

# ***Rural & Indigenous Community Meeting - Comprehensive Notes***

**Date:** December 3, 2025

**Time:** 12:51:25 - 14:09:28

## **Today's Meeting Recording**

### **Meeting Leadership & Structure**

**Chair:** Casandra Stouder (Navajo/Seminole tribes)

- Prevention work specialist and newly certified ACE trainer
- First ACE training scheduled with Hopi tribe
- Maternal lineage: Navajo, Paternal lineage: Seminole

### **Opening Rituals:**

- Grounding video meditation with ocean wave visualization
- Opening prayer for guidance and respectful collaboration
- Emoji check-in for participant emotional state (🏠🛒💻🎵🕊️, 😊🥰🦸‍♀️🧠👍, 😊)

### **Detailed Member Profiles & Current Work**

**Zachary - Sierra Vista, Arizona**

- **Organization:** MindWise Innovations
- **Coverage:** 12 of 50 licensed schools in region
- **Population Served:** Indigenous students without local tribal presence
- **Current Programs:**
  - Signs of Suicide prevention implementation
  - SafeTalk and ASSIST suicide prevention training
  - Sandy Hook Promise (adding 800 new programs)
  - Works with 4 different suicide prevention programs
- **Commitment:** Research tribal demographics in school districts by next meeting

**Louanna - Winslow Healthcare Center**

- **Title:** Youth Wellness Specialist
- **Service Area:** 11 communities and 24 schools
- **Certifications:** ACE trainer, QPR, youth/adult mental health first aid, grief recovery specialist
- **Programs Offered:**
  - Monthly mental health webinars on various topics
  - ACE empowerment programs for youth and adults

**SafeTalk/ASSIST recertification planning**

- **Philosophy:** Emphasizes 2-3 year relationship-building before communities request services
- **Approach:** Trust-building as foundation for community acceptance

**Randy - San Carlos Unified School District**

- **Title:** Support Coordinator
- **Family:** Married into San Carlos Apache Tribe (22 years), father of two children
- **Oversight:** School counselors and 7 support staff members
- **Student Population:** 1,400 K-12 students experiencing various trauma levels
- **Current Initiatives:**
  - Youth mental health first aid train-the-trainer for 20 participants
  - K-12 student tracking through educational transitions
- **Cultural Integration:**
  - Apache language incorporation
  - Traditional songs and practices
  - Ancestral teaching methods
- **Community Challenges Addressed:**
  - Intergenerational trauma
  - Community violence and gang activity
  - Substance abuse and chemical dependency
  - Extreme poverty (students sleeping on floors, couch surfing, no utilities)
- **Success Stories:** Students overcoming barriers to reach universities and military service

**Jackie (Jacque Gencarelle) - Independent Consultant**

- **Specialization:** Tribal and frontier communities excluded from mainstream programs
- **Services:**
  - Federal training opportunity sharing with full funding
  - Scholarship writing workshops for Indigenous families
  - Community capacity building
- **Philosophy:** Community-led change rather than externally imposed solutions
- **Focus:** Ensuring last-served communities receive priority attention
- **Shared Resources:**
  - National Indian Country Training Initiative:**  
<https://app.smartsheetgov.com/b/form/cfa49dfd018b449799810ca1ec847c0f>
    - **Event:** Investigating and Prosecuting Violent Crime in Indian Country
    - **When:** February 9-13, 2026
    - **Where:** Columbia, SC

**Financial training:**

<https://events.oweesta.org/event/639e921c-5da0-4f88-a5f0-067376c5d3cf/summary>

**DEA resource: [www.dea.gov/fentanylfree](http://www.dea.gov/fentanylfree) (Help build a Fentanyl Free America)**

**Chucho (he/him/his) - Call to Men Organization**

- Tribal Affiliation: Pascua Yaqui tribe member**
- Scope: National trainer with local tribal focus**
- Specializations:**
  - Men's engagement for domestic violence prevention**
  - Sexual assault prevention programming**
  - Trauma-informed approaches recognizing male socialization impacts**
- Populations Served:**
  - Pascua Yaqui tribe members**
  - Urban Indigenous populations**
- Methodology:**
  - Integration of ancestral teachings**
  - Gender analysis through cultural lens**
  - Traditional healing practice incorporation**

**Scheduled Presentations & Future Planning**

**Confirmed Speakers:**

- January 7, 2025: Gabriella Kelly (Pima County Recorder) - ACEs and policy change initiatives**
- February 2025: Randy - Incorporating Indigenous culture and traditional practices into ACE work**
- March 2025: Chucho - Culturally responsive men's engagement approaches and trauma-informed practices**

**Committee Growth & Outreach Strategy**

**Immediate Action Items:**

- AZ Responsibilities:**
  - Send Randy's February presentation flyers to group email**
  - Send Chucho's March presentation flyers to group email**
  - Distribute new committee recruitment flyers post-meeting**
  - Resend ACE training flyers to members who didn't receive them**

**Member Commitments:**

- Each member to invite one relative or colleague to join committee**
- Share promotional materials via social media platforms**
- Include committee information in organizational email blasts**
- Focus recruitment on policy-oriented advocacy capacity building**

## **Community Impact & Challenges Identified**

### **Systemic Issues:**

- **Frontier and tribal communities receiving services last**
- **High rates of substance abuse across multiple communities**
- **Gang violence and community safety concerns**
- **Extreme poverty affecting student stability and learning**
- **Intergenerational trauma requiring culturally specific interventions**

### **Successful Approaches:**

- **Relationship-based service delivery over 2-3 year periods**
- **Cultural identity strengthening through traditional practices**
- **Language preservation integrated with mental health services**
- **Community-led change initiatives rather than external impositions**
- **Trust-building as prerequisite for effective service delivery**

## **Next Meeting Details**

**Date: January 7, 2025**

**Time: 1:00 PM (America/Phoenix timezone)**

**Format: Zoom meeting with screen sharing capabilities**

**Featured Speaker: Gabriella Kelly discussing ACEs and policy change**