Community Advocacy: Using Coordinated Response to Create Recovery Ready Communities
Addiction Haven was conceived in 2014 in response to the needs of the community affected by Substance Use Disorder. Our system was disconnected and people affected by SUD did not know what resources were available and felt helpless. Through advocacy, education, and community assessment we were able to create targeted community based solutions and empower individuals affected by substance use disorder, their families, and community members.
Aurora Behavioral Health System is Arizona’s largest free-standing psychiatric hospital system with 238 inpatient beds within two facilities (Glendale & Tempe) serving the entire State of Arizona. As an innovator in behavioral health treatment for more than 10 years, Aurora utilizes a holistic approach to mental health. Its leaders believe in individualizing treatment and healing the entire person – physically, psychologically and spiritually. Aurora prides themselves on having full time internal medical doctors on staff in addition to board certified psychiatrists and addictionologists.

They are dedicated to the wellness of their community through partnerships, development of new programs, prevention, intervention, and treatment. Aurora does this by offering a full spectrum of behavioral healthcare services in a warm, inviting atmosphere where patients receive the care they need and deserve.
Understanding Terms

It is important to have a common understanding of some terms including:

• Recovery Oriented System of Care
• Recovery Ready Communities
• Recovery Community Organizations
Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC)

Recovery oriented systems of care are health and human service organizations that affirm hope for recovery, exemplify a strength-based (as opposed to pathology-focused) orientation, and offer a wide spectrum of services aimed at the support of long-term recovery.
Recovery Ready Communities

A community that is recovery-ready provides the entire continuum of support to those in or seeking recovery and their allies.
Recovery Community Organization

Is an independent, non-profit organization led and governed by local communities of recovery. The broadly defined recovery community – people in long-term recovery, their families, friends and allies, including recovery-focused addiction and recovery professionals – includes organizations whose members reflect many pathways to recovery.
Recovery Ready Components

- Adequate Detox and Treatment
- All Pathways of Recovery
- Harm Reduction
- Youth Recovery
- Recovery Housing
- Prevention
- Full continuum of Care
- Recovery Community Organizations
- Family Support
- DCFS, PD, Criminal Justice System treat as public health policy
- Special interest populations: LGBTQ and Faith
Similarities between Communities and Recovery:

- No one size fit all answer
- Different strengths and weaknesses
- Person/Community centered approach
- Stigma/Shame
- Ineffective response

Collaboration and Assessment are the keys!!
Why create Community Task Forces?

- Addiction is not going away
- Communities are the answer
- All persons affected are included
- Always be another epidemic
- Cost effective
- Collaboration
- Only need passion and time to start
Collaboration initiated by Public Safety Organizations
Collaborative Effort

Who NEEDS to be included in these efforts:
• Persons directly affected by Substance Use Disorder
• Family members
• Schools
• Harm Reduction organizations
• Treatment Industry as a whole (abstinence based, MAT, Recovery Support Services)
• Health Care
• City and Community Leaders
• Police Department
• Criminal Justice System
• Child Welfare System
• Housing
• Nonprofits in your community
• Faith Based Leaders
Crucial Characteristics

- Non judgmental and safe
- Open minded
- All pathways are not only accessible but also fully supported
- Personal experience
- Independent organization (not connected to treatment)
- Broad community support
Collaborative Effort

CORE Task Force Mission:

• Prevention
• Early Intervention
• Harm Reduction
• Treatment
• Recovery Support Services
• Healthy Communities
Community Assessment

What services already exist in your community?

● Non-profits
● Prevention
● Treatment
● Recovery Support
● Community Education
● Recovery Ready Breakdown
Community Assessment

How well do those services work in practice?

- Do they deliver what they say they do?
- Family member input
- Input from people directly using said services
- Community Input
Community Assessment

Gaps in service:

- Where are they?
- Strategic plan to address most crucial
- What works for your community?
Current Community Task Forces

Kingman
DeVries and Dr. Sara Knievel co-chair the Mohave Substance Treatment Education and Prevention Partnership, or MSTEPP, which includes law enforcement, doctors, treatment counselors and mental health providers. The partnership allows these disparate professionals to talk with each other, share experiences, make referrals and follow up to see if people are continuing their care.
MSTEPP is also part of the Kingman Harm Reduction Program, which is coordinated by Sonoran Prevention Works and also includes Kingman police, courts and health providers. The program provides syringe exchanges and distributes Naloxone. Housed after hours in a health clinic, workers encourage visitors to return during office hours for their health needs.

This program has made 1,069 contacts, nearly three-fourths of whom were over 25 years old. The program distributed 797 doses of Naloxone, with 29 overdose reversals reported. Nearly 150 people had been referred for drug treatment.
Current Community Task Forces

Safford

Collaboration between Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition and national organization Facing Addiction created a Recovery Subcommittee which meets monthly and provides community education and is building Safford’s first sober living home.
Current Community Task Forces

Chandler

Chandler Substance Use and Treatment Task Force consists of community leaders and professionals from health care, pharmacist, law enforcement, education, prevention, rehabilitation and treatment sectors from Chandler/ Gilbert and surrounding areas. The Task Force is a collaborative effort to pull resources and programs together to focus on the central vision of providing a healthy, drug-free community where opportunities exist for all to achieve their full potential.
Current Community Task Forces

Chandler (con’t)

- Community Resource list
- Videos/PSA for community education
- The Chandler IAM Project
- Community/Parent Presentations
- Student Presentations
- Student online Vape and E-Cigarette Diversion/Educational Program
Collaboration is the KEY to sustainability

We are all in this together!
Current Training for Police Departments

- Mental Health First Aid
- QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer)
- Working Minds- Suicide Prevention
- Changing Lives via Public Safety Intervention
- Community Resources
- Language Matters
- Trauma Informed Interventions for marginalized populations
Next Steps

Start your own task force in your community

- Addiction Haven
- Facing Addiction- Community Advocacy Training
Questions, comments, concerns?
THANK YOU!!

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