



**Prescription Drug Core Group Meeting  
August 29, 2017  
1:00 p.m.**

**Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family – Conference Room B  
1700 West Washington Street, Suite 230, Phoenix, Arizona 85007**

A general meeting of the Prescription Drug Core Group was convened on August 29, 2017 at the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family, Conference Room B, 1700 West Washington Street, Suite 230 Phoenix, Arizona 85007.

Members Present (6)	
Sheila Sjolander, Chairman, Arizona Department of Health Services	
Elizabeth Dodge, Arizona Board of Pharmacy	
Tomi St. Mars, Arizona Department of Health Services	
Jacqueline Kurth, Industrial Commission of Arizona	
Michelle Skurka, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System	
Jenna Jones, Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners (via phone)	
Staff/Guests Present (8)	Members Absent (4)
Samuel Burba, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	Carlena Orosco, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Nikki Lazarus Green, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	Travis Williams, Arizona Attorney General's Office
Lindsay Cotton, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	Chief Thomas Kelly, Apache Junction Police Department
Jill Westenberg, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family	Brett Klein, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area
Tracy Cruickshank, Maricopa County Department of Public Health	
Lacie Ampadu, Arizona Department of Health Services	
Erica Weis, Arizona Department of Health Services	
Doug Skvarla, Arizona Board of Pharmacy	

**Call to Order**

- **Sheila Sjolander, Chairman**, called the Prescription Drug Core Group meeting to order at 1:03 pm with seven (7) members and seven (7) staff and guests present.

**Welcome/Introductions**

- **Sheila Sjolander, Chairman** welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes for the meeting held April 25, 2017 were reviewed. **Tomi St. Mars** made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by **Jacqueline Kurth** and approved by all.

**Executive Order – Opioid Epidemic**

- **Sheila Sjolander, Chairman**, shared the following with the core group:
  - The state of emergency concerning the opioid epidemic went into effect on June 5, 2017 due to an increase of opioid-related deaths.
  - As a result, the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) was tasked with responsibilities to develop/update guidelines for prescribers (draft update to be released by September 5, 2017; finalized by the end of December 2017), provide training to law enforcement on how to administer naloxone and initiate emergency rule-making on prescribing and treatment practices.

- The extended surveillance period, which began on June 15, 2017, yielded findings on opioid-related deaths, administered naloxone, neonatal abstinence syndrome, and documented overdoses. All Arizona counties excluding Greenlee reported overdoses, the most common drug combination being opioids and benzodiazepines. Heroin was the most common in overdose reports, and data shows that naloxone was most commonly administered by EMS. Statistical maps highlighted areas with agencies supporting MAT and naloxone, noting specific areas in need of greater assistance.
- The *Opioid Overdose Epidemic Response Report* is due September 5, 2017.
- Dr. Cara Christ made a standing order for law enforcement and emergency medical services to receive naloxone kits.
- **Elizabeth Dodge** shared that many times prescribers are unaware that their patient has overdosed.
- **Interim Director Samuel Burba** shared that he hopes to see naloxone increasingly utilized by law enforcement.
- **Tomi St. Mars** commented that the information gathered by ADHS is limited because only a percentage of the population is reporting on these issues.

### **Governor's Goal Council Subgroups**

- **Sheila Sjolander, Chairman**, shared the following with the core group:
  - The Governor's Office established Goal Council Three, Healthy People, Places and Resources. The Council is divided into several subgroups: Illicit Supply Subgroup, Prescription Supply Subgroup, Demand Subgroup, Youth Prevention Subgroup, Interventions and Treatment Subgroup and Death Subgroup.
  - Some Core Group members are currently working on Goal Council subgroups.

### **Opioid Marketing Campaign/Red Ribbon Event**

- **Interim Director Samuel Burba** shared the following with the core group:
  - GOYFF will be working with Cox to develop seven (7) Public Service Announcements (PSAs) highlighting the opioid epidemic. The PSAs will focus on true testimonials from the public and are to be finalized by the end of September. They will be promoted to the public in October.
  - GOYFF's Red Ribbon kick-off event, *Addiction: The Elephant in the Room*, will occur on October 23, 2017. It is GOYFF's intent to partner with other state agencies to provide trainings for the community. Some of the keynote speakers are ADHS' Dr. Cara Christ and DEA's Special Agent in Charge, Doug Coleman. Red Ribbon will touch on Arizona's opioid epidemic.

### **Naloxone Update**

- **Tomi St. Mars**, stated that naloxone kits have been distributed to 42 local law enforcement agencies. The agencies have been asked a list of questions determining their plan for action.

### **Agency / Partner Updates**

- **Jacqueline Kurth** shared that their agency will be presenting on opioid prescribing guidelines for workers compensation at the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Conference. They are working with physicians to expand treatment guidelines.
- **Michelle Skurka** shared that the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) reapplied for the Substance Abuse Block Grant. Their block grant was due on September 1, 2017. They are also in the process of finalizing budgets for the RHBAs.
- **Elizabeth Dodge** informed the group that her agency connected with the Health Information Exchange (HIE) on the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). The Board of Pharmacy is also working with the medical board to make things easier for prescribers when the PMP goes into effect on October 16, 2017.
- **Tomi St. Mars** shared that there is a new report that has been uploaded on [azdhs.gov/opioid](http://azdhs.gov/opioid).

### **Future Meeting Dates**

- Next meeting is scheduled for:
  - Tuesday, September 26, 2017 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- **Interim Director Samuel Burba** recommended that everyone bring ideas to September's Core Group meeting to discuss future objectives and ways to better modify our vision and compliment activities of the Goal Council.

### **Adjourn**

- **Sheila Sjolander, Chairman**, called for a motion to adjourn.

**Interim Director Samuel Burba** moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:31 pm. Motion was seconded by **Jacqueline Kurth**. Meeting was adjourned at 2:31 pm.

DRAFT