ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT STANDARDS AND OVERSIGHT STUDY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
October 1, 2026
1:00 P.M., SHR 1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:
https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2026101000

Members Present:

Senator Carine Werner, Co-Chair
Senator Catherine Miranda
Odette Colburn (Director's Designee)*
Dr. Holly Geyer
Dr. Will Heise
Michael Johnson
Emily Mercado (Director's Designee)**
Representative Selina Bliss, Co-Chair
Representative Alma Hernandez
Josh Mozell
Amanda Ostrow
Jeremy Reed
Sheriff David Rhodes
Nicole Witt (Governor's Designee)

Members Excused:

Adena Bernstein (Attorney General's Designee)
Cheryl Debatt
Katherine Nisbet
Dr. Michel Sucher

Staff:

Michael Madden, Senate Research Analyst
Ahjahna Graham, House Research Analyst
Samuel Rosenberg, Senate Assistant Research Analyst

* *Director, Department of Health Services*
** *Director, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System*

Co-Chair Werner called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and attendance was taken.

MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Senator Werner offered opening remarks and requested that Committee members introduce themselves.

The Committee members introduced themselves.

RESEARCH STAFF OVERVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE, CHARGE, REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Michael Madden, Senate Health and Human Services Committee Research Analyst, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Substance Use Disorder Treatment Standards and Oversight Study Committee" (Attachment A), introduced the Committee staff and explained the Committee's membership and statutory responsibilities.

Senator Werner offered additional opening remarks.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Holly Geyer – President, Arizona Society of Addiction Medicine

Dr. Holly Geyer, President, Arizona Society of Addiction Medicine, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "A State Bill to Adress Statewide Addiction: SB 1814" (Attachment B) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Werner offered comments.

Major Dan Williams – Salvation Army

Jeff Taylor, Salvation Army, offered comments and introduced Major Dan Williams.

Major Dan Williams, Salvation Army, explained the substance use disorder treatment program offered by the Salvation Army and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Mr. Taylor answered questions posed by the Committee and offered comments.

Major Williams answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Mr. Taylor answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Major Williams offered comments.

Emily Mercado – Chief of Staff, AHCCCS

Emily Mercado, Chief of Staff, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), introduced herself and answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Ms. Mercado distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Substance Use Disorder Treatment Standards and Oversight Study Committee 10/1/26" (Attachment C) and answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Ms. Mercado answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

David Rhodes, Yavapai County Sheriff, answered questions posed by the Committee.

Ms. Mercado answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Odette Colburn – Deputy Director of Public Health Licensing, ADHS

Odette Colburn, Deputy Director, Public Health Licensing, Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Substance Use Disorder Treatment Standards & Oversight Study Committee Meeting" (Attachment D) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Ta'Mella Pierce – Chief Clinical Officer, Phoenix Rescue Mission

Ta'Mella Pierce, Chief Clinical Officer, Phoenix Rescue Mission, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Phoenix Rescue Mission Recovery Programs Overview" (Attachment E).

Nathan Smith – Chief Executive Officer, Central Arizona Shelter Services

Nathan Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS), explained the substance use disorder treatment program offered by CASS and answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Mr. Smith offered comments and answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Mr. Smith answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Shannon Whiteaker, Jolie Whiteaker Public Affairs, offered comments.

Representative Bliss offered comments.

Ms. Whiteaker answered questions posed by the Committee.

Cody Davis, Faithland Recovery Center and Dope to Hope, offered comments and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Roberta Abdullah, representing self, offered comments.

Representative Bliss offered additional comments.

Odette Colburn, Deputy Director, Public Health Licensing, Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), offered comments in response to public testimony.

Ms. Abdullah offered additional comments.

The Committee offered comments.

Dr. Vaun Williams, representing various health care providers, offered comments.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Hildy Angius, Senator, Legislative District 30, offered comments.

Senator Werner offered comments.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Odette Colburn, Deputy Director, Public Health Licensing, Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee discussed the information presented and offered comments.

Attached are the forms noting the individuals who submitted a Speaker slip on the agenda items (Attachment F).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Christophersen
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at http://www.azleg.gov)