

**Joint Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County
Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Meeting
Minutes**

March 17, 2021

I. WELCOME

The Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County and the Iroquois County Opioid Coalition held a joint meeting on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. The meeting commenced from 10 am -12 pm in the Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA) Room in the Iroquois County Courthouse in Watseka thanks to host Eric Ceci. The meeting provided members the options of attending either in-person or via Zoom. A reminder email including a copy of the meeting agenda was sent to both coalitions beforehand.

Verbal introductions were heard while Barb and Susan welcomed everyone in-person and via Zoom to the joint meeting. The in-person participants were delighted to meet the mascot of ESDA, Radar, in which they were instructed to look for on ESDA's Facebook page as well as at the Iroquois County Fair as he likes to hide ...and if you find him, you can win a prize.

Members present at the meeting were:

- Sarah Pree — Iroquois County State's Attorney Office, DFC Grant Communication Campaign and YPE Coordinator
- Barb King — Iroquois County Probation Department, Iroquois County Juvenile Justice Council Chairperson, Law Enforcement Sector Representative
- Jenni McTaggart — Iroquois County State's Attorney Office, DFC Grant Project Coordinator
- Susan Wynn Bence — Gibson Health, Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Chairperson, Other Sector Representative
- Jed Whitlow - Retired Officer for Gilman, Onarga and Buckley Police Departments - Law Enforcement Sector Representative
- Julie Sluis - Volunteer Services: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Civic/Volunteer Sector Representative
- Ellen McCullough - Iroquois Community Care Services, Civic/Volunteer Sector Representative
- Bill Kirby - Ford County Opioid Coalition Chairperson; Other Sector Representative
- Gina Greene - Iroquois County Public Health Department, Healthcare Sector Representative
- Gregg Murphy - Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education Superintendent of Schools, Schools Sector Representative
- Dr. Katherine Austman - Gibson Health, Healthcare Sector Representative
- Crystal Simmons - Robinson Chiropractic, Business Sector Representative

II. OPIOID COALITION

A. MAT UPDATE

Susan introduced Dr. Katherine Austman from Gibson Health. Dr. Austman explained to the group that she's been a Family Medicine Physician for 17 years studying behavioural health. She was gone for a year at St. Louis University studying addiction medicine for alcohol and opioid use disorders. She is very excited about the prevention projects going in Iroquois County and wanted everyone to know that she is seeing patients on Thursdays in Watseka, but can see patients any day of the week via Telehealth. Austman explained that she's so very glad to see that Telehealth is taking root as it alleviates transportation for patients and allows patients to be seen during this pandemic. The hope is that the policies via Telehealth will stay long after the Covid threat expires. When questioned as to how to make a referral for her services at Gibson Health, Dr. Austman said just to have the patients call the office and set up an appointment.

Susan and Dr. Austman talked about the importance of utilizing evidence-based medicine as they do at Gibson Health due to the rise in addictions and the opioid arrest rate. They are focusing on harm reduction. Dr. Austman applauded the communication campaign's work that she saw in the minutes sent before the meeting. Dr. Austman reiterated what the JJC coalition has always said about focusing on the protective factors of family bonding and communication and having clear rules at the family level. She cautioned to just make sure not to put all of the fault on the parents if their child does use drugs underage and certainly do not encourage the use of harsh punishments, but to focus on the family bonding time, parental monitoring and encourage having a consistent message with their teens.

B. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Susan told the group that the Opioid Coalition of Iroquois County's four main focuses include transportation, faith-based resources, prevention education, and workforce development.

1. She said that transportation has always been the largest push because if patients cannot get to the services they need, then all is lost. Telehealth has been a godsend to this issue during the pandemic.
2. Ryan Mustered is the lead on the faith-based resources in the county, but was unable to attend the meeting as he had his first in-person conference to attend. Susan reminded everyone that the faith-based resources in Iroquois County include Celebrate Recovery at Trinity Church in Watseka. She stated that this is the only resource currently because Narcotics Anonymous has not started their meetings back up yet.
3. Susan stated that the prevention education portion of their focus is being addressed by their teaming up with the JJC. The JJC focuses on prevention education through the schools in the I-KAN ROE's Life Education Center's Kindergarten-6th grade program as well as the "Too Good for Drugs" evidence-based prevention programming in 7th-10th grades throughout the county.

4. Susan went on to tell the group that Sherri Garrelts at the hospital has met with the HR departments at Gibson and IMH to discuss workforce development strategies.

C. HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT TRAILER UPDATE

Susan updated the meeting attendants on Gibson Health's grant proposal for the purchase of a trailer for the ICPHD's Hidden in Plain Sight program. Susan stated that the grant was denied so the need is still out there for a trailer. Gina Greene from ICPHD said that the Hidden in Plain Sight focus is on hold until Taylor Eades gets back from maternity leave which will be about another three weeks. Susan thanked the Public Health Department for their work with Covid patients and prevention as they are working tirelessly to assist the entire county.

D. LOCAL RECOVERY PROGRAM UPDATES

Susan stated that the Naranon group for family members of people with addiction is getting together later this week to discuss their meeting times, but they are hoping for maybe Saturday mornings.

E. OTHER COALITION UPDATES

Dr. Austman told the members that the SMART Recovery Program (a non-faith-based group) is meeting in Gibson so if Celebrate Recovery at Trinity becomes too full, this would be a good resource for them to refer patients to. She said that Gibson Hospital could possibly fund the training's workbooks, etc. She said she'd like to talk to Ellen McCullough about their Harm Reduction project as it's one of her goals. Dr. Austman put her email in the chat box for all to access if they'd like to contact her - Katherine.austman@gapho.org.

Susan reminded members that the next Opioid Meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2021 from 10-12pm at Gibson Health in Watseka. She stated that the collaboration with the JJC is working out well being that a lot of the members are on both coalitions. She looks forward to seeing what we can do together and reminded the group that Gibson Health is a 501c3 if we together came up with any grant opportunities.

III. JJC NEWS

A. SHARING MINUTES AND REPORTS

Barb King stated that she's been sharing the minutes from the full council meetings and committee meetings via email. The minutes are also posted on the TIPtheScale.org website. King asked for feedback as to if this is working for everyone or if they had any suggestions for improvement. No suggestions were given.

B. JJC 501c3 DISCUSSION UPDATE

Barb reiterated to the group that the JJC is moving forward with their 501c3 application currently with a gracious JJC member having taken the initiative and task of assisting in

filling out the paperwork. King reminded members that the reason the JJC is moving in this direction is that grants want agencies/organizations to have a 501c3 status in order to award the JJC grants which will supplement the Drug Free Communities grant and help to sustain the JJC's efforts. Currently, the JJC is run through the State's Attorney Office which makes the JJC governmental status.

C. UPDATE JJC EMAIL LIST

Barb reminded the members that she is in the process of updating the email list that will receive JJC events/happenings. She is almost finished with it, so if anyone would like to add anyone or any agency to the list, please let Barb know soon at bking@co.iroquois.il.us.

D. COALITION ASSESSMENT

Jenni McTaggart reminded members that the JJC will be sending out a coalition assessment survey soon. She told the group that this assessment has a lot of questions pertaining to how the coalition is doing in general and then more specifically, how can we make it better to run smoother so that the JJC can have a bigger impact on the county's communities. She said that the survey will be coming from Barb King's email so to look for it and to please fill it out honestly so that the changes can be made.

IV. COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN UPDATES

A. TIP LOGO

Barb told the group that Sarah Pree had been diligent in working with the graphic designer, Ellen Vaughn, to create the logo that the council and campaign committee had both envisioned. Sarah shared a picture of it and described the changes to the original logo - the red outline, the words "Stop Underage Drinking-Iroquois County" were changed to "Stop Underage Drug and Alcohol Use" with Iroquois County being moved to the bottom of the scale and octagon. Barb stated that this logo will accompany all brochures, campaign materials, emails, TIP Facebook page, JJC Page, etc.

B. CAMPAIGN MESSAGES

Sarah stated that the campaign committee met (please see the minutes that were attached to the JJC/Opioid Coalition invite) to brainstorm possible prevention messages for this year. She displayed the decision which is as follows:

- Make Sure Your Teen's Story Doesn't End Up in the Trash. Every Teen's Life Has the Potential to be a Best-Seller When They Make Good Choices.
- Is Your Teen Hooked? Keep Your Teen From Getting Caught Up in the Negative Side Effects of Vaping.
- Prevention is a Partnership.
- Parents...Prevention is in Your Hands.

Sarah then asked what the members thought about the order of the messaging. She said the committee decided that messages should launch in April, May, August and

September. A discussion was had between the members and the decision is as follows:

April - Parents...Prevention is in Your Hands.

May - Is Your Teen Hooked? - because it is close to fishing derby season.

August - Prevention is a Partnership - because it's back to school time.

September - Make Sure Your Teen's Story Doesn't End Up in the Trash.

Sarah stated that a brief synopsis of how the campaign will launch is as follows:

- Jenni is working on putting ads/messages in all high school yearbooks throughout the county as well as on banners on the outfield fences at all baseball/softball diamonds throughout the county.
- Toilet Times will be delivered this week yet to all middle schools and high schools throughout the county and will also be displayed in the Iroquois County Courthouse restroom stalls and some business' restroom stalls. There will be another Toilet Times issued and distributed again in the Fall.
- There will be 5 advertisements in all of the newspapers throughout the county displaying our 4 message posters and one larger graduation advertisement.
- WGFA/WIBK is already working on 5 different messages to correlate with the above messaging to run on both radio stations and throughout the fair.
- Before Covid, the Onarga Theater was to run an ad for the campaign, but was interrupted. Therefore, the ad will run once again when the theater opens back up to the public. This ad is already paid for and designed.
- Stickers will be created with prevention messages to adhere to packaged silverware which will be delivered to organizations and schools around the county having drive-through meals.
- Stickers with prevention messages will be created to adhere to pizza boxes from area businesses throughout the county.
- 4 poster designs will be distributed as primary messaging throughout the county.
- Jenni reminded the group that Country Theater Workshop in Cissna Park did not end up having a season last year so our ad that we created and purchased last year will be utilized in this year's programs when they are able to open up again for productions.
- Social media will be continuing their presence with parent tips on TIP the Scale Tuesday and TIP Truth Thursday.
- Postcards in English and Spanish will be mailed to parents of 8th - 12th grade students in Iroquois County schools in the Fall.

Crystal asked to have posters delivered to Robinson Chiropractic.

C. PILOT TESTING

Sarah stated that these messages will be pilot tested soon as she has created 3 mock posters per message for parents of 8th - 12th grade students in Iroquois County to help decide which images and arrangements would be most effective for parents throughout the county. This survey will be sent out through the TIP the Scale Facebook page and the JJC Facebook page and through email from the JJC via Barb King. She asks that JJC members forward this survey to their employees/constituents/volunteers/etc. and encourage them to complete the survey. The survey will be sent on Thursday, March

18th and will end on Thursday, March 25th. The responses will all be sent to the graphic designer to begin creation.

D. WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA

The JJC is continuously updating TIP the Scale's website, but more so currently with the move to the Iroquois County State's Attorney Office from I-KAN, the new logo, new messages and the new grant information. Sarah and Jenni do not have a lot of technical experience with website design changes so if anyone has this expertise on the JJC or Opioid Coalition, please reach out to Sarah Pree at spree@co.iroquois.il.us .

V. NEW & CONTINUING COLLABORATIONS/TRAININGS

A. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERSHIP

Jenni told the group that the JJC has joined the Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce and they are very excited about their membership. She had a printed copy of the benefits of membership and shared with the group some of the activities they could be a part of and how the WACC has many committees in which any member of the JJC can assist. She asked that anyone interested just give her a shout and she would hook them up. Jenni also said that the JJC has always taken advantage of the WACC Newsletter in which the JJC could submit a quarterly ad for free when Sarah and Jenni were members through I-KAN. Sarah has already created the ad to go in the next newsletter. She also stated that if we decide to, we can put additional ads in the newsletter which runs monthly for a \$25 fee.

Susan gave a shout-out to the WACC as she is currently on a committee and stated that the Mayor's Forum is coming up next Thursday on Facebook live. Judge Sabol will be the moderator with three mayoral candidates debating.

B. COMPLIANCE CHECK & DUI CHECKPOINT PRAISE

Barb addressed the members with a question about the JJC's involvement in praising the local police for doing compliance checks and having DUI checkpoints throughout the county. She stated that in the DFC Grant application, the JJC stated that they would like to praise the police for doing their part in preventing underage drug and alcohol use. This past weekend, the Illinois State Police did compliance checks and a number of local businesses were affected. Barb's question was whether the members thought that a blatant thank you to the officers would be appropriate or if the members thought maybe the JJC wait until the businesses are back in compliance and then praise the businesses and law enforcement for their teamwork in prevention efforts throughout the county. She stated that sending a thank you now might make a bad situation worse for local businesses which is not what the JJC would want to do. She thought to spin the situation positively by waiting until the next compliance checks might be better. She put it up for discussion amongst members and all were in agreement to wait and commend them both later with something like " We're so happy everyone's working together in keeping our county substance-free for youth...or safe...or something of the sort."

A question was asked if the area was doing “practice stings” currently and Barb told them that the Public Health Department has always been in charge of tobacco stings in the past. She said the compliance checks were done by the Illinois State Police over the weekend.

C. CREATION OF NETWORK AGREEMENTS

Jenni reminded members that the JJC is planning to create network agreements between the JJC and member agencies/sectors. She asked that the JJC member agencies contemplate how their network agreement/partnership would look like. Jenni said she anticipates a meeting or email discussion with each agency/organization/etc. before too long. She said the reasoning for these agreements is that there is so much talent and so many great projects going in Iroquois County that it'd be a shame for agencies to be utilizing great resources to duplicate what another agency is doing. A collaboration between the individual agencies could result in more effective prevention. Sarah also stated that the JJC would like to create an email chain where agencies/businesses/etc could share prevention data or events/happenings for others to share with their agencies etc.

VI. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Julie Sluis from Volunteer Services said that they are still doing taxes for senior citizens. She said that they would have to file if they didn't get a stimulus check. It is a free service, but they do have to sign up for it. If they did file, she told them that they are to wait for a letter and do what the letter recommends they do from there.

She said they are not meeting with clients yet, but can only touch base with the grandparents and how they're coping with the schools etc. She stated that a lot of grandparents are not speaking up that they need assistance and there are a lot needing help in the area.

She stated that Mobile Meals or Meals on Wheels is in full-swing in Watseka and Gilman and is in need of volunteers. She said usually it is church groups assisting, but are not seeing the numbers in volunteers that they're used to and are in need of. If anyone would like to get involved or if anyone would like to sign up to receive the meals, they are directed to call Debra at Volunteer Services or the Gilman Nursing Home. Meals are \$3.50 apiece and delivered to the home and billed monthly. They ask that anyone wanting to cancel their meal for the day call before 9am to cancel. Jed Whitlow stated that he helps with this program and it has a 2-fold benefit: nutrition for the seniors in the communities as well as a check-in for them. They have a protocol to follow in which if the person doesn't answer the door, they are to do this, that or the other. They have specific directions for each delivery and he has assisted seniors many times when no one is checking in with them.

Members stated that there are other meal opportunities throughout the community as well such as Peace Meals which is run out of Hoopston and available at establishments like the Cissna Park Dairy Queen.

B. ROBINSON CHIROPRACTIC

Crystal Simmons was joining the group for the first time and stated that Robinson Chiropractic was just having their one-year anniversary in the Watsek area. They would like to team up with the JJC and Opioid Coalition as they are seeing how patients get severely addicted to their pain medications. Crystal said that they have seen lots of studies showing how chiropractic services can assist counselors and patients in these situations. They'd like to be a resource and an avenue to turn to. They would like to work in tandem with the group to fight the crisis. Susan Bence asked to do a shout-out to Robinson Chiropractic as they ran a special where they donated money to the Kiwanis which was much appreciated. Crystal explained that they do these specials continuously as a way to give back to the community. They said they take the radiologist fees and donate a portion to so far - IMH Hospice, Harbor House, the Kiwanis and the Watseka Youth Center. If anyone has any ideas on agencies that they can donate to next, you are asked to contact Crystal at this email - crystal.simmons4295@yahoo.com.

C. IROQUOIS COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

Ellen reminded the group that they still have canisters to distribute to anyone wanting one. These canisters are available for the public to use in collecting needles throughout the county. Once they are full, you are to contact Ellen and she will dispose of the needles and give you a new canister. Ellen has fliers to hand out if anyone would like some to distribute. Ellen's contact number is 815-785-1128 or 815-785-1129. She said that these are through the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District so if you would like any information on their social media presence, you can check with them there.

D. COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Susan announced the following:

- Mayoral Forum on March 25th.
- April 10th is the Kiwani's Drive-Thru Breakfast
- At the Watseka Festival, the following activities are taking place: Republican Women are hosting Cowchip BINGO, the Kiwani's are hosting a Cornhole Tournament and she reminded the JJC that Jason Cahoe would be contacting us to hang a banner on the fence and stage.
- Harvest Daze is back and scheduled for the first weekend in October

VII: ADJOURNMENT

Barb announced the next joint council meeting will be May 19th, 2021 with another one following September 15, 2021. She said to be ready to participate and anticipate events happening throughout the summer months as volunteers will be needed. Thank you!