

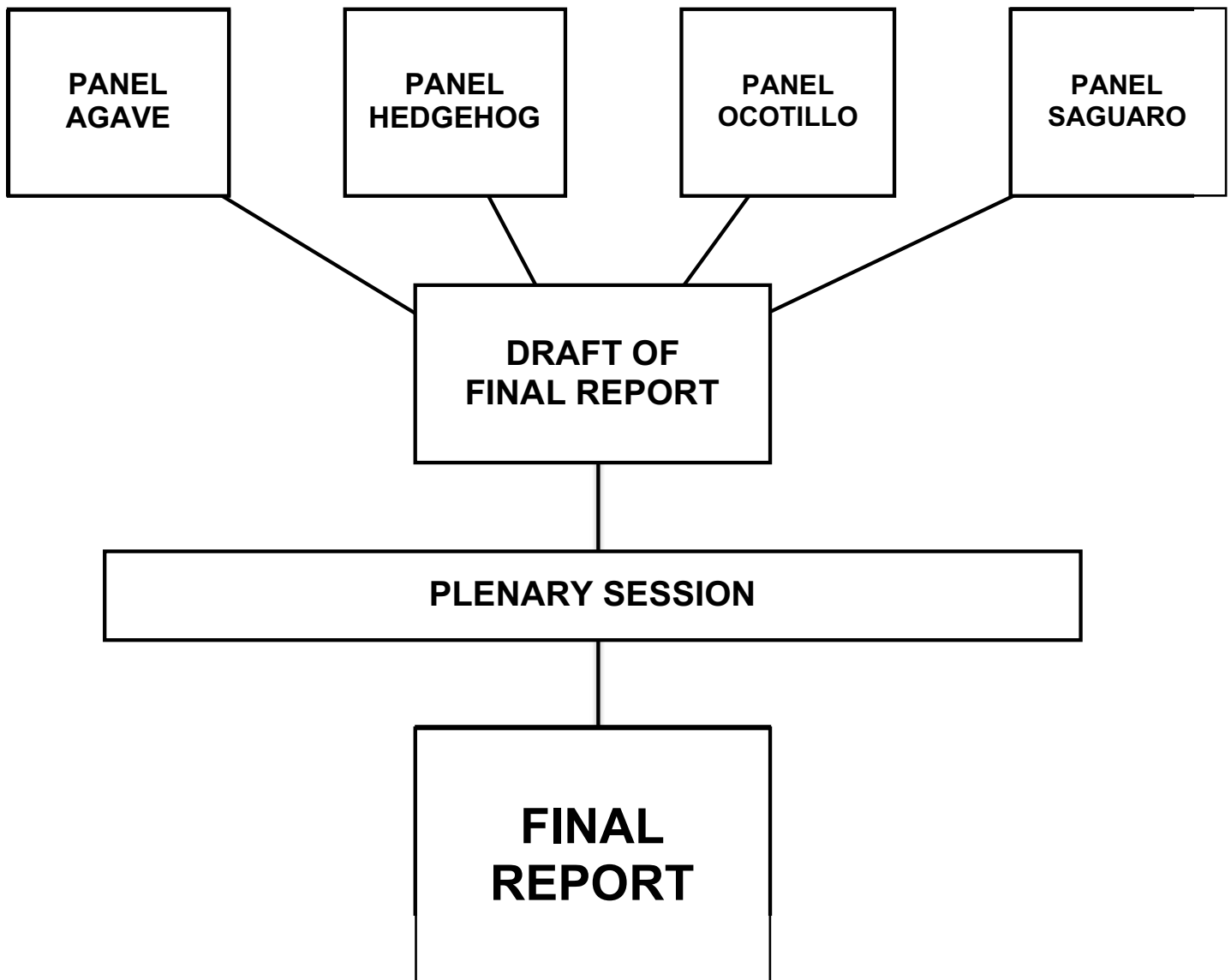
# Strong Families *Thriving Children*

112th Arizona Town Hall - November 14-16, 2019 - Phoenix, Arizona



# The Arizona Town Hall Process

## From the Group Statement to the Final Report



***“Seek first to understand, then to be understood.”***

Stephen Covey, *The 7 Habits of Highly Successful People*



# OVERVIEW OF THE ARIZONA TOWN HALL PROCESS

Arizona Town Hall is a private nonprofit organization founded in 1962 for the purpose of educating, engaging, connecting and empowering people to resolve important issues. Much of the success of Arizona Town Hall lies in the fact that the process incorporates the knowledge, thoughts and ideas of all the participants. The Town Hall process has been adapted and utilized by many other groups who strive to create solutions by drawing upon diverse views and building informed coalitions.

## **PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

The Town Hall begins with panel discussions. Each panel addresses the same discussion questions during the first portion of the Town Hall. The process and guiding principles for the panel discussions are as follows:

- The Panel Chair reads one question at a time and discussion follows.
- It is important to stick to the question at hand.
- The panel strives for consensus (votes are taken only if absolutely necessary).
- Consensus is reached when no one wants to add anything, and no one objects strongly to the wording offered.
- The Panel Recorder's role is to keep the panel on time, capture the consensus comments, read back consensus statements to the panel and make edits with participants.
- Viewpoints of all participants are considered equally valuable, regardless of title or position.
- Discussions are encouraged to be robust while maintaining a respect for different viewpoints.
- Participants are allowed to criticize concepts—not people.
- Minority viewpoints must be very strong to find their way into the final document.
- Media may be present at the Town Hall and may be in attendance during panel discussions. You should assume that your comments may be quoted at any time.
- Observers may attend the sessions but generally cannot contribute to discussions.
- The process is as valuable as the recommendations.

## **CREATION OF THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT**

Once complete, the consensus statements are taken from each panel to the Report Chairs. The Report Chairs review the statements and look for consensus across all of the panels. With assistance from the Panel Recorders, the Report Chairs create a draft report of what appears to be the consensus of the Town Hall participants.

The draft report is distributed early in the morning before the plenary session on the Wednesday of each Town Hall. Panels meet prior to the start of the plenary session to review the draft and outline any areas the panel wants to address at the plenary session.

## **THE PLENARY SESSION**

At the plenary session, Arizona Town Hall's Board Chair leads all of the Town Hall participants, as a full body, in an organized review of the document. All participants work to approve, amend or reject each section of the report of recommendations.

# AGENDA

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

- 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Town Hall Registration – Crescent Ballroom Foyer
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Welcome Orientation – Crescent Ballroom AB  
Tara Jackson, President, Arizona Town Hall  
Pat Norris, Ret. Judge; Lawyer Development, ASU Law Group; Board Chair, Arizona Town Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner & Participant Panel Discussions
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Panel Agave – Crescent II</b><br><i>Blaise Caudill, Chair</i><br><i>Rosalva Zimmerman, Recorder</i> | <b>Panel Hedgehog – Crescent III</b><br><i>Jan Miller, Chair</i><br><i>Travis Le Duc, Recorder</i>  |
| <b>Panel Ocotillo – Crescent V</b><br><i>Billie Orr, Chair</i><br><i>David Gass, Recorder</i>          | <b>Panel Saguaro – Crescent VI</b><br><i>John Kitagawa, Chair</i><br><i>Ryan Williams, Recorder</i> |

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Breakfast Program – Crescent Ballroom AB  
Presiding: Paul Brierley, Executive Director, Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture  
Sponsor Highlighted: **FWD.us**  
Panel Presentation: **Strong Families are Connected Families**  
Moderator: Olivia Elder, Families and Incarceration Associate, FWD.us  
*Rebecca Gau, Arizona Director, Stand for Children*  
*Quinton Moore, Minister-In-Training, Greater Impact Church Phoenix*  
*Jeff Taylor, Chairman of the Board, Salvation Army of Phoenix*
- 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Participant Panel Discussions – (Coffee break mid-morning)
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Luncheon Program – Crescent Ballroom AB  
Presiding: Marty Grossman, Councilmember, Town of Prescott Valley  
Sponsor Highlighted: **Salt River Project (SRP)**  
Panel Presentation: **Arizona Resources and Opportunities**  
Moderator: Suzanne Pfister, CEO, Vitalyst Health Foundation  
*Maurice “Mo” Portley, Senior Director, Judicial Engagement Team, Casey Foundation; Ret. Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals*  
*Jami Snyder, Director, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)*

## **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15 (CONT.)**

- 1:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Continuation of participant panel discussions  
(Coffee break mid-afternoon)
- 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Social Hour – Crescent Ballroom Foyer
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner Program – Crescent Ballroom AB  
Presiding: Flo Eckstein, Community Volunteer; Board Member,  
Arizona Town Hall  
Sponsors Highlighted: **Arizona Public Service (APS)** and **The  
Agnese Nelms Haury Charitable Trust**  
Panel Presentation: **Inspiration for Action**  
Moderator: Elizabeth McNamee, Chair, Community Town Halls  
Committee, Arizona Town Hall  
*Evelyn Casuga, Senior Advisor, Community Relations, Central  
Arizona College; Director, Community & Economic Prosperity,  
Center for the Future of Arizona*  
*Kathy Kitagawa, Volunteer, Tucson Committee Chair, Arizona  
Town Hall*  
*Shelley Mellon, President/CEO, R.L. Jones Insurance and Motor  
Vehicle Services*  
*Courtney Sullivan, Executive Director of the Arizona Center for  
Afterschool Excellence (AzCASE)*

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

- 7:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Grab and Go Breakfast available – Foyer by Panel Rooms
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Individual participant panel caucuses  
Panel Agave – Crescent II  
Panel Hedgehog – Crescent III  
Panel Ocotillo – Crescent V  
Panel Saguaro – Crescent VI
- 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Plenary Session – Phoenix Ballroom  
(Lunch will be available during the session  
– there will be no formal break)  
Presiding: Pat Norris, Board Chair, Arizona Town Hall  
Adoption of Recommendations

# 112TH ARIZONA TOWN HALL PROGRAM SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## Friday, November 15, Breakfast Program

### *Panel Presentation: Strong Families are Connected Families*

#### **Rebecca Gau**, Arizona Director, Stand for Children

Rebecca Gau has an extensive background in education policy and research and data analysis which began in 1993 as an intern on Capitol Hill. In the decades since, Gau has established herself as a national leader in education performance management and continuous improvement.

Prior to her role at Stand for Children, Gau served as Director of the Governor's Office of Education Innovation where she launched and led state efforts to implement Governor Jan Brewer's Education Reform Plan—Arizona Ready, and a nationally recognized data dashboard—the Arizona Ready Report Card. Gau worked with Governor Brewer's Arizona Ready Education Council (previously named the P-20 Education Council) to drive collaboration and continuous improvement at all levels of the education pipeline, while respecting local control.

Gau has served on numerous Boards and Commissions, and is currently Co-Chair of the Arizona Early Childhood Alliance.

Gau received her Master's in Public Policy from Duke University and wrote her thesis on the topic of charter schools. Her research has been published in journals, textbooks and newspapers.



#### **Quinton Moore**, Minister-In-Training, Greater Impact Church Phoenix

Quinton Moore is a 30-year-old husband and father of 6. Over the course of Moore's whole life, he's had family in and out of jail or prison. At 16 years old, after his mother was incarcerated, Moore was forced to grow up, step up, and take care of his little sister.

Previously, Moore has been shot 3 times and also ended up incarcerated. Due to his bullet wounds and poor medical treatment in prison, he was close to death. Moore and his mother were incarcerated at the same time, writing each other from prison to prison. Moore's connection to her and to Christ pulled him through, and eventually he was released. Moore has since changed his life and is currently in the process of becoming a pastor, so that his kids will not become part of that system.



#### **Jeff Taylor**, Chairman of the Board, Salvation Army of Phoenix

Jeff Taylor is the chairman of the board of The Salvation Army. Taylor has experienced Arizona's prison system firsthand, having been incarcerated in three county jails and the Arizona Department of Corrections as a non-violent drug offender. Previously, Taylor enjoyed a highly successful career as a securities trader.



## **Friday, November 15, Lunch Program**

### *Panel Presentation: Arizona Resources and Opportunities*

**Maurice “Mo” Portley**, Senior Director, Judicial Engagement Team, Casey Foundation;  
Ret. Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals

Judge Maurice Portley (Ret.) is Senior Director of the Casey Family Programs' Judicial Engagement Team. Portley retired from the bench in August 2016 after twenty five years of service; the first twelve on the Maricopa County Superior Court, including a term as the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, and thirteen on the Arizona Court of Appeals.

Portley is a graduate of Arizona State University and the University of Michigan Law School, where he was an Articles Editor of the Journal of Law Reform and participated in the Child Advocacy Clinic. Portley is a former board member of the National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges, and is currently the Editor of its Journal of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Portley also served as an Army JAG, was a partner in the Phoenix firm of Jennings, Strouss & Salmon, and was the first military judge of the Arizona National Guard.



**Jami Snyder**, Director, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)

Jami Snyder serves as Director of Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), overseeing Arizona's Medicaid and CHIP program, including the provision of acute, behavioral health and long term care services and supports to more than 1.8 million Arizona residents. Snyder was appointed by Governor Doug Ducey on January 5, 2019 after having served as the agency's deputy director since December 2017.

With more than 20 years of public and private sector experience in the health and human services industries, Snyder's areas of expertise include regulatory oversight, policymaking and leadership development. Prior to joining AHCCCS, Snyder served as Medicaid Director for the state of Texas, managing a program covering 4.7 million enrollees. She held posts as Chief Operating Officer of the University of Arizona Health Plans, an Operations Administrator at AHCCCS, and a Bureau Chief at the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Snyder is a 2013 Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy Fellow and holds master's degree in political science from Arizona State University as well as a bachelor's degree in political science from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota.



## **Friday, November 15, Dinner Program**

### *Panel Presentation: Inspiration for Action*

#### **Courtney Sullivan**, Executive Director, Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence (AzCASE)

Courtney Sullivan is Executive Director of the Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence. Coming from a family of educators, Sullivan has always been passionate about education, students and the importance of supporting youth as they become the next generation of leaders and teachers. Sullivan's early professional career was focused on marketing and communications in the nonprofit sector. After getting her MBA from ASU, Sullivan moved into management and advocacy. Sullivan is excited to bring the vast network of out of school time providers and supporters together to help Arizona youth succeed and thrive.

#### **Evelyn Casuga**, Senior Advisor, Community Relations, Central Arizona College; Director, Community & Economic Prosperity, Center for the Future of Arizona

Evelyn Casuga serves part time as Senior Advisor Community Relations for the President at Central Arizona College and Director, Community and Economic Prosperity for Center for the Future of Arizona. Born and raised in central California, Casuga received her Masters of City and Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley and her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Casuga retired in 2014 from APS after 25 years.

In addition to volunteering with Arizona Town Hall, Casuga's civic activities include board memberships with Business Development Finance Corporation, Friends of Public Radio Arizona, Growth Partners Arizona, and Pinal Alliance for Economic Growth.

#### **Kathleen Kitagawa**, Volunteer, Tucson Committee Chair, Arizona Town Hall

Kathleen Ann (Kathy) Kitagawa recently retired as a Certified Compensation Professional (CCP®) and Owner of K.A.K. Compensation Services, LLC. Kitagawa is an active Arizona Town Hall Volunteer and serves in the roles of: chair of the Tucson Community Town Halls Committee, consultant, facilitator, speaker, writer, operations/administrative support, development committee member, and photographer. Kitagawa is Ministry Coordinator for Acolytes and Lay Readers at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Tucson, Board Secretary for the Rotary Club of Tucson Foundation, a Rotary Club member as well as a Habitat for Humanity-Tucson Volunteer. Kitagawa is past president of the Episcopal Community Services Board and former member of the Society of Human Resource Management (National and Greater Tucson), World at Work, as well as a founding member of the Tucson Consultant's Association.

#### **Shelley Mellon**, President/CEO, R.L. Jones Insurance and Motor Vehicle Services

Upon graduating, from the University of Arizona with a degree in Business Administration, Shelley Mellon became the fourth generation to follow in her family's business, R.L. Jones Group. In that same year, she married Colin Mellon, a third generation Yuma produce farmer. They own their own farm and are active in the management and operations of Mellon Farms, Inc. and a ground application company. Mellon now owns and operates the three locations of R.L. Jones Insurance & MVD Services.

Mellon serves as chair of Southwest Arizona Town Hall, Yuma Education Advocacy Council, and Yuma Union High School District Bond Campaign; board member of Yuma Union High School District Governing Board, Trustees for the Yuma Regional Medical Center Foundation, Yuma Youth Town Hall, Expect More Arizona, Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Corporation, Benesche Collection (YRMC Art Heals), Arizona Town Hall, and Journey Church. Mellon is also member of Yuma Youth Leadership Council, S. June Pallack Award Council, and Yuma County Chamber of Commerce Education Committee. Mellon is also a volunteer and advocate for Healing Journey.



# COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SNAPSHOTS



“It made me feel valued, validated, heard and a part of the community.”  
- Participant, Whetstone Unit Community Town Hall (Tucson)



“This is a great way to understand the needs of the community  
and bring back action steps to my organization.”  
- Participant, Apache Junction Community Town Hall



“It’s amazing how empowering this program was.”  
- Participant, Mohave County Community Town Hall

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## 112TH ARIZONA TOWN HALL

### SESSION I - THURSDAY EVENING – NOVEMBER 14

1. What constitutes a family? Why is supporting and strengthening families important?

### SESSION II - FRIDAY MORNING – NOVEMBER 15

1. What are the characteristics of strong families and thriving children?  
*Consider physical, spiritual and mental well-being, economic, social, environmental and other factors.*
2. What are the challenges and opportunities for supporting and strengthening families and children? To what extent are they different for urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities?
3. Where are the challenges and opportunities for reducing adverse childhood experiences (“ACEs”)?  
*ACEs include: physical, emotional and sexual abuse; substance abuse or mental illness in the household; incarcerated household members; neglect; absent parents; and, domestic violence.*
4. Where are the challenges and opportunities for increasing protective factors that reduce the negative impact of ACEs on those who have or may experience them?  
*Protective factors include: parental resilience; social connections; knowledge of parenting and child development; support in times of need; and, social and emotional competence.*

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, Cont.

## SESSION III - FRIDAY AFTERNOON – NOVEMBER 15

1. How well do available resources currently support Arizona's families and children? Where are the greatest opportunities to improve availability of and access to those resources?

*Consider allocation between prevention and intervention, as well as any additional resources that might be needed.*

2. To what extent do economic and educational opportunities impact the strength of Arizona's families and children? Where, if at all, could there be improvement?
3. What roles do the family, the community, and other entities play in supporting families and children? Where, if at all, could there be improvement?

*Consider government and non-governmental organizations, businesses, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, and others.*

4. What actions should receive priority and who should be responsible for taking them? To the extent funding is required, be sure to address how funding would be obtained?
5. What one action will you take as a result of your participation in this Town Hall?

*Consider how you might change the conversation about Arizona's families and children in a manner that focuses on constructive solutions, becoming politically engaged to advocate for needed policy change and any other action you consider helpful or appropriate.*

# SPONSORS OF THE 112<sup>TH</sup> STATEWIDE TOWN HALL “STRONG FAMILIES THRIVING CHILDREN”

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## PREMIER PARTNER



## CONSENSUS PARTNERS



## CIVIC LEADER PARTNER

**The Agnese Nelms Haury  
Charitable Trust**