

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

September 15, 2021

I. WELCOME

The Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County and the Iroquois County Opioid Coalition held a joint meeting on Wednesday, September 15, 2021. The meeting commenced from 10:40am -12 pm in the Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (E.S.D.A.) 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 was sent to both coalitions beforehand.

In-person guests were given a meeting agenda and reminded to sign-in. Introductions were foregone as the meeting began late due to technical Zoom issues.

Members present at the meeting were:

- 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
- Sarah Pree — Iroquois County State's Attorney Office, DFC Grant Communication Campaign and YPE Coordinator
- Susan Wynn Bence — Gibson Health, Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Chairperson, Other Sector Representative
- Ryan Roe - Army National Guard Staff Sergeant, Investigative Case Support Analyst for the Counterdrug Task Force for the Illinois State Police, Military Sector Representative
- Ellen McCullough - Iroquois Community Care Services, Civic/Volunteer Sector Representative
- RaDonna Hasselbring - Iroquois County School District #9 School Counselor, School Sector Representative
- Kayla Button - Iroquois County Mental Health Department, State/Local/Tribal Government Representative
- Julie Larsen - Kankakee County Health Department, Kankakee County Opioid Chairperson
- Clint Perzee - Iroquois County Sheriff, Law Enforcement Representative
- Kim Rabideau - Gibson Hospital, Healthcare Representative
- Amy Portwood - Watseka Unit 9 Schools, Schools Representative
- Erica Miller - Watseka Unit 9 Schools, Schools Representative
- Jim Schreiner - Pledge for Life Partnership coalition, I-KAN ROE, Schools Representative
- Joelle Conner-Nelson - Harbor House, Civic Representative
- Mary Kay Lavicka - Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Healthcare Representative

II. OPIOID COALITION

A. MAR GRANT (SHERIFF'S GRANT)

Susan Wynn Bence, the Iroquois County Opioid Coalition's Chairperson, introduced Clint Perzee as the new Interim Iroquois County Sheriff (to be sworn in on October 1st) as Sheriff Derek Hagen is retiring. Clint spoke about how he was very glad the jail received this MARS grant and will help in whatever capacity needed. He is happy to be involved, it is very good for the community, and it'll help give tools to persons leaving the prison to help themselves. Susan reminded members that it's helpful to remember that addiction is an illness that can be hard to control. The next MARS grant meeting is tomorrow (September 16th) from 9-11am with Commander Russo speaking from Lake County.

B. HANCOCK COUNTY OVERVIEW

Ellen McCullough, Champaign County Public Health Department in Iroquois County, was given the floor to discuss how Hancock County Addiction Coalition was handling prevention currently. Susan Bence noted that when you see another coalition doing a good thing, take note. Ellen said that Hancock County did a presentation with a number of slides and it's all online and recorded for others to listen to. She encouraged others to look up their coalition online through their Facebook page or their website to watch it. She noted that Maureen and Jerome were the main speakers - one was a recovering addict and is now a minister at Lydia House who also works with Chestnut Health. They work together on the Safe Passage Program together. Ellen said the slides showed their program to follow the steps - Step, Support, Treat, Educate, Prevent. The program has counselors go into schools and educate teenagers about mental health with the goal of stopping mental health issues before they escalate to substance abuse. They are doing many fundraisers to be able to hire counselors for schools throughout their area so that adolescents can get the help they need AT the schools. They utilize "Hidden in Plain Sight" in an outdoor tent with windows in their area to accommodate for Covid restrictions. They have had "Tim Ryan" speak his "Dope to Hope" presentation to their communities. Again, check out their website and Facebook page for more information.

C. RESOURCE CARD UPDATES

Susan Wynn Bence discussed the need for the Iroquois County resource cards to be updated. She stated that Jenni McTaggart will be handing out the rest of the current cards to teachers through the Life Education Center programs in the K-6th grade buildings and through the Youth Prevention Education in the 7th, 8th and 9th/10th grades. Susan stated that she'd like to see a QR code on the front of the cards like Clove Alliance has on theirs so people can just utilize the code to access the help they need. She mentioned that Mr. Husted's number will need to be removed from the current cards too. She'd like these ready to go soon so they can be used through the MARS grant and given to persons leaving the prison system as a resource.

D. LOCAL RECOVERY PROGRAM UPDATES

Susan had notes from the Ford County Opioid Coalition meeting. Chestnut Detox is starting a new peer counseling program and is now allowing Iroquois County persons to participate.

Susan also mentioned that August 31st was Overdose Awareness Month and that Julie Lange from the Kankakee County Public Health Department orchestrated an amazing National Night Out Event. (Jim Schreiner later refers to this as well.)

III. JJC NEWS

- **NATIONAL COALITION ACADEMY (NCA) TRAINING BY COMMUNITY ANTI-DRUG COALITIONS OF AMERICA (CADCA)**

Barb King, the Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County's Chairperson, asked Jenni McTaggart to speak about the training that Barb, Sarah Pree, and Jenni attended. Jenni told the group that this Paris-themed, 3-week training was a requirement of the Drug Free Communities grant for the JJC to participate in. It was a conglomeration of numerous drug prevention coalitions throughout the entire United States meeting together virtually this year to learn collaboratively how to make prevention work most effectively in each of our communities. Jenni said that just like Susan had mentioned before, "when another coalition tells you what they're doing and it works - you listen!" In order to graduate from the NCA, the JJC has to create 6 different documents (plans) to be approved by the CADCA administration. These are all uploaded as of now and we should find out by October 22nd if they are approved. The graduation will take place in National Harbor, MD from January 31st-February 3, 2022 at CADCA's National Leadership Forum. More details to come.

- **PARTICIPATION/MINUTES**

Barb asked if members are receiving their emails with the meeting minutes. All members present said they were so King said she'd continue with communication in this way. Meeting minutes are also uploaded and shared on the TIPtheScale.org website.

- **COMPLIANCE CHECKS**

Jenni stated that she'd been in discussions with Steve Sigler from the Illinois State Police about compliance checks in Iroquois County. All involved believe that the Illinois State Police are the only ones conducting these checks in Iroquois County, but he is checking into that for us. Steve has given the names of businesses who had passed the last compliance checks and is in discussions with the investigations department to clarify when these checks are done, by whom, and how to receive the results each time. We will wait to hear back from Steve and then move forward with acknowledging those businesses who are in compliance with the law on the sale of alcohol. Currently, we do not know of anyone who does compliance checks for tobacco or marijuana products.

- **501c3 STATUS FOR THE JJC**

Christopher Both has done a superb job in gathering information and creating the required documents to enable the JJC to apply for 501c3 status. Barb King is in the process of evaluating them with the Iroquois County State's Attorney, Jim Devine, so that Christopher can move on to the next step. Barb stated that TIP the Scale will have the 501c3 status instead of the JJC.

- **YOUTH PREVENTION EDUCATION (YPE) UPDATES**

Sarah stated that all of the YPE materials, teacher kits, and student workbooks are to the teachers in each school throughout the county for 7th, 8th and 9th/10th grades. We have included online versions of the lessons in case a school has remote learners. All schools were given the choice for Spanish materials as well. She will be sending emails monthly to gather feedback from the teachers.

- **COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN UPDATES**

Sarah showed a slideshow of the campaign's progression beginning at graduations all the way up until today.

- **Graduation:** Sarah showed pictures that were submitted by people utilizing their TIP the Scale fans while attending graduations throughout Iroquois County. Fans were distributed to each junior high and high school to hand out at the events.
- **Parade:** Jenni McTaggart and the Life Education Center's mascot, Harold the Giraffe, had a float in Onarga's 4th of July Parade. The float highlighted the partnership between the JJC, the Iroquois County State's Attorney's Office, the Pledge for Life Partnership coalition and the I-KAN ROE and their combined commitment to underage drug and alcohol prevention in Iroquois County.
- **Summer Baseball/Softball Banners:** "Prevention is a homerun at summer baseball games!" The JJC teamed up with Iroquois County summer baseball and softball leagues by purchasing banners on their outfield fences. Some of these leagues sent in pictures of their teams surrounding the TIP the Scale banners to show their support. Sarah showed a slide with 5 of the league pictures.
- **Iroquois County Fair:** She showed members photos of the fair booth with Ryan Roe and Madison McTaggart volunteering their time. Other volunteers at the fair were Radonna Hasselbring, Barb King, Jenni McTaggart, Sherri Hendricks and Sarah Pree - THANK YOU to all. Sarah had created a game relating to the 7th, 8th and high school YPE programming called - Are You Smarter Than an Iroquois County Teen? Each day participants could answer questions from the YPE curriculum and be entered into a drawing. The booth also gave participants the opportunity to fill out a Parent Survey with the chance to win a drawing as well. Free popsicles were distributed to parents and their children for taking the survey and/or playing the game.
- **Pizza Box/Bag Sticker Initiative:** Iroquois County pizzerias teamed up with the TIP the Scale campaign by adhering prevention stickers to their take-out boxes/bags. The stickers read - "Enjoy this time with those in your circle!" Parenting prevention tips followed to inspire parents and grandparents to have the prevention conversation with their teens. Participating pizzerias are Monical's

Pizza (Gilman and Watseka), Franci's Pizza, Gas Depot, Jensen's IGA, Little Ceasar's Pizza, Luke's One Stop, Main Street Diner and Pizzeria, and Pizza Palace. The JJC has additional stickers available if any business/organization/agency would like to adhere these stickers to their take-out boxes, etc. To do so, please contact Barb King at bking@co.iroquois.il.us.

- **Yearbook Advertisements:** Iroquois County high schools and Crescent City Grade School are sporting TIP the Scale prevention advertisements in their yearbooks to remind parents to have the prevention conversation with their teens and to never provide alcohol to underage youth.
- **Hotline Interviews on WGFA:** Hotline Interviews are 3-4 question interviews between a WGFA radio personality and a JJC member. We have been blessed to have the following members take part recently.
 - Tom Marshino, Milford High School Girls' Basketball coach, talked about parenting prevention advice for parents over the summer as well as the TIP sticker initiative with area pizzerias on July 15th.
 - Monna Ulfers, Watseka Alderman, discussed advice for parents on how to connect with their teens and help their teens to make better choices. She also talked about the Watseka Family Festival activities that families could enjoy together on August 13th.
 - Renee Wellborn, the Gilman-Danforth Library Director, will be conducting her hotline interview on September 30th. Her focus will be centered around the TIP the Scale campaign's 4th poster message - "Every Teen's Life Can Be A Best-Seller When They Make Good Choices. Help Your Teen Keep Drugs and Alcohol Out of Their Final Draft." She will be highlighting the silverware sticker and takeout box initiatives too. Lastly she will be promoting upcoming activities families can enjoy together at the library.
- **Website Updates:**

Sarah said that she is continuously updating the website to keep it as up to date as possible.
- **Silverware Sticker Initiative:**

The JJC has purchased plastic silverware packets and adhered prevention stickers to them with the message as follows - "Gobble Up Some Quality Family Time!" This message is followed by parent prevention tips. Once again, this message is to reach parents and grandparents to remind them to have the underage alcohol and drug prevention conversation with their teens. So far the JJC has partnered with the Gilman American Legion for their biscuits and gravy breakfast they hosted at Gilman's Super Saturday event on September 11th and will team up with the Cissna Park High School's FFA Chapter for their auction fundraiser in October. Sarah stated that the JJC is eager to partner with other organizations/agencies hosting similar events. If interested, please have them contact Barb King at bking@co.iroquois.il.us.
- **Witseka Area Chamber of Commerce's (WACC) Drive-Thru Love Local Event:**

The JJC has teamed up with the WACC's Drive-Thru Love Local Event and has donated 250 of the TIP the Scale notepads. These notepads will be distributed with numerous other business/agency hand-outs in bags at the Chamber's event at the WCHS in Watseka from 4-6pm to promote local businesses. The FFA will be selling porkburgers too.

- **TIP Tuesday Celebrity Facebook Posts:**

Every Tuesday Sarah has been posting about a local JJC member celebrity which has raised the Facebook reach exponentially. These celebrity posts have been providing helpful prevention advice (TIPs) and resources to parents/guardians. They recognize/honor JJC members as "celebrities" for their work in and dedication to prevention and encourage partnerships among community members. They also boost community awareness of our many efforts and increase our Facebook presence as more people see our prevention posts when a local person is featured, as the post is typically liked/shared more. So far, the celebrity volunteers have been the following JJC members: Gina Greene (Iroquois County Public Health Department), Barb King (Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County Chairperson), Christopher Both (Watseska Masonic Lodge), Harold the Giraffe (Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education's Life Education Center), Dr. Kate Austman (Gibson Area Hospital and Health Services), Mary Kay Lavicka (Iroquois Memorial Hospital), Susan Wynn Bence (Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Chairperson), Kami Garrison (Clove Alliance for Hope and Healing), Dr. Rodney Alford (Iroquois Memorial Hospice), RaDonna Hasselbring (Watseska Community High School), Myla Munro (Illinois Extension for Champaign, Ford, Iroquois and Vermillion Counties), Kayla Button (Iroquois Mental Health Center), Joelle Conner-Nelson (Harbor House - Iroquois and Kankakee Counties), Ellen Vaughn (JJC's graphic designer), Tammy Barragree (Clove Alliance), and Ellen McCullough (Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) Program, Champaign-Urbana Public Health District in Iroquois County at the Iroquois Community Care Services)

- **Prevention is a Partnership Message:**

This 3rd message under the DFC grant highlights a Scrabble board with caregivers' names as the Scrabble words. Underneath it says "Together we can...TIP the Scale to stop underage drug and alcohol use." This message was distributed via posters to all junior and senior high schools, post offices, etc. throughout Iroquois County. The message was also shared via newspaper advertisements in all local papers, a Facebook post ad, and 2 versions of the same advertisement on WGFA/WIBK Radio Station.

- **I-KAN ROE's Communication Campaign Message:**

I-KAN is continuing the Keep Showing Up, They're Still Growing Up parent communication campaign and their message for September was distributed via posters, postcard and social media posts. The message was - "Underage drinking can harm your teens' ability to think clearly and accomplish their goals. Prepare them for success by setting a zero-tolerance underage drinking policy."

- **Fourth Message under DFC Grant:**

The fourth message under the DFC Grant is “Every Teen’s Life Can Be a Best-Seller When They Make Good Choices. Help your teen keep drugs and alcohol out of their final drafts.” This message will be distributed at the end of September via posters, newspaper ads, Facebook ad, Radio Ads, and in the Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce’s Connections October Newsletter as an ad.

- **Fall Toilet Times:**

The Fall Toilet Times issue will be released at the end of September and will be displayed in every junior and senior high school restroom across the county. It focuses on teen mental health and how marijuana affects teens. (Kayla Button asked if the Iroquois Mental Health Center could have some to hang as well. Sarah will deliver these when they are printed.)

- **JJC Brochure:**

Sarah has been working with the communication campaign to create a brochure to educate the public on the JJC’s prevention initiatives. It has seen much progress and should be ready for print soon. These brochures will be handed out at all events, shared with potential future members and those interested in learning more about the JJC’s efforts, and will be given to every YPE student to take home to their parents.

- **YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Jenni McTaggart explained that the Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant allows for Youth Advisory Councils to be formed under their funding. This is a large plus for the JJC as it’s difficult to get youth involved because the JJC holds their meetings while the teens are in school. These groups would be a way for youth to have a say on the JJC and as a way to educate and inform the JJC members on prevention from a teen perspective. She said that Barb, Sarah and she had been discussing the feasibility and workings of such groups such as where to start one at, which groups to partner with, who should run them, who should be able to join, what does the JJC want these groups to focus on, etc? Jenni told the group that the goal is to create a Council in each high school and then create a separate Iroquois County Council with 2 members from each high school group. This is down the road though. Discussion amongst members present and on Zoom led to the decision to talk with RaDonna Hasselbring, Erica Miller and Amy Portwood with the Mentors Group at Watseka Community High School (WCHS). RaDonna said that her group would look forward to trying out the Vape Escape Room Kits the JJC purchased for such a group and to implementing them during Red Ribbon Week at WCHS. The JJC brainstormed other groups that they could reach out to from other schools bringing up the SADD groups at Donovan and Central as well as the Key Club and Builders Clubs. Some said that FFA or FCCLA groups would be good at other schools to partner with. A meeting has been set up with RaDonna to discuss. The group also brainstormed different names for the youth groups as some did not like the Youth Advisory Council name because of its acronym YAC. Barb and Susan said that there used to be a teen group called Teen, Ink. Jenni said that she’d like to see them called student ambassadors. We may let the groups choose their own name too. Decisions to come.

Ideas for the youth groups to perform besides having a voice on the JJC: implement the Vape Escape Room kits to their schools through presentations or group meetings via peer-to-peer drug education and resiliency, be Red Ribbon Week ambassadors, post alternative activities throughout the county inviting teens to partake and post about them afterwards and introduce how they can also get involved, talk to the Kiwanis, Elks, Masons, Lions Clubs about what they represent - ask for funding for alternative activities, etc such as educational programming (speakers), assist the JJC at health fairs and parades, create/promote contest throughout their schools/county to promote drug education, utilize their multimedia capabilities to create videos on how to talk to teens or peer education on drugs that can be shared via social media throughout their schools, participate in CADCA contests and trainings, help to promote the TIP the Scale campaign (website too?), give ideas on future Toilet Times and campaign or other ideas that would be helpful drug prevention-wise throughout their schools. We also want to know - what do they want to do?

A member mentioned that maybe we could promote membership in the youth groups and give away a scholarship of some sort at the end. More ideas are very welcome.

- **LIFE EDUCATION CENTER UPDATE**

Jenni McTaggart explained that through a partnership between the JJC, I-KAN ROE and the Pfl coalition, Iroquois County K-6th grade students will have the Life Education Center lessons taught to them in classrooms instead of in the LEC unit this year. Jenni will be teaching lessons 3-4 days per week from October through April. Jenni mentioned that in most years the students look forward to the LEC unit (bus) as the students have an outside-of-the-classroom interactive experience. Last year due to Covid, the students were taught virtual lessons supplied by the partnership, but taught by their teachers. This year, we are excited to be able to go into the schools once again to teach modified lessons. A schedule is attached.

- **RED RIBBON WEEK**

Jenni informed the members that Red Ribbon Week is slated for October 23-31 this year and asked for ideas on how the JJC can get involved. Jenni said that we'd like the youth groups to utilize the Vape Escape Room kits during this week to get the ball rolling. RaDonna Hasselbring said that their mentor group with Mr. Nevils at Watseka High School will definitely do this for Red Ribbon Week. Susan mentioned maybe utilizing the Boy Scout unit for the escape rooms if we can get the title over to the JJC once it is labeled a 501c3. Susan brought up that the Watseka Park District's Fall park program is scheduled for Oct. 23rd and that maybe the JJC could have a booth/activity there. It's called "Ghoulish Goblin Gathering" and it's at the Watseka Park District Soccer Fields from 10am-6pm with a mobile escape room, costume parade, trunk or treat, chili cook-off, face painting, Mr. Magic, crafts, food, games and demonstrations. The members said they'd look at their schedules.

- **AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Susan informed the group that the Kankakee County Opioid Task Force is in full swing and to let her know if anyone would like to attend a meeting with her.

- Jim Schreiner of the Pledge for Life Partnership coalition in Kankakee County said that they've been working on many initiatives lately. He talked about the National Night Out put on by Julie Larsen and the Kankakee County Public Health Department. The Pfl handed out Deterra bags for people to utilize in the removal of Rx drugs from their homes at this event. The Pfl also took part in St. Paul's Back-to-School Fair and consistently participates in the Kankakee County Farmers' Market. The Pfl is looking to purchase Lockboxes for which Jim has prepared a presentation for the county board. Jim is preparing a webinar cafe to utilize during Red Ribbon Week where parents can talk about underage marijuana use. He was asking for names for the webinars since Project Sun is already utilizing "Parent Cafe". The Pfl also has a trailer playing in the movie theaters in Kankakee about their parent communication campaign - Keep Showing Up, They're Still Growing Up. Jim also records and posts educational videos to the PFL Facebook page and youtube channel if anyone would like to check them out.
- Barb King told the group about the ACES program as she has had training in this as of late and confirmed that you can utilize DFC funding for these activities. She said to message her if you have any suggestions on getting this off the ground in Iroquois County at bking@co.iroquois.il.us.

IV: ADJOURNMENT

Barb King will let members know when the next meeting is and reminded members that both full council and committee meeting minutes will continue to be shared via email. Full council meeting minutes are also posted on the TIPtheScale.org website.

Meeting adjourned.