



Mesa Police
Department

Arizona Angel Initiative

What is the Arizona Angel Initiative?



- A harm reduction program for opiate based Substance Use Disorder (SUD) from the Governors Office of Youth, Faith and Family.
- It is intended for persons with low judicial involvement who want to seek treatment for SUD without fear of being arrested.
- Participants get preferential status with treatment facilities and if they surrender drugs and or drug paraphernalia they do not get charged with a crime.
- The program has very specific qualifications established by the Governors office in conjunction with the County Attorney

How does it work in Mesa?

- The program was rolled out in Mesa in August 2018
- District Coordinators and Community Action Officers are trained to help participants navigate the process.
- Participants get to choose which service provider they want to use and the provider sends transportation or the officer can transport them to the provider
- The program is supplemental to the Mesa Community Court program that targets persons with higher levels of judicial involvements



Results

- Due to the target participant qualifications the frequency it is used is very low.
- Since starting we have had seven Angel Initiative specific calls for service. (Most were family members looking for services for a family member dealing with SUD and the potential participants were not ready for recovery yet)
- Four successful enrollments to the program so far, all of which were police contacts where the officer offered the program to them. They did not seek it out

Questions?