

Arizona Association of Crime Analysts



Wednesday, May 21, 2008
9:30 AM to 2:15 PM
Northern Arizona Regional Training
Academy (NARTA)
6955 Panther Path
Prescott Valley, AZ 86301

AACA Quarterly Meeting May 21, 2008

“The Impact of Drugs on Your
Community and the Role of Law
Enforcement.”

Host:
2008 AACA Board;
Yavapai County Sheriff’s
Office; Northern Arizona
Regional Training
Academy (NARTA)

RSVP:
<http://www.aacaonline.org/rsvp.html>

Agenda

1. Registration & Refreshments		9:30 – 10:00 AM
2. Welcome and Opening Announcements	Aimee Cardenas, 2008 AACA President Sheriff Steve Waugh, Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office	10:00 – 10:15 AM
3. MATForce (Methamphetamine Advisory Taskforce) was formed by the citizens of Yavapai County and is committed to working in partnership to build healthier communities by eliminating substance abuse and its effects.	Sheila Polk, Yavapai County Attorney	10:15 – 11:15 AM
BREAK		11:15 – 11:30 AM
4. Working Lunch; Arizona Meth Project presentation	Amy Rex, Arizona Meth Project Director	11:30 – 1:00 PM
5. Narcotics and the Impact on Prescott & Yavapai County	Sgt. Fessler, Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office	1:00 – 1:45
6. AACA Administrative Business, Round-Table & Meeting Wrap-Up	Aimee Cardenas, 2008 AACA President	1:45 – 2:15 PM

Additional Information

Directions: Map to facility is below. Free parking is available in front of and around the building. Lunch is provided FREE to AACA members. Non-members pay \$10 at the door.

Lunch provided by Streets of New York includes pasta, salad, garlic bread, drinks and dessert.

MEETING MINUTES

- 28 people in attendance
- 10:05 AM: meeting is called to order and Sheriff Steve Waugh, Yavapai County provides welcome. He indicates that 40% of offenders in Yavapai County are there because of drugs, mainly meth.
- 10:15 AM: Sheila Polk, Yavapai County Attorney begins presentation on MATForce.
 - Steve v. McJunkin was a case where a drug addict beat and sexually assaulted an elderly woman. He was sentenced to 174 years in DOC. After a couple of years incarcerated, McJunkin wrote Ms. Polk a letter and indicated how sorry he was and that he was high on meth when the crimes occurred.
 - This spurred Ms. Polk to start MATForce. She called upon several stakeholders across the County, including law enforcement, treatment professionals, social services, Youth County Group, teachers and others.
 - The 5 Stages of Meth use were identified:
 - The Rush
 - The High
 - The Binge
 - Tweaking – the most dangerous stage, where crimes are committed
 - The Crash
 - Research was started on arrests and prosecutions in Yavapai County as they relate to meth. Yavapai County population increased 4.2% per year between 2001 – 2005. So did the increase in meth related arrests. Forgeries increased 41% and possession of meth increased 139%.
 - The ARIN study was released in 2007, analyzing crime and drug use (self-reported data). These results indicated that in Yavapai County cocaine was favored more by the Hispanic communities and many of the drug users also were charged with possessing a firearm.
 - Meth-specific stats are hard to come by, so Ms. Polk commissioned a week-long internal study. Everyone in the prosecutor's office, the jail, the probation department and TASC had to write down all the cases related to meth. Everyone agreed to participate. Found 68% of felonies charged had a meth connection.
 - A typical Juvenile user was profiled:
 - 16 years old
 - Unemployed
 - White
 - 66% male and 43% female
 - A typical Adult user was profiled:
 - 32 years old
 - employed
 - White
 - 66% male and 43% female
 - Ms. Polk then commissioned a "Meth Addiction" survey where she used focus groups with real meth users in them. She advertised throughout Yavapai County inviting meth users with 1 year or more of recovery to participate. She paid them honorariums. The focus groups consisted of written surveys and discussion groups. She had 19 participants, average age 39 years old.
 - Finally MATForce also used drug stats reported to ACJC. Even though these are delayed stats, they provided good historical information on drug paraphernalia. In addition she also

used the daily booking sheets to find out how many meth related arrests had been made the night before. She counted every contact that meth user had with law enforcement; even if arrest didn't result.

- Results of MATForce are:
 - # of drug convictions are up
 - Conviction Rates are up
 - # of charged cases are down; drops in felony cases
 - All this even though the Yavapai County population is increasing.

- 11:30 AM: Amy Rex, Arizona Meth Project Director begins presentation. Amy showed us television ads and radio ads developed for Arizona by the Montana Meth project. The program is a "dark" one; intended to scare teens. "Not Even Once" is the theme and is intended to communicate to kids that even trying meth once is dangerous and can lead to addiction. As of March 31, the Arizona Meth project ran out of money and is currently looking for funding.

LUNCH

- 1:00 PM: Detective Wendell Allen from the PANST Squad, presented on successes and case investigations from the Yavapai County Narcotics Task Force.

- 1:30 PM: Aimee Cardenas concluded the meeting with announcements.
 - The 2008 IACA Conference will be held in Arizona, with AACA as a partner
 - Conference Chair nominations are being taken now
 - Possible AACA by-law changes will be presented to the membership; regarding changing Board terms from one year to two
 - Surveys for each meeting will now be distributed the following day. These are available online, for the week following the meeting – good place to rate the speakers, agenda, location, etc.

2:15 PM meeting concluded.

Debbie MacKenzie, AACA Secretary
May 28, 2008