, collaboration and mutuality, empowerment of voice and choice, and cultural, historical, and gender issues. **Ms. Gallego** shared that they have facilitated trauma training in the community and schools. She stated they have implemented mindfulness rooms for staff and teachers in 7 schools in Santa Cruz County.
- **Ms. Gallego** stated that the programs offered at Circles of Peace are developed through listening and learning from the community so they feel their needs are being heard and support is being provided. **Ms. Gallego** shared that skills that are taught, such as resiliency, are clearly defined and provided tools on how to apply the skills. She stated that these practices can contribute to healing broken communities so they can rebuild through their Trauma-Informed and Restorative Community Building program efforts.
- **Ms. Gallego** shared that the programming provides an opportunity for participants to feel connected and feel it benefited them and the community. **Ms. Gallego** shared that partnerships are vital to their efforts and shared information about the extensive outreach efforts and partnership they have with community partners and stakeholders.

- The Circles of Peace presentation can be found on the Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention website at goyff.az.gov/PC.

Co-Chair FireThunder thanked **Circles of Peace** for their presentation and asked the commission if they had any questions.

- **Commissioner Robinson** thanked the team for their passion and compassion in the work they do. **Commissioner Robinson** asked **Ms. Acosta** for additional information about the referrals for court-ordered treatment. **Commissioner Robinson** inquired about the Pretrial Services provided. **Ms. Acosta** shared that they work closely with the Santa Cruz County courts to offer domestic violence, DUI, Drug Court, and Pretrial Services. **Ms. Acosta** shared that they offer a variety of classes including mindfulness treatment interventions. **Ms. Acosta** stated that they provide the required documentation and reporting to the court for the clients. **Ms. Acosta** shared that they are one of very few agencies that provide Pretrial Services in the nation. **Ms. Acosta** stated that they collaborate with the courts to administer the Public Safety Assessment Tool and serve 150 individuals for drug testing, reports to the court, visitation, and referrals to resources.

PARENTS COMMISSION GRANTEE UPDATES

Ms. Nicole Valenzuela

Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family

Co-Chair FireThunder invited **Ms. Nicole Valenzuela**, Program Administrator at the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF), to share grantee updates with the commission. **Ms. Valenzuela** stated that the grantees are receiving frequent check-in's specific to program implementation and technical assistance. **Ms. Valenzuela** stated that the Parents Commission Quarterly Engagement Meetings have increased opportunity for cross collaboration and partnerships amongst grantees and community partners. She shared that the Parents Commission will be providing community-centered program development/engagement training for all Parents Commission grantees. **Ms. Valenzuela** stated that the Parents Commission membership term will be expiring on February 20, 2023. She shared that interviews were held for Boards and Commissions positions last Friday and the hope is to have staff hired soon. **Ms. Valenzuela** stated that she will inform the commission members of the status of their membership prior to the terms expiring in February 2023.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-Chair FireThunder asked if any commissioners had any announcements they would like to share.

- **Director Hamilton** of GOYFF stated that they were hosting a free grant writing workshop on Thursday, 1/19/2023 and Friday, 1/20/2023. **Director Hamilton** stated that these two sessions were filled; however, the next workshop is scheduled for March 2023.

FUTURE AGENDA/MEETING SCHEDULE

Co-Chair FireThunder stated the next scheduled meeting is set for March 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Executive Tower. **Co-Chair FireThunder** announced that the meeting would be hybrid (in-person & virtual) for those unable to attend in-person.

ADJOURN

Co-Chair FireThunder thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner Robinson** moved to adjourn. **Commissioner Stavros' proxy Ms. Braham** seconded the motion. The motion passed with no dissenting votes and the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

19th Day of January 2023
Parents Commission
Respectfully Submitted By:
Nicole Valenzuela
Program Administrator, GOYFF

DRAFT