

# ARIZONA

INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE

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**IOC Name: DHS ASH IOC**

**Meeting Date: 05/18/2026**

**Meeting Location: Virtual Meeting**

**Time: 18:10-19:44 pm**

<b>Members Present:</b> Laurie Goldstein, Melissa Farling, Kay Kunes, Kim Scherek, Charles Goldstein, Alyce Klein,
<b>Members Absent:</b> Ashley Oddo, Barbara Honiberg, Dee Putty,
<b>Other Attendees:</b> Holly Gieszl, Michael Sheldon, Lisa Wynn, Fredreaka Graham, Tim B, Sommer Walters, Matthew S

<b>Agenda Items</b> (Enter the related topic from the IOC's agenda)	<b>General Description of Matters Discussed &amp; Motions Made</b> (Enter the related topic from the IOC's agenda)	<b>Action Item/Assigned To/Due Date</b> (Indicate the specific follow-up task/s or actions that need to be completed; include the name of the member assigned to the item, next steps to be taken, and the anticipated due date)
Welcome - disclosure of conflict of interest	Dee does have one conflict of interest; she will notify the team when the topic comes up	
Review and approve meeting minutes	Approved, as presented from Google Transcribe. I want to be able to correct some minor errors. Need the minutes in a format to edit.	Motion, Chuck Second, Melissa Roll Call, unanimous
ADOA update	None	
Retaliation discussion	Alyce commented that it seems like it is what it is, the committee tried on three different occasions to show that there was retaliation against the patient, and the ASH reviewer and investigator did not substantiate it. Even when it escalated to AHCCCS, they sent it back to ASH for review and had the same conclusion. No additional complaints were found, and everyone was interviewed by all involved.	Motion: Chuck Second: Alyce

# ARIZONA

INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE

	<p><b>Kim asked what % of the grievances were substantiated over the last year.</b></p> <p>In conversation with Lisa Wynn, the percentage are relatively low. They review each grievance with nursing and leadership and come up with corrective actions when issues are identified, or improvements could be beneficial. Civil investigates every allegation, and a vast number are unsubstantiated. With the ones that are substantiated, Alyce wanted education or further education.</p>	Roll Call, unanimous
Action Items	None! ASH staff were on the call, so there were not outstanding items. Very helpful to have a team on the call.	
ASH Administration update	Sheldon. Reported that they have hired a new Chief Medical Officer. Doctor Calvin Flowers will begin on May 30 <sup>th</sup> after all medical and clinical criteria has been reviewed and approved. He is from California. He has worked in many state hospitals In California. Earned has worked in Northern Arizona and Kingman. He has a psychiatrist background as a psychiatrist and has forensic background With this population.	
Overview of incident and accident reports	<p>ASH-2023-1527: Patient swallowed An object. At valley Wise before discharge. Which then required surgery. Chair asked about pass down to staff at Valley Wise on patients that may be prone to self-harm. They do nurse to nusre and dr to dr</p> <p>ASH-2023-1528: The quality review of the incident found that two staff needed NVCI training. We discussed that everyone gets trained before starting the job and at regular intervals or as indicated.</p> <p>ASH-2023-1534: A code gray turned into a code white when a patient was using an object as a non-firearm weapon. This was recently created after a situation in the forensic unit several months ago.</p>	

# ARIZONA

INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE

<p>Legislation</p>	<p>SB1710- the bill to change admittance to anyone based on clinical need not zip code, for funded civil beds and new governance has not gotten a final reading at this time. The Governor is holding some stakeholder meetings on the topic.</p>	
<p>Forums</p>	<p>Forensic forum report by Melissa and Alyce:          There were a lot of patients in attendance. Uh, there was a concern over electronic devices. And in particular, the limited selection sold at the stop and shop. They wanted a larger selection with better quality. They wanted to know if the Stop and Shop supply could use Walmart or other sites. Or other vendors like the prisons use. They claim that the music. Reduce stress, and by providing options, it could help. Reduce stress.          Michael Sheldon thinks that Cru's are not limited to The Walking Horse catalog.          The patients also want to know if rehab can help open up purchasing options. They wonder if they could buy shampoo or other hygiene products from Amazon.          One staff person on one unit does not permit any orders.          Access to ordering, earning points, and going to the dollar store. It's not offered by rehab. Maybe. Debit cards instead of the B1 patient funds. Would like the hospital to look into that.          Michael Sheldon said he would follow up.          Outside areas. Come. Can we use shrouds?          Family food visits are now starting.          There is a request for the IOC to come on-site for visits or at least use teleconference options.          There is a request for a regular copy instead of only decaf.          Is there a quest for deep cleaning of showers. There is an ongoing request for more phone time. So it doesn't conflict with meal time. Currently phone time is 5 to 7:00 PM.          Individuals with jobs want to have hot breakfast instead of cold breakfast.          In a better transition to the outside, wants more Internet access for a job.          Nami and other health is available.          Michael Sheldon volunteered to help look at options.          Some people will be there for 27 to life. Previously.          Patients were offered a groundskeeping type of job</p>	

# ARIZONA

INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE

	<p>about 30 years ago. It would provide them with meaning and purpose for those spending a lifetime. Institutionalized.</p> <p>There is a work program on the forensic campus. Another Complaint is that they spend 18 hours a day inside. There is not enough outside time. They want more time off the unit.</p> <p>Mike inserted that they do that time in the mall, but they have to be strategic on how they use them all. They try to navigate patients safely as they want. Patience quote to be able to program while being safe. Mixing some patients on the mall is not always safe.</p> <p>Is there any way to have more outside time? They do have male walks every morning and every evening. They had meditation on them mall. They have tool time..</p> <p>My cousin encouraged patients to go to rehab with ideas.</p> <p>What are patients getting out of programming?</p> <p>Lisa is looking over all programming. If not more outdoor activities maybe that is due to participation.. OK, does 20 to 25 groups a week.</p> <p>Alyce said staff are ready to quit at the psych center where she works. She has never seen so much turnover and so much violence. She believes it's related to meth.</p> <p>Mike said he would work with the new CMO on what works and what does not work.</p> <p>They do have step-down systems in California. Maybe they can implement family visits off-site on the civil side.</p>	
New Business	None	
Public Comment (3-minute limit per person)/Call to the Public	<p>Tim Briebiesco- Mohave- unit Mohave differ from each unit. Mohave is really strict.He would like a new menu. He says that they have added a pickle. He has a concern over the law library, which only has two books.</p>	

# ARIZONA

INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE

He says that staff still falls asleep. And Concentric uses their phones while on the floor. And Chargers tried to change things, but that was such retaliation.

On medications, if you check the PDR page 682. Gabapentin is a capsule and should only be swallowed whole. Currently, they are opening them up and sprinkling the capsule.

Prices have gone up, so in the stop and shop, two sticks of deodorant that used to be \$3.75 is now \$6.50.

DA or NA can be in some patients treatment plan. Why does everyone have to attend DA or NA meetings when they don't need that?

Holly Gieszl- Gabapentin is nuerntin. Go to Mayo. clinic.org, and it states how it should be taken- only whole. Have had patients come out on level system on forensics. There are some positives. Negative- There are too few outings. Little diversity in Outing experiences- Only the library or the park. They do not go to movies, restaurants, or zoos and have no rigorous adoption in diverse circumstances. Arnold V Sarn.- The lawsuit. For the same reason, was based on Bring about change. Josh and Holly Bring lawsuits. To bring about the needed change.

Sommer- Calling to comment. The voice concerns as the guardian and the jail system on 4th Ave. came to light. They need to do a deep dive. BHD's are not regulated. BHT that had bad felony record worked at ASH. The BHT spend the most time with the patients. She wants ASH to seek guardianship input and family input. Families have vital information. If the treatment team had paid attention and admin, it could have created a better environment. We want to have A better. Environment. Need to deal with Patients with Autism.

Matthew S- Wants a visit, Cottonwood.

# ARIZONA

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Adjournment		Motion, Kay Second, Melissa Roll Call, unanimous
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