

Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2021

I. WELCOME

The Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County held a meeting in conjunction with the Iroquois County Opioid Coalition on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. The meeting commenced from 10:00 am — 12:00 pm in the Iroquois County Courthouse break room in Watseka. The hybrid meeting provided members the options of attending either in-person or via Zoom. A week prior to the meeting, members were emailed the details of the meeting, as well as a Zoom meeting link, ID, and password. A reminder email including a copy of the meeting agenda was sent the day of the meeting.

Members present were:

- Jenni McTaggart — Iroquois County State's Attorney Office, DFC Grant Project Coordinator
- Barb King — Iroquois County Probation Department, Iroquois County Juvenile Justice Council Chairperson, Law Enforcement Sector Representative
- Jim Devine — Iroquois County State's Attorney, DFC Grant Director, Government Sector
- Sarah Pree — Iroquois County State's Attorney Office, DFC Grant Communication Campaign and YPE Coordinator
- Stacey Smith — WGFA/WIBK Radio Station Manager, Business Sector Representative
- Julie Sluis — Volunteer Services: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Civic/Volunteer Sector Representative
- Brenda Wetzel — Director of Life Education Center Prevention Programs at Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education, Schools Sector Representative
- Ryan Roe — National Guard, Military Sector Representative
- Gina Greene — Iroquois County Public Health Department, Healthcare Sector Representative
- Mary Kay Lavicka — Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Healthcare Sector Representative
- Kami Garrison — Clove Alliance, Other Sector Representative
- Tammy Barragree — Clove Alliance, Other Sector Representative
- Susan Wynn Bence — Gibson Health, Other Sector Representative
- Representative Tom Bennett — Illinois House of Representatives, Government Sector
- Jim Schreiner — Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education, Schools Sector
- Ellen McCullough — Iroquois Community Care Services, Civic/Volunteer Sector Representative
- Amanda McKeon — Gibson Health, Other Sector Representative
- Ryan Mustered — Trinity Church/Celebrate Recovery, Youth-Serving Sector
- Kim Rabideau — Iroquois Mental Health Center, Government Sector
- Sherry Garrelts — Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Healthcare Sector Representative

II. INTRODUCTION

The meeting began with Susan Bence, Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Chairperson, welcoming members from both the Iroquois County Opioid Coalition and the JJC. Those attending in person were reminded to sign-in and pick up a copy of the meeting agenda if they had not already done so. All of those in attendance were asked to introduce themselves. Those attending in-person did so first, followed by those attending via Zoom. Bence stated that both she and Barb King (JJC Chairperson) serve on both committees - the Iroquois County Opioid Coalition and the JJC. Since both of these groups have similar initiatives and many of the same members, they thought it would be beneficial to combine their meetings into one.

III. OPIOID COALITION

- **MAT Update:** (Medication-assisted treatment, aka MAT, is the use of medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, which is effective in the treatment of opioid use disorders and can help some people to sustain recovery.) Bence stated Dr. Katherine Austman had spent one year at Columbia learning about opioid addiction. She is now practicing all day every other Thursday at Gibson Health. Anyone wanting to see her should call to make an appointment.
- **Working Groups Update:** There were no updates to report at this time.
- **Hidden in Plain Sight Trailer Update:** Bence shared that they are hoping to hear back soon if they received grant funding to purchase a trailer to be used for the Iroquois County Public Health Department's Hidden in Plain Sight traveling exhibit. She noted that the trailer would be a shared opportunity for all.
- **Local Recovery Program Updates:** The local recovery program at Iroquois Mental Health Center has not yet started up in-person meetings again. Ryan Mustered stated that Celebrate Recovery is still meeting in-person at Trinity Church. He noted that more family members of those struggling with addiction are attending than persons who are addicted. He stressed that all are welcome.
- **Other Coalition Updates:** Bence shared that the group is looking forward to having more in-person meetings. Their coalition has numerous topics, such as transportation, intervention, education, prevention, etc., that they are eager to either continue or begin addressing.

IV. JJC NEWS

- **DFC Grant:** King stated that the County of Iroquois through the Iroquois County State's Attorney Office had applied for and received the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant for 5 years at \$125,000/year with the option to reapply for years 6-10. This new grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will focus on the prevention of 3 substances - underage alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco (including vaping). The DFC grant enabled the County of Iroquois to employ Jenni

McTaggart and Sarah Pree who had worked for us previously under the SPF grant through the Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education (I-KAN). King noted that they have been working on getting supplies together for their office which is located in the basement at the courthouse. All were invited to visit the office.

- **SPF Grant/SUPPs Expansion Grant/YPE News**

SPF Grant - McTaggart stated that the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) grant that provided prevention funding for Iroquois County had ended last June. It was supposed to last only five years, but we had received a year extension for a total of six years. The SPF grant had focused on preventing underage drinking. She stressed that this was a major difference between the SPF grant and the new DFC grant that focuses on preventing teen use of 3 substances. This grant provided an opportunity to re-energize the JJC. She noted how great it was to see all of the area agencies working together under this grant.

SUPPs Expansion Grant - McTaggart stated that after the SPF grant ended, I-KAN received a SUPPs (Substance Use Prevention Program) expansion grant that has allowed them to continue prevention work in Iroquois County through June 30, 2021. She noted that both she and Pree had been working under this grant since last summer. This expansion grant included a state-created parent communication campaign to prevent underage drinking. This campaign has the slogan "KEEP SHOWING UP. They're still growing up." Two of these campaign posters were shown to all in attendance. Jenni noted that the TIP the Scale website and Facebook page will continue to post material for this campaign until it ends.

YPE News - McTaggart shared that through I-KAN, she and Pree had been helping with I-KAN's Life Education Center programming. Not only had they helped to provide prevention education to kindergarten through sixth grade, but they also helped with youth prevention education (YPE) programs in 7th grade, 8th grade, and high school where teachers implement the Too Good for Drugs program into their classrooms. Both McTaggart and Pree had adapted and filmed themselves teaching the Too Good lessons so that they could be more easily implemented into either online learning or in-person classroom situations that needed to follow social distancing guidelines and shortened class times. She stressed that teachers have been heroes in adjusting to implementing the worthwhile programming during both remote learning and in-person classroom situations. Brenda Wetzel from I-KAN's Life Education Center programming shared that receiving these grants has been a wonderful opportunity for both Iroquois and Kankakee Counties. She said that they intend to keep up the good work and continue partnerships. Wetzel also noted that they will have church bulletin and radio ads to promote prevention in the upcoming weeks.

- **Leftover Items and Campaign Materials** - King pointed out that we have several leftover TIP campaign promotional items, such as notepads, magnets, and brain stress balls. It was noted that we will still be able to distribute these under the new grant since it addresses alcohol. Pree stated that last March we had created, printed, and laminated a Spring Toilet Times to be distributed to all junior and senior high schools. However, when COVID hit, all schools went remote and we were unable to disperse them. Thus, we have placed a “2021” sticker on each to cover “2020” for use this Spring. She noted that the content is still relevant and important. Kim Rabideau requested four copies of the bathroom readers for Iroquois Mental Health Center’s restrooms/waiting area. Toilet Times will be delivered to schools next month.
- **How to Relaunch the New TIP Campaign/Plug Iroquois County and State’s Attorney Office** - King said that we will want to highlight the Iroquois County Board and State’s Attorney Jim Devine for their efforts in helping Iroquois County to receive this grant. We will want to stress how unique it is for a county our size to receive such a grant. The JJC members in attendance decided to table this matter for now, as the new campaign will first need to be created. Many thought it would be best to defer this matter to a smaller committee.
- **Updating JJC Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives** - King stated that we will need to update the JJC’s Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives to reflect our work under the new grant. McTaggart stated that we will use our DFC grant application to assist in creating these.
- **Sharing Minutes and Reports** - King noted that the JJC’s meeting minutes will be shared via email with members and also on TIP’s website. The JJC is also planning to create and distribute annual reports.
- **JJC 501c3 Discussion** - King stated that a 501c3 classification for the JJC was needed in order to take advantage of local grant opportunities. She noted that the JJC had used the Pledge for Life’s 501c3 in order to apply for past local grants to help fund our youth prevention education programming. The application fee could possibly cost around \$600. Once approved, there would be a yearly fee. Jim Devine stated that he did not see any disadvantage to the JJC gaining this classification. Becoming a 501c3 would enable the JJC to be tax-exempt and to receive monetary donations that donors could write-off. Devine noted that the IRS will expect complete compliance and the following of all rules. The JJC will need a financier, someone familiar with the process to help with both record-keeping and reporting. Ryan Mustered shared his 501c3 experience. He also screen-shared to show online 501c3 guidelines. Mustered stated that he would be willing to assist. **King asked that suggestions of individuals who could serve as such a financier be emailed to her.**

- **Sector Representatives/Update Mail and Email Lists** - The need for sector representatives to attend meetings was stressed. King noted that the JJC's email list should be updated due to job changes for mayors, liquor commissioners, principals, etc. A printout of the email addresses was passed around the room and those in attendance were asked to cross out any that they knew were incorrect.
- **Coalition Assessment** - McTaggart shared that the JJC would soon be conducting a coalition assessment in order to gain insight into the perspective of members. She noted that members would be asked to share what they want to see happen in the JJC which will help to ensure that our efforts are worthwhile. McTaggart also said that the assessment will ask members what talents/skills they can share. She asked all members to please complete the assessment when it is emailed to them next month.

V. COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN UPDATES

- **TIP Logo** - King said we will need to redesign our logo. Pree stated that we will need to update our logo to reflect that our new focus is on alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco. Pree passed around logo options with possible wording, colors, and a new graphic. She discussed that the verbiage on the logo would need to change. Our current logo states "STOP UNDERAGE DRINKING - IROQUOIS COUNTY". Possible suggestions for changing the wording included: 1.) "STOP UNDERAGE SUBSTANCE USE" with "IROQUOIS COUNTY" moved to the bottom ledge of the logo or 2.) "STOP UNDERAGE ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE" also with "IROQUOIS COUNTY" moved to the bottom ledge of the logo. A suggestion was made to use the wording that included drugs and alcohol because many people don't think of alcohol as a substance. Members found this verbiage to be simple and cover all of the drugs addressed by the DFC grant. Many thought this wording would also be good if both the JJC and Iroquois County Opioid Coalition were working together. Pree stressed that we would most likely want to keep "Iroquois County" somewhere on the poster so that people realize that this poster is relevant to them and is not just a national or state-created campaign. Members agreed and expressed that they preferred the option that showed "Iroquois County" in white lettering at the bottom of the logo because it popped more.

Pree stated that our current logo is not very eye-catching because it is mainly black and white. She noted that the last poster we created under the SPF grant utilized neon yellow to grab attention and highlight our purpose. Pree reminded the group to look again at the design options that were shared, as each utilized a different color. The majority of those in attendance liked the red outline of Option A. They thought that the red would catch people's attention and that the red made sense because the logo is in the shape of a stop sign. Others

commented that they also liked the green, blue, and yellow outlined logo options. A suggestion was made to possibly have the outline color of our logo change depending on the contents of the campaign material. Pree reminded the group that this may increase the amount we pay our graphic designer for each design she puts together for us, as it will require additional time for her to continuously change the logo.

Pree also pointed out that a red ribbon was included in the design options. This ribbon was placed on the side of the scale that was weighed down. Everyone agreed that the red ribbon is synonymous with drug prevention as a result of Red Ribbon Week. A member stated that the red ribbon is a subliminal message that the prevention message being viewed deals with drugs. Members were in agreement that the red ribbon would be recognized by both adults and children since the symbolism has already been established. Another possibility was shown of an adult's and child's hands with a red ribbon weighing down the scale. However, this graphic was not liked as well.

- **Names/Wording to Include on Correspondence and Ads** - King stated that we will need to decide whose names/logos should be included on our future campaign materials now that we are under the DFC grant. It was noted that we will no longer include the I-KAN logo on the bottom of our TIP materials. The group discussed either using Iroquois County's seal or creating a new seal to include the State's Attorney. King stressed that we want to recognize Jim Devine for taking on the DFC grant. Attending members decided that we will put together a basic graphic design for an Iroquois County State's Attorney seal and then have our designer work up a professional one. A decision was made to include the following: JJC logo, TIP logo, DFC seal, and a created Iroquois County State's Attorney seal.

A question was raised as to whether the JJC logo would need to change if the two coalitions were to merge into one. King stated that the JJC must maintain its name, but perhaps a slash could be added at the end with additional wording.

- **Forms of Campaign Materials to Use in Campaign and Schedules** - The JJC will need to form a communication campaign committee to help brainstorm ideas for messages and images to be used on campaign materials for the upcoming year. All of this will need to be created from scratch, as we do not have a state-created campaign to use under this grant. The committee will need to get creative and decide what deliverables would be best so that we do not duplicate anything that is currently being done by the SUPPs grant. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE JJC'S COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN, PLEASE CONTACT BARB KING @ bking@co.iroquois.il.us .**

- **Websites/Social Media** - McTaggart and Pree have been working to update the TIP website (TIPtheScale.org). [The TIP the Scale Facebook page](#) continues to post worthwhile prevention TIPs and advice.

VI. NEW AND CONTINUING COLLABORATIONS/TRAININGS

- **Youth Advisory Council** - McTaggart stated that we are hoping to engage youth by creating Youth Advisory Councils (YAC). She noted that we have had the help of teens in the past with both parades and getting things together for events. We are hoping to have YPE teachers work with these students at each junior and senior high school. We eventually want to also create a county-wide YAC group with 1-2 student representatives from each school. These groups can help with events. We are also looking into ordering vape education kits that are like an escape room scenario with a vaping theme. We are hoping that YAC groups can participate in this activity and then also be the lead on it for others to use it at their school, such as at a post-prom event.

A member shared her experience in forming a similar group this past year. She commented that these groups can be challenging, as kids are very busy. Once kids leave a meeting, they often lose their energy and enthusiasm. She continued to say that this youth group has been very beneficial in brainstorming ideas. She cautioned that expectations will need to be managed, as kids are very Zoom-fatigued right now. McTaggart mentioned that many kids are in need of service hours and that this might encourage their involvement.

Schreiner shared his experience in working with Pledge for Life's YAC group. He noted that their Zoom meetings are not highly attended, as they only have 8-10 attend their monthly meetings. Schreiner shared that his group has participated in a hat/coat drive, Drug Take-Back Day, and a Farmer's Market where they help to pass out the Deterra home disposal drug kits.

- **DFC Trainings** - McTaggart shared that she, King, and Pree will be participating in three weeks of virtual training that will take place in March, June, and August. She stated that we are also hoping to have trainings along the way for members. She is hoping that the coalition assessment will reveal what members are interested in learning about.

VII. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kami Garrison shared that Iroquois Sexual Assault Services (ISAS) had rebranded themselves to reflect that they also encompass under-served Ford County. They are now Clove Alliance, which they hope is more welcoming and inclusive. Clove Alliance has a new office space in Paxton. Garrison also said that February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. They are planning online activities for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April. Although their prevention programs are currently online, they are hoping to be in-person by the end of the year.

- Julie Sluis shared that Volunteer Services has been busy assisting some seniors with free tax preparation. They are also helping individuals to receive their stimulus checks.
- Kim Rabideau shared that March is Gambling Addiction Awareness Month. She stated that Iroquois Mental Health Center (IMHC) is working with Iroquois Memorial Hospital to get MAT started. IMHC is still offering outpatient services. Currently, twenty-five percent of therapists are back in-person at IMHC. However, their groups are not yet meeting in-person, but rather via Zoom. A comment was made about how wonderful it is to see IMHC working with both Gibson Health and IMH to provide the best services for each individual.
- Jim Schriener shared how I-KAN has successfully acquired and distributed numerous DETERRA pouches for environmentally safe disposal of unused medications in order to help prevent addiction.
- Susan Bence stated that Ellen McCollough is the person to see about safe disposal containers for sharps.
- Mary Kay Lavicka said that Iroquois Memorial Hospital has been very busy assisting with vaccine distribution. Many compliments were paid to Iroquois County Public Health Department regarding the distribution of vaccines.
- McTaggart shared that she is glad to hear these announcements, as the JJC is wanting to help other agencies promote their efforts. King mentioned another way that we could accomplish this is to record WGFA hotline interviews created by area agencies and share them as podcasts, as videos on our website, and on our Facebook page. Then, all agencies could share the recordings and schools could be asked to do so as well. She noted that this is a way to not overwhelm the schools with the same deliverables being done by the SUPPs grant. Jim Schreiner volunteered to lend his expertise in this matter. He recommended Podbean as a way to learn more about podcasts and then create your own.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- **Next Council Meeting Dates** - The group discussed whether they thought the two coalitions should continue to hold meetings together. A comment was made that it is good to combine everything into one meeting because quite a few people are attending both meetings. Combining the meetings would reduce the number of times that people need to meet. Both groups' objectives and goals are similar. A point was made that since we are now independent from I-KAN, we can reach more age groups. Bence summed up the feeling in the room by commenting, "More hands make lighter service."

Bence reminded the two coalitions how successful their latest collaboration had been. Both coalitions had helped to organize, write, and sponsor 19 different Public Service Announcements (PSA's) encouraging listeners to stay healthy during COVID.

McTaggart shared that these ads were recorded by community members from many sectors throughout the county and are still running. WGFA was extremely generous in airing these ads and the group was very grateful to Stacey Smith for her role in making them happen.

King noted that the DFC grant requires that we hold four meetings by the end of September. She noted that meeting from 10:00 a.m. to Noon seems to give us the best attendance. She stated that the next meeting will be another hybrid meeting that will provide the options of attending either in-person or via Zoom. The JJC is planning to use a different meeting space in the future. A room wired for sound and with a large screen would allow for easier communication between those online and in-person.

Planned Council Meeting Dates:

March 17, 2021

May 19, 2021

September 15, 2021

- **Committee Meeting Months** - Committees will meet in April, June, July and August as needed.

- **Activity Months** - The JJC will need volunteers for upcoming fairs, festivals, parades, etc. in June, July, and August. We will need to compile a list of such events and dates. Members were instructed to share this information with the coalition.
 - Crescent City Fireball Festival - June 18-20, 2021
 - Onarga Fourth of July Parade - July 3, 2021?
 - Watseka Fourth of July Parade - July 4, 2021?
 - Iroquois County Fair - July 21-26, 2021
 - Gilman Old Boys and Girls - August 12-15, 2021
 - Watseka Family Festival - August

Meeting was adjourned.