

**YVCOG General Membership Meeting
May 17, 2023, Minutes**

JURISDICTION	PRESENT	ABSENT
GRANDVIEW	Bill Moore-M	Gloria Mendoza-A
GRANGER	Ryan Stonemetz - M	Susie Munoz - A
HARRAH		Pat Krueger – M
MABTON		Diana Casteneda – M; Antonio Moreno - A
MOXEE		Rob Layman – M; David Roy – A
NACHES	Robert Weekes - M	Lorri Schneider – A
SELAH	Clifford Peterson – M; Sherry Raymond – A	
SUNNYSIDE	Vicki Ripley – A; Julia Hart – M	
TIETON		Ed Marquand-M; Tadeo Saenz-Thompson – A
TOPPENISH	Clara Jimenez-M; Al Hubert-PC	Naila Duval – A;
UNION GAP	James Murr – M; Jeff Shoemaker - PC	David Hansen – A
WAPATO		Margaret Estrada – M; Elizabeth Villa - A
YAKIMA CITY	Patricia Byers - M	Matt Brown - A
YAKIMA CO.		LaDon Linde-M; Kyle Curtis – M; Amanda McKinney-M;
ZILLAH	Janice Gonzales-M	Doug Stewart-A; Ardele Steele-PC/A
	Note: M=Member; A=Alternate; PC =Planning Commission	
Additional Attendees:	Sharon Bounds	Ron Bounds
	Madelyn Carlson (PFP)	Gina Rozzo (Ryan Stonemetz)
	Randy Giles (WSDOT)	Noah Johnson
	Deb LaCombe (HLA)	Brenda Hubert
	Stephanie Murr	Kevin Wickenhagen
	Bob Udell (Sheriff)	Traci Udell
	Victor Rodriguez	Jennifer Dorsett – Speaker
	Jean Fritts (Vicki Ripley)	
YVCOG Staff	Alan Adolf; Shane Andreas, Vicki Baker, Byron Gumz, Tami Hayward, Charity Johnson, Maria Lopez, Albert Miller, Alma Rabadan, Angelica Saldivar, Jodi Smith, Jeff Watson, Chris Wickenhagen	

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jim Restucci called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02 p.m.
INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLL CALL The City of Selah hosted the hybrid meeting at the Selah Civic Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY It is the policy of the YVCOG General Membership to accept public comment on agenda items at the time the item is being discussed. Public comments regarding items not on the agenda will be heard at the end of the meeting.

WELCOMING REMARKS Selah Mayor Sherry Raymond welcomed the General Membership and guests to the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments’ May meeting.

BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2023, General Membership Meeting Grandview moved to approve the Minutes from March 15, 2023. Toppenish seconded. The motion carried.

Staff Reports

- Chris Wickenhagen introduced Charity Johnson, Yakima Valley Crime Lab’s newly hired Lab Technician. Ms. Wickenhagen also reported on recent YVCOG correspondence and provided updates on YVCOG programs and current activities.

- Vicki Baker reported on Local Crime Lab activities. The NIBIN machine has been delivered but is not yet set up. We have scheduled an informative training for our local departments' officers and detectives for June 15th and 16th (upper valley and lower valley) to introduce them to what the Local Crime Lab will be able to do and how we can assist them in reducing crime. There will be a Crime Lab ribbon-cutting ceremony held in late July or early August.

PROGRAM

Hidden in Plain Sight – Jennifer Dorsett, Facilitator

Ms. Dorsett provided an informative presentation on things to be aware of that might indicate teen drug use or risky behaviors.

She reported that, contrary to what we hear, most kids do NOT use drugs. Her message was more focused on prevention than intervention – so COMMUNICATE with your kids. You are a mentor and what you say matters - studies show that parents are their children's #1 influence, siblings are #2, religious leaders #3, teachers #4, coaches #5, and grandparents are #6.

If you use these drugs, your kids are 5 times more likely to use.

Reasons for use: coping with life situations, peer pressure, family use, curiosity, immaturity (the part of the brain used for making wise decisions doesn't fully develop until later 20s).

Kids now deal with a lot of things their parents didn't. Social media (online bullying, etc.). Phones cause a lot of issues for our children. Higher numbers of depression – also related to social media and screen time. Since Covid, kids are connecting to kids the same, but not connecting to adults the same – pre-Covid 85% had adults they could confide in, post-Covid only 45%

Big 3 – alcohol, nicotine, and weed – all legal. The gateway drugs to all other drug use. Access is what matters ... can you get your hands on it and is it cheap?

Nicotine is the #1 drug violation by kids in Washington. Starting as early as 3rd grade (vaping – get them from older siblings). In the 50s and 60s almost 50% of the population smoked, but the perception of smoking changed and the percentage of smokers decreased to less than 7%. Vaping has replaced cigarettes – vaping was meant to help people quit smoking, but manufacturers discovered they could hook people on vaping by putting nicotine in the vape cartridges. Vapes contain much more nicotine than a regular cigarette. Marlboro owns most vape products – they know how to advertise it and want long-term users. 4% of tobacco users still use chew.

Nicotine withdrawals start 20 minutes after using. It keeps you constantly focused on being able to use again.

Cannabis – marijuana has changed a lot over time. 4% THC in the 80s – medicalized in 1998 and THC was 15%. Now 25%.

Almost 50% of Washington DUIs were cannabis related. The effects of cannabis are just as serious as alcohol. It can be a stimulant, a depressant or a hallucinogen. Overdoses are common.

Edibles have several servings contained in them, with each serving containing 10% THC (lollipops have 6). It takes a while to affect the brain, so people overdo it.

Seeing a lot of overdosing and mental breaks that people do not recover from.

There is no cap on concentrates in Washington State – it can have up to 100% THC.

THC vape pens look like a nicotine vape pen. Available at Ross Dress for Less, sporting goods stores, etc. – not just Spencers.

Most people don't know how potent it is and don't believe it can hurt them.

Alcohol – new thing is alcohol vaping. Dangerous because your body can't naturally rid itself of an alcohol overdose (vomiting) – blood alcohol levels reach dangerous levels easily (even though your high is over very quickly) – resulting in alcohol poisoning and death. No way to help someone who has overdosed.

Binge drinking – age 16 to 25 it's very common. Takes 7 full days for liver to repair from binge drinking games.

Flasks available all over – including Claire's store for little girls – disguised as brushes, sunscreen, etc.

- Be a resource – provide your kids with knowledge. Let them know you know things.
- Give them guidelines (be Proactive, not Reactive).
- Know the parents of your kid's friends. Know who their influences are.
- Use teachable moments (certain situations such as dinner table, car drives, or certain moments that pop up).
- Keep track of your child's activities – know where they are and who they're with. It takes a village to raise a child.
- Promote healthy activities.
- Keep the conversations going.
- Curfews are important.
- Lock up alcohol and get rid of expired medications, etc.

She also provided local resources. DEA is a great website. Check out her Hidden in Plain Sight facebook page.

Information

UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The City of Grandview is hosting the September 20, 2023, meeting of the YVCOG General Membership.

OTHER

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

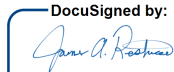
None.

ADJOURN

With no further business, Chairman Restucci adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

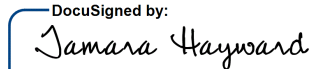


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James A. Restucci, YVCOG Chairman

Date signed: 9/20/2023

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Tamara Hayward, Financial Specialist