

ADDRESSING  
ARIZONA'S

# OPIOID CRISIS



2024  
Annual  
Conference



AZPHA  
Arizona Public Health Association

Thursday, February 29, 2024

**8:30 am - 4:45 pm**

Registration/Breakfast/Networking

**7:30 am - 8:30 am**

Desert Willow Conference Center

4340 E. Cotton Center Blvd.

Phoenix, AZ 85040

**crisis center**



[www.AZPHA.org](http://www.AZPHA.org)

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Phoenix, AZ 85034

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Porque nos **importa**.

Contract services are funded under contract with the State of Arizona.  
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**THANK YOU**

*to all attendees joining us at the*

**2024 Annual Conference**



AZPHA is a 501(c)(3) and is supported through its memberships, programs and generous tax-deductible contributions.



# From the Executive Director



## **Will Humble, MPH**

Overdoses from opioids and especially fentanyl continue to accelerate in Arizona. In fact, fentanyl poisoning is among the top 5 leading causes of death in Arizona. While the trajectory of the epidemic continues to be grim, evidence-based best practices to address the epidemic are advancing at the state, county and local level as well as numerous nonprofits. Funding from the OneArizona settlement is now and will continue to provide critical financial resources to help partners to implement these evidence-based practices now and in the coming years.

Our 2024 Arizona Public Health Association conference brings together more than 40 experts and practitioners to share their research, intervention practices and results. Participants and attendees have a one-of-a-kind opportunity to share with each other data, best practices and evaluation techniques that will help them most effectively use settlement funds and best practice policies to assist with mitigating this troubling epidemic.

## **AZPHA WELCOMES**



*Speaking 8:45 AM*

## **Kris Mayes**

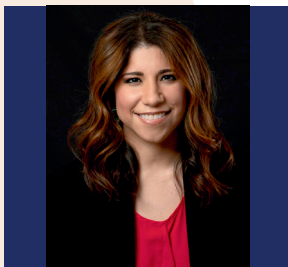
Arizona Attorney General



*Speaking 3:15 PM*

## **Dr. Jeffrey Reynoso**

Region IX Director  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



*Speaking 3:15 PM*

## **Carmen Heredia, MSW**

Cabinet Executive Officer and Executive Deputy Director  
AHCCCS (*Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System*)

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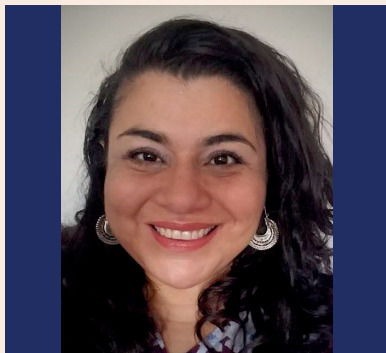


SOUTHWEST BEHAVIORAL & HEALTH SERVICES  
Impacting People, Improving Communities



# Agenda

8:30 – 8:45 AM



## Welcome and Introductions

**AZPHA President  
Lilliana Cardenas**

8:45 – 9:00 AM



## Introductory Remarks

**Arizona Attorney General  
Kris Mayes**

9:00 – 9:30 AM

**Allan Williams, MPH, PhD**

*Retired, Minnesota Department of Health  
& University of Minnesota College of Public  
Health*

**Will Humble, MPH**

*Executive Director  
Arizona Public Health Association (AZPHA)*

**Martín F. Celaya, MPH**

*Arizona Department of Health Services  
Bureau Chief (Bureau of Assessment and  
Evaluation)*

**Charles Katz, PhD**

*Arizona State University  
Professor, School of Criminology and  
Criminal Justice  
Watts Family Director, Center for Violence  
Prevention and Community Safety*

## Arizona Opioid Surveillance Data

### **Rates & Trends of Opioid/Fentanyl Overdose Deaths in Arizona, 2003-2023: Implications for Public Health Policy**

**Objectives:** Be able to describe temporal trends in opioid/fentanyl mortality in Arizona. Identify demographic groups in Arizona at highest risk for opioid/fentanyl mortality. Be able to put into context leading causes of death from opioids/fentanyl relative to other causes of mortality for high-risk age and ethnicity groups.

### **Statewide Overdose Surveillance: Strategies from the Overdose Data to Action Program at the ADHS**

**Objectives:** Introduce the CDC's Overdose Data to Action in States Funding Opportunity. Provide a brief overview of the Arizona Department of Health Services' surveillance activities around fatal and non-fatal overdoses. Describe the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS). Describe current trends in unintentional drug overdose deaths in Arizona. Describe potential intervention points for preventing unintentional overdose deaths. Describe outcomes and impact related to opioid overdoses achieved to date.



Session

1

High Risk Health Disparities

Cottonwood Room

**Christina Mrukowicz, MPH**

Senior Epidemiologist  
Maricopa County Department of Public Health

**Marisa Domino, PhD**

Professor and Executive Director  
Center for Health Information and Research (CHIR)  
Arizona State University

**Findings from a Mixed-Methods Needs Assessment of People Who Use Drugs — Maricopa County, AZ, April-June 2023**

**Objective:** To share insights from a 2023 needs assessment among people who use drugs (PWUD) conducted by the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH). Attendees will learn about the barriers and facilitators to housing, harm reduction, and substance use treatment services experienced by PWUD. Recommendations for improving services for PWUD will also be discussed.

**Risks from Opioid Use During Extreme Heat**

**Objective:** To better understand the additional risk of opioid overdose death and hospitalization during extreme heat.

Session

2

Rural & Border

Brittlebush Room

**Rocio Torres, MPH**

Program Management Assistant III  
University of Arizona, Mel & Enid Zuckerman  
College of Public Health  
Arizona Center for Rural Health

**Christy Crowley, LMSW**

Community Member

**Yara Castro**

Health & Social Services Manager  
Mariposa Community Health Center

**Tsion Meles**

MPH Student & Graduate Research Assistant  
Arizona Prevention Research Center  
University of Arizona

**Collaborative Problem Solving in Rural Communities to Address the Opioid Crisis**

**Objectives:** Learn how comprehensive community engagement works to address the opioid crisis in rural communities. Describe the results of comprehensive community engagement in Cochise County. Identify ways in which you can collaborate within your own community to address the opioid crisis.

**Collaborative Efforts in Rural Consortium of SUD/OD Partners to Support Youth and Young Adults Along the US-Mexico Border**

**Objectives:** Discuss strategies used in mapping and planning activity to analyze gaps in services, missing stakeholder and resources needed to provide support to the target population. Identify collaborative strategies implemented by the SOSA Consortium to address barriers and disparities that youth and young adults by engaging in prevention, treatment and recovery services.

Session

3

Perceptions & Stigma

Ocotillo Room

**Raminta Daniulaityte, PhD**

Associate Professor, College of Health Solutions  
Associate Professor, Institute for Social Science  
Research Affiliated Faculty  
Senior Global Futures Scientist, Global Futures  
Scientists and Scholars  
Arizona State University

**Kaylin Sweeney**

PhD Student in Population Health  
Graduate Research Associate,  
Arizona State University

**Clay Jones, M.Ed., IMH-E**

Maricopa County Department of Public Health  
Maricopa SHIFT Coordinator

**Perceptions of Overdose Risks Among Persons Who Use Illicitly Manufactured Fentanyl in Phoenix, Arizona**

**Objectives:** Describe patterns and trends of illicitly manufactured fentanyl use in Phoenix, Arizona. Understand how people who use fentanyl view and experience overdose-related risks. Characterize lay harm reduction strategies to manage overdose risks. Services for PWUD will also be discussed.

**From Stigma, to Hope, to Healing: Maricopa SHIFT: Safe, Healthy Infants and Families Thrive**

**Objectives:** Participants will learn the definition and prevalence of NAS diagnosed newborns in Arizona as it relates to the Opioid epidemic. Participants will understand the “standard” protocol for hospitals regarding NAS diagnosed newborns and the alternative “Eat, Sleep, Console” best practice that is gaining wider acceptance. Participants will understand the importance of providers treating patients with non-stigmatizing language and practices. Participants will gain an understanding of the importance of keeping moms and babies together as much as possible, with non-stigmatizing support. Participants will understand their role in the Maricopa SHIFT Collaborative.

Session

1

City Initiatives

Cottonwood Room

**Nicole Witt, MPH**

*City of Phoenix Public Health Advisor  
Office of Public Health*

**Yanitza Soto, MPH**

*City of Phoenix Special Project Administrator  
Office of Public Health*

**Jeffery Hanna, MPH, MSc**

*Zeihan Prohealth Consulting, LLC  
Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer*

**Justin Zeien, MD, MPH**

*Zeihan Prohealth Consulting, LLC  
Co-founder & Chief Medical Officer*

**A Citywide Approach to Opioid Response Planning**

**Objectives:** Understanding the Opioid Epidemic in Phoenix: Participants will gain knowledge about the severity of the opioid epidemic in Phoenix. Learn about the City of Phoenix approach to Opioid Response Planning: Participants will become familiar with the steps the Office of Public Health is taking to create the City’s first Opioid Response Plan. Recognizing the role of academic partnership: Participants will learn about an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Phoenix and Arizona State University’s Substance Use and Addiction Translational Research Network (SATRN). This collaboration will support the implementation and evaluation of the City of Phoenix Opioid Response Plan.

**A Tale of Two Cities: An Overview of Opioid Use Prevention Initiatives in Phoenix, AZ and Kansas City, KS**

**Objectives:** Be able to identify risk factors for opioid use disorder and overdose. Evaluate and develop naloxone education programs for populations with low health literacy. Describe the benefits of a street medicine model in preventing opioid use in hard-to-reach populations, such as individuals experiencing homelessness. Collaborate with local public health departments, governmental agencies, community-based organizations, healthcare organizations, and academic institutions on opioid educational initiatives. Design and institute community-based harm reduction strategies focused on increasing naloxone distribution.

Session

2

Pharmacy & Prescribing

Brittlebush Room

**Beth E. Meyerson, MDiv, PhD**

*University of Arizona, Professor, Family and  
Community Medicine  
Director, Harm Reduction Research Lab, Family  
and Community Medicine  
Director of Policy, Comprehensive Pain and  
Addiction Center  
Member of the Graduate Faculty*

**Ann Guthery, PhD, PMHNP-BC**

*Arizona State University  
Clinical Assistant Professor*

**Matthew Martin, PhD, MS, LMFT,  
CSSBB**

*Clinical Associate Professor, Arizona State  
University College of Health Solutions  
Associate Director, National Safety Net  
Advancement Center*

**Evidence to Action: Reducing Opioid Overdoses in Arizona through Medical and Pharmacy Practice Change**

**Objectives:** Participants will understand the role of federal and state regulations in efforts to reduce opioid overdoses. Participants will consider opportunities in pharmacy practice to reduce overdoses. 3. Participants will make connections between evidence, translation to practice and translation to policy to advance system change.

**Expanding MOUD Prescribers: How the Arizona State University Edson College of Nursing is Addressing the Opioid Epidemic**

**Objectives:** Review the Arizona State University Waiver Expansion (AWE) training program objectives and strategies. Discuss how preceptorships prepare nurse practitioner students for medication for opioid use disorder management (MOUD). Evaluate training program outcomes and implications for future workforce development.

Session

3

Connecting with the Recently Incarcerated

Ocotillo Room

**James Tobin**

*Section Manager for Substance Abuse &  
Mental Health Programming  
Yavapai Community Health Service*

**Beya Thayer, MSW**

*Executive Director, Yavapai Justice &  
Mental Health Coalition  
Director of Behavioral Health Services  
Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office*

**The Yavapai County Connection Center: Serving Recently Incarcerated Individuals, Addressing the Challenges of Housing-Employment-Food Insecurity, Mental Health Needs, and Substance Abuse**

**Objective:** Demonstrate the importance of networking, collaborating, and aggregating resources to better address issues related to social determinants of health, and to reduce criminal recidivism.



# Lunch

12:00 – 1:00 PM



Gather for a Delicious Buffet Lunch

12:30 – 12:50 PM



**LUNCH & LEARN:**  
**The AoS Movement – Opportunity  
for Standardizing Data Collection**

**Ocotillo Room**

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Session

1

Justice System Connections

Cottonwood Room

**Tori Osmundson, MPH**

*Correctional Health Services Public Health Fellow, Maricopa County Department of Public Health*

**Matthew Martin, PhD, MS, LMFT, CSSBB**

*Clinical Associate Professor, Arizona State University, College of Health Solutions  
Associate Director, National Safety Net Advancement Center*

**Swetha Gansan, MS**

*Research Project Manager, Arizona State University, College of Health Solutions*

**MCDPH Fellowship: Catalyst for Change in Maricopa County's Correctional Health Services**

**Objectives:** Comprehend the objectives of the Maricopa County Department of Public Health Fellowship, focusing on its role in addressing the opioid crisis and leveraging opioid settlement funds. Evaluate multifaceted initiatives targeting the opioid crisis in Maricopa County jails, including the development and dissemination of educational content and improvement of treatment pathways and data collection. Examine the evaluation measures employed in the CHS Opioid Treatment Program (OTP), focusing on community partnership collaboration for data collection and transition to community-based treatment after incarceration.

**Access to Treatment for Incarcerated Individuals Experiencing Opioid Withdrawal in the Maricopa County, Arizona Jail System**

**Objectives:** Demonstrate proficiency in administering health education strategies, interventions, and programs by effectively implementing evidence-based approaches. Conduct thorough evaluations related to health education programs, research initiatives, and other relevant areas of practice, utilizing appropriate methodologies and assessment tools. Implement health education strategies, interventions, and programs with precision, ensuring alignment with established best practices and addressing identified needs within the target population. Develop comprehensive plans for health education strategies, interventions, and programs, incorporating evidence-based methods, cultural considerations, and adaptability to diverse community needs. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of public health, including laws, regulations, standards, and guidelines relevant to health education, ensuring compliance and ethical practice in the field.

Session

2

Using Surveillance to Inform Policy

Brittlebush Room

**Jessica Ochoa**

*Public Health Data Information Analyst  
Pima County Health Department*

**Ginger Dixon, MS**

*Epidemiology Program Manager  
Bureau of Assessment and Evaluation  
Arizona Department of Health Services*

**Mercedeh Reamer, MPH**

*Senior Epidemiologist  
Bureau of Assessment and Evaluation  
Arizona Department of Health Services*

**Maritza Valenzuela, MPH**

*Office Chief, Injury and Violence Prevention  
Arizona Department of Health Services*

**Using Overdose Data to Transform Care: What Data Matters**

**Objectives:** Attendees will understand and gain insights into effective engagement with local public health department data teams and health care systems to address the ongoing opioid crisis. Data queries to assist in the evaluation and improvement of the response by public health and health care systems will be presented. Additionally, increased understanding of the data available within the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) will be presented.

**Data to Action: Opioid Surveillance, Fatality Review, and Prevention Measures in State Public Health**

**Objectives:** To provide key indicators on the opioid epidemic in Arizona. To describe potential opportunities for intervention to reduce opioid overdose and overdose deaths. To highlight key opioid surveillance and fatality review strategies at the state level. To share key strategies for translating surveillance and fatality review data to action

Session

3

New Approaches to Medications for Opiate Use Disorder (MOUD)

Ocotillo Room

**Andy Sparks**

*Director, Commercial Development  
Overdose Reversal Sciences  
Indivior Treatment Services, Inc.*

**Jessica Jay, PharmD, MS, BCMAS**

*Medical Outcomes and Value Liaison  
Indivior Treatment Services, Inc.*

**From Overdose to Treatment and Recovery**

**Objectives:** To understand the role and effectiveness of Opvee (Nalmefene) in opioid overdose reversal and the significance of Sublocade's once-monthly shot as a treatment option for opioid use disorder.



Session

1

Integrated Approaches to Recovery

Cottonwood Room

Honorable Gary E. Donahoe

Judge of the Arizona Superior Court (retired)
Member of the Joint Fentanyl Coalition

Dr. Jahanzeb Ali Khan, MD

Psychiatrist

Beyond Free Narcan. A Proposal for Meaningful Legislative Changes to Combat the Opioid Crisis

Objectives: Have a basic understanding of the process for obtaining involuntary (court-ordered) mental health treatment for someone diagnosed with a mental illness. Understand the legal barriers to obtaining court-ordered mental health treatment for a person diagnosed with a severe opioid use disorder. Have learned about proposed legislative changes developed by a coalition of professionals whose mission is to prevent deaths from opioid use. These legislative changes are intended to remove the legal barriers to obtaining court-ordered mental health treatment for persons diagnosed with a severe opioid use disorder. A proposed method to fund needed treatment also will be presented.

Session

2

Maternal & Child Health

Brittlebush Room

Danielle Treiber, PhD

Systems Change Associate Program Director
Sonoran Prevention Works

Katalina Olea

Systems Navigation Specialist
Sonoran Prevention Works

Aubrianna Perez, BA

Maternal Mortality Review Program Manager
Arizona Department of Health Services

Morgan Anderson, MPH

Child Fatality Review Program Manager
Arizona Department of Health Services

Perinatal Harm Reduction

Objectives: Understand and identify harm reduction practices for Pregnant and Parenting People (PPP). Identify and recognize ways in which people stigmatize PPP who use drugs. Understand the risks factors associated with the different types of drugs and be able to identify harm reduction practices associated with the different types of drugs. Determine ways in which participants can advocate for themselves when receiving services.

The Impact of Opioids on Maternal and Child Health and Strategies to Improve Outcomes in Arizona

Objectives: Provide an overview of the Maternal Mortality and Child Fatality Review Programs. Share the latest data, trends, disparities, and risk factors related to the effects of opioids on maternal and infant health outcomes in Arizona. Share recommendations that, if implemented, would provide additional (aid, approaches, support, solutions, etc.) to prevent maternal, infant, and child mortality due to opioids and improve health outcomes.

Session

3

Libraries as Recovery Partners

Ocotillo Room

Mark Person, MSP

Program Manager
Pima County Health Department

Kate DeMeester-Lane

Library Services Manager
Pima County Library

Public Health and Libraries Harm Reduction Partnership

Objectives: Introduce innovative examples of harm reduction partnerships. Introduce two harm reduction resources: Nasal Narcan and Fentanyl Test Strips. Understand local overdose trends and data in Pima County. Describe the planning and implementation for the harm reduction partnership between public health and libraries. Highlight outcomes and success stories.

Session

4

Novel Naloxone Strategies

(continued next page)

Chia Room

Yanitzia Soto

City of Phoenix Special Projects Administrator
Office of Public Health

Dominic Orso, MBA

Maricopa County Department of Public Health
Public Health Fellow

Saving Lives: Strategies and Successes of the City of Phoenix Naloxone Program

Objectives: Understanding the Opioid Epidemic in Phoenix: Learn of the opioid epidemic in Phoenix, including the number of lives lost, who it affects, and how fatal and non-fatal overdoses are spread. Grasping the City of Phoenix Naloxone Program: Discover the main elements including policy, and goals of the city's naloxone program. Comprehending Naloxone Distribution Methods: Learn about how the city distributes naloxone and strategic distribution guided through data tools. Empowering Individuals Through Training: Learn about the training on opioid overdose and naloxone for City employees and volunteers.

Session

4

Novel Naloxone Strategies

(continued from previous page)

Chia Room

**Julia Vinton, MPH, CHES**

Services Section Office Chief  
Arizona Department of Health Services

**Adam Rodriguez, NRP, FP-C**

Time Sensitive Illness and Injury Manager  
Arizona Department of Health Services

### Naloxone Leave Behind in Arizona

**Objectives:** Provide an overview of Naloxone Leave Behind as an evidence-based practice. Provide a history of Naloxone Leave Behind in Arizona. Provide an overview of the First Responders Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR-CARA) Grant. Review available resources for EMS agencies interested in participating in Naloxone Leave Behind.

3:15 – 4:30 PM



### Presentation



Introduction by

**Dr. Yaminikrishna Sabesan**

Adult Healthcare Administrator  
Mercy Care

Speakers

**Dr. Jeffrey Reynoso, DrPH, MPH**

Presidential Appointee, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Regional Director (Region IX - Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the US-Affiliated Pacific Islands, and 157 Federally-Recognized Tribes)

**Carmen Heredia, MSW**

AHCCCS (Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System)  
Cabinet Executive Officer and Executive Deputy Director

**Catherine “Kate” Dobler, MEd, BS, CPM, IMH-E**

AHCCCS (Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System)  
Arizona State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA)

**Polly Knape, MS, LAC**

AHCCCS (Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System)  
Integrated System of Care Special Projects Advisor

### Q & A – General Session

4:30 – 4:45 PM

### Closing Remarks & Networking

# Opioid Assistance & Referral

A free 24/7 hotline that assists providers with complex patients with pain and opioid use disorders, answered by medical experts at the Poison and Drug Information Centers in Arizona.

Arizona **OAR** Line

**1-888-688-4222**



The OAR Line is a joint project between the Arizona Department of Health Services, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System and Poison and Drug Information Centers in Arizona.



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To provide superior and compassionate healthcare to our community by raising the level of health, Hózhó and quality of life.

**FORT DEFIANCE INDIAN HOSPITAL BOARD, INC.**

Fort Defiance, Arizona Navajo Nation



Ophelia Anthony  
Medical Recruiter  
928.729.8117

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Nurse Recruiter  
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Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board, Inc. mission is to provide superior and compassionate healthcare to our community by raising the level of health, Hózhó and quality of life.



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