

Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2022

I. WELCOME

The Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County held a meeting on Friday, September 16, 2022. The meeting commenced from 10:10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the breakroom of the Iroquois County Courthouse in Watseka. Coalition members were invited by email, social media, and website to attend this meeting either in person or via Zoom. A meeting reminder email was also sent out including the agenda and the Zoom link.

In-person guests were given a meeting agenda, reminded to sign-in, and encouraged to help themselves to the snacks and drink provided. The meeting was a little late to begin, as the server was down that morning and Barb King, JJC Chairperson, was working to find a way for those wanting to attend through Zoom to take part in the meeting. Verbal introductions were heard while Jenni McTaggart, Drug-Free Communities Grant Project Coordinator, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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
- RaDonna Hasselbring - Iroquois County School District #9 School Counselor, School Sector Representative
- Gina Greene - Iroquois County School District #9 School Board Member, School Sector Representative
- Stacey Smith - WGFA/WIBK Radio Station Manager, Business Sector Representative
- Mary Kay Lavicka - Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Healthcare Representative
- Chas Cox - National Guard
- Eric Ceci - Iroquois County Public Health Department, Healthcare Sector Representative
- Gerald "Jed" Whitlow - Retired Police Officer, Law Enforcement Sector
- Beth Keller - Iroquois County Public Health Department, Healthcare Sector Representative
- Myla Munro - 4-H Youth Development Educator at University of Illinois Extension Office serving Ford and Iroquois Counties, Civic/Volunteer Sector
- Joy Carlson - Parent Sector
- Liz Gibson - Birth to Five Illinois, Civic/Volunteer Sector

II. JJC INFORMATION/GRANT UPDATES

A. 2022 Illinois Youth Survey Reports

McTaggart shared that the 2022 Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) Reports are available. These reports are available for public viewing at the state and county levels. Schools also receive their own individual reports. She reminded members that this anonymous survey is done every other year with 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students participating. The survey questions inquire about student health, eating habits, drug use, bullying, etc. These IYS Reports provide important data for our grant. The Iroquois County Report has been uploaded to our TIPtheScale.org website. McTaggart informed those in attendance that we will be making comparisons between the 2020 and 2022 reports soon. She reminded all to keep in mind that some demographics, such as the number of students receiving free lunches, may be a little off as a result of COVID, as all students received free lunches for a period of time during the pandemic.

B. Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce (WACC) Business Education Partnership

McTaggart reminded everyone that the JJC is a member of the WACC. She stated that the WACC is encouraging members to go into schools and help in 1st-5th grade classrooms. After volunteers pass a background check, they can either present their own agenda to classes or simply go in and help with whatever is needed by the classroom teacher. After discussion, the JJC said that they would like to participate in this partnership. It was noted that our coalition is large enough that busy members could take turns going into the school. A suggestion was made for one of our members to wear our new owl mascot costume when visiting. All thought it would be a good idea to teach students during our first visit who the JJC is and how everyone in our coalition works together. Each member that takes part would be able to come in and tell the students what they do. McTaggart is going to find out our next steps in participating and she will keep everyone informed.

C. Red Ribbon Week Activities

McTaggart noted that Red Ribbon Week will take place this year October 23-31st. She stated that most schools in our area take part in this prevention week. This year's theme is "Celebrate Life. Live Drug Free." She said that the JJC is thinking about putting together toolkits for the schools. She noted that I-KAN ROE sends out a general email about Red Ribbon Week, but she hoped that the JJC could put together something more personal and detailed that would possibly tie the JJC into the shared activities. Sarah Pree stated that she and McTaggart will be attending the Donovan High School's SADD chapter's first meeting to help them brainstorm and plan Red Ribbon activities.

McTaggart had printed off some activities she had found online to celebrate the week.

She asked for members to share any ideas they had for the week.

- King suggested hiding our owl rocks that were created as a fair activity.
- Susan Bence stated that she is still hoping to bring Gateway's walk-through brain exhibit to our area, but will need some time to figure out how to pay for it, as it is very costly. She is hoping to be able to bring it to our area at prom time.
- A suggestion was made to feature a teen celebrity during Red Ribbon Week on our Facebook page.
- RaDonna Hasselbring noted that Watseka High School has a Study Skills Group composed of freshmen that meets every day from 11:45 a.m. to 12:27 p.m. This class has different freshmen in it each quarter. She said that we could come in during Red Ribbon Week to present our Vape Escape Rooms to the first

quarter's freshmen and then return each quarter in order to reach all freshmen. We could do two groups of ten students each quarter.

- Eric Ceci inquired if the JJC would be making a Red Ribbon Week post on Facebook. He will make sure that the Iroquois County Public Health Department (ICPHD) shares it.
- A suggestion was made for the JJC to host a Coloring Contest, as the contest we held last year was very successful. McTaggart noted that I-KAN/Pledge for Life Partnership is putting a coloring contest in the Kankakee Daily Journal during Red Ribbon Week for both Iroquois and Kankakee County students. She said that we have been in communication with Brenda Wetzels about partnering with them on this contest.

D. Meet the Owl

King stated that the JJC's new owl mascot has had a busy summer and is in need of a name. We would like to receive input from JJC members. Pree read off a list of names that were suggested by children and adults at the Iroquois County Fair and Summer in the Park. Ballots were dispersed and members in attendance were asked to cast their votes. Members attending via Zoom were asked to email their votes to King. Pree informed members that our graphic designer had already created a cartoon graphic of our owl with both wings raised. She will have created two more poses of the owl by next week for use in our campaign and YPE/Youth Group materials. Bence suggested we use phrases such as "Whooo are you looking up to?" or "Whooo will you share this information with?" on future materials. Members discussed locating a small gray owl plush animal that could be used at events or given as prizes. A suggestion was made to search online for an owl Beanie Boo.

E. DFC Grant Fiscal Year Ends September 29

King reminded members that the current fiscal year for our DFC grant ends on September 29th. She said that we are fervently working to tie up loose ends and utilize the remaining funding in order to make the greatest impact. She noted that we will soon need to put together a marketing plan moving forward with the new fiscal year that begins on September 30th.

III. YOUTH PREVENTION EDUCATION

A. Life Education Center (LEC) Visits

McTaggart said that through a partnership between the JJC, Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education (I-KAN ROE) and Pledge for Life (PfL), she continues to be busy teaching Life Education Center lessons to Iroquois County K-6th grade students in the classroom. She is continuing to pass out both our tri-fold brochure that explains the JJC and its purpose and initiatives as well as an insert that promotes the safe handling of medicines and the locations of Rx Drop Box locations in Iroquois County. She also gives each teacher a Recovery Resource Card that was printed by Gibson Health. McTaggart also hands out an additional post activity regarding medication safety to all K-6th grade students upon culmination of their LEC lessons. In addition, she distributes pencils/pens depending upon grade level, post activities for teachers to continue the lessons taught, an evaluation, and Best Practice Contest forms. McTaggart also stated that she is passing out Harold bags from the LEC containing SEL materials to all K-3rd

grade teachers and social workers in the districts she visits upon culmination of their LEC lessons. Pree noted that the new LEC visit schedule for Iroquois County schools can be found on our TIPtheScale.org website.

B. Toolkits Delivered

Pree stated that 7th, 8th, and High School teachers throughout the county have received the Too Good for Drugs curriculum supplied by the JJC. These schools include:
7th Grade: Cissna Park, Crescent City, Donovan, Milford, St. John's, and St. Paul's
8th Grade: Cissna Park, Crescent City, Donovan, and Milford
High School: Cissna Park, Donovan, and Milford (possibly Christ Lutheran)
She noted that the larger three schools in the county (Central, IW, and Watseka) receive their Too Good for Drugs materials from I-KAN's SUPS grant.

C. Teacher Stipend

McTaggart stated that the grant funding for our new fiscal year will allow us to award the YPE teachers presenting the Too Good for Drugs materials provided by the JJC a stipend. We will be giving each teacher a \$30 Amazon gift card as a thank you. She noted that one teacher will be receiving two of these gift cards, as she is teaching both the 7th and 8th grade curriculums at her school.

D. Fall Toilet Times

Pree passed around a draft of the Toilet Times that will be published this month and distributed to all junior and senior high schools, area youth centers, Iroquois County Courthouse, etc. She stated that the topics this season include TIP the Scale Trivia Questions, Road Safety TIPs for Teens, a 2022 IYS Statistic about Underage Drinking, and Reasons to Choose a Drug-free/Alcohol-free Life. She asked all to proofread and provide feedback and possible edits. Jed Whitlow suggested that we stress the long-term harm that can happen to a teen's brain when using substances underage, as most kids do not comprehend this. He stated that development of the executive cortex can be greatly impaired by underage drug use in a gradual process that may not be seen right away. He said that the legalization of certain drugs and children witnessing their parents using these drugs has normalized drug use and kids don't understand it will affect them differently. The section of the bathroom reader that gives reasons for choosing a substance-free life will be edited to stress the possible harm to a teenage brain from underage substance use.

IV. COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Pree stated that since our last meeting in June, much has taken place with our communication campaign. She provided a quick recap.

A. Activity Wrap-up Since our Last Meeting

1. **Silverware Packet/Takeout Container Stickers** - To date, over 13,105 silverware packets with a prevention message sticker have been given out to area school, church, 4-H, fair, Legion, Lions, Kiwanis, etc. fundraisers. This initiative has enabled the JJC to reach many, many families throughout the county. We still have both spork and knife/fork/spoon sets available. Please let us know if any groups could utilize a silverware packet donation. Pree noted that the Iroquois County Probation Department and their public service workers had

been invaluable in stickering all of these packets for distribution. We are sincerely thankful for their efforts and hard work.

2. **General PSA's on WGFA and WIBK** - During the current fiscal year, the JJC had four different versions of General PSA's running on WGFA and WIBK. These ads have now concluded. They focused on the following topics:
 - General Overview of the JJC
 - Another General Overview of the JJC
 - JJC's Initiatives
 - General Prevention Advice for Parents
3. **Local Celebrity Facebook TIPs and PSA's on WGFA and WIBK** - To date, we have featured approximately 70 local celebrities on Facebook. This initiative helps us to reach the public in such a positive way. We honor someone for their work in Iroquois County and they provide helpful advice for families. These celebrity TIPs are also added to our TIPtheScale.org website. Celebrities have also been asked to record themselves reading a radio PSA pulled from the advice they provided.
4. **Onarga Theater Ad** - The Onarga Theater is the only operational theater in Iroquois County. Our movie ad had been extended due to the theater closing during the pandemic. It just concluded running. We are hoping to be able to budget to advertise in the new fiscal year. An updated ad, including our new owl mascot, has been created.
5. **Country Theater Workshop (CTW) Playbill Ad** - The CTW held two productions this summer, one children's play and one adult play. We advertised in both of their playbills. This ad included our new owl mascot.
6. **Summer in the Park** - The JJC hosted one day (June 28th) of the Summer in the Park Program at Durham Park in Onarga. Approximately 160 area students aged kindergarten through junior high schools plus teen helpers took part in the day's activities. We shared an activity page with a prevention theme for students to utilize while waiting for everyone to arrive and attendance to be taken. We provided activities, such as team obstacle course races and bucket brigade. For each activity a team won, water was poured into their team's bucket on the giant TIP the Scale. (This large scale was built by Larry Mennenga and Dennis Herscher.) The team that TIPped the Scale by having more water in their bucket at the end of morning chose one teen helper on which to pour their bucket's water. Both Harold the Giraffe and our new owl mascot made appearances. Students were asked to guess the owl's name, as we were hoping to get suggestions/ideas for naming our owl.
7. **Area Parades** - The JJC had an entry in the following parades: Milford Fun Days, Onarga 4th of July Parade, Watseka 4th of July Parade, and Ashkum Homecoming Parade. Our entry consisted of a truck decorated with our banners and sometimes included our owl mascot and/or the LEC's mascot Harold the Giraffe. The JJC threw out peppermints with a prevention message that thanked parents for their commit-"mint" to raising a drug-free child. It included a QR code that could be scanned for a link to our TIPtheScale.org website.

8. **Iroquois County Fair** - Pree shared that the Iroquois County Fair took place July 19th-July 24th. She proceeded to share what the JJC did at their booth in one of the commercial buildings.
 - a. **Hidden in Plain Sight (HIPS)** - The JJC partnered with the Iroquois County Public Health Department to get their Hidden in Plain Sight display up and running. They had asked us to help organize the display for use at the fair. Hidden in Plain Sight provides parents the chance to walk through a mock teen bedroom display and learn how to identify items that can indicate problems or risky behavior, such as substance use. Some of these items are disguised as everyday items. We changed the display daily by introducing 14 new items. We challenged parents to return each day of the fair to see if they could locate these new items. The Health Department drew a name from those visiting the display each day to give away a prize. Debuting this display at the fair was a good way to get the word out about it. One of the area principals toured the room and wanted it brought to his school district this fall. The JJC provided an activity sheet, crayons, and pencils at a small picnic table next to our booth to occupy the children of adults visiting the HIPS display.
 - b. **Handouts** - One of the giveaways at our table was a postcard with a roll of Smarties attached. The postcard stated that "Smarties Practice Underage Substance Use Prevention". The backside provided "8 Smart Ways to Practice Underage Substance Use Prevention". (Thanks again to the Probation Department and their workers for helping us to assemble this freebie.) We also gave out the TIP the Scale hand fans that we distribute to area schools for graduation ceremonies. The fair was very hot, so we gave out numerous fans to those attending the grandstand shows.
 - c. **Special Appearances** - Officer Mark Harris and his K9 Tucker made a scheduled special appearance at our fair booth. They were able to meet several families. Our owl mascot made a very brief visit at our fair booth, as the furry costume was too warm for the hot, humid weather.
 - d. **Rock Hunt** - In order to encourage foot traffic to our booth and get the word out about the JJC and its initiatives, we scheduled a Rock Hunt. JJC member Chas Cox and his wife Kelsey created rocks with our owl mascot on one side and directions for bringing the rock to the JJC booth to claim a sweet prize on the backside. (The JJC expressed their gratitude to the Cox Family for their assistance.) The rocks were hidden throughout the fairgrounds (except the parking lot) twice a day. Families were challenged to go on a rock safari and keep "rock"ing life and preventing underage substance use. We had 107 winners who turned in their rocks for a choice of Swedish Fish, Sour Patch Kids, or Airhead Extremes with a prevention message. We still have some leftover prize candy, as the fair ended early on the last day due to rain.
9. **Website** - Daily updates are being made to our website. Recent additions include:

- Link to 2022 Iroquois County IYS Report
 - New Life Education Center Schedule for Iroquois County
 - JJC News
 - JJC Meeting Announcements/Minutes
 - New Campaign Posters
 - New Celebrity TIPS
 - Owl Mascot
10. **I-KAN's SUPS Grant State-Created Campaign** - I-KAN is continuing with their state-created campaign that is funded through a SUPS grant. Its theme is "Keep Showing Up. They're still growing up." It focuses on preventing underage drinking. We are partnering with them to distribute posters, Facebook posts, newsletters, and postcards with our logos to parents throughout the county.
 11. **Yearbook Ads** - The JJC paid to advertise in the 2021-2022 school yearbooks that have recently been distributed. Those schools taking paid advertisements include: Cissna Park HS, Central HS, Iroquois West HS, and Watseka HS. We created stickers to be placed inside Crescent City Grade School's yearbooks.
 12. **WGFA Hotline Interviews** - Gina Greene represented the JJC and ICPHD through a Hotline Interview in July. She spoke about the upcoming HIPS fair display. Frank Petkunas is representing the JJC and I-KAN ROE on September 21st. He will provide Back to School Prevention TIPS for parents during his interview.
 13. **Newspaper and Facebook Ads** - We ran newspaper and Facebook ads over the summer to advertise the HIPS display and our Rock Hunt at the fair. We have an ad that will run both on Facebook and in all local newspapers in the coming week. It focuses on Parenting TIPS for a Successful School Year, features our owl mascot, and has a fall theme.
 14. **WACC Connections Ads** - We have a free quarterly ad in the WACC Connections Newsletter. Our July ad advertised the HIPS display at the fair. Our next ad will feature our Fall Prevention TIPS and be dispersed in October.
 15. **Winter Sports Program Ads** - We are hoping to advertise in Winter Sports Programs at area schools. We have created ads featuring our owl to run at Central HS, Iroquois West HS, and Watseka HS. These are the only schools with such programs. In the past we have sent our TIP logo to be included on Donovan's team rosters.

B. 2022-2023 Marketing Plan

With the new fiscal year soon beginning, we will need to hold a communication campaign committee meeting in order to formulate a marketing plan. The following individuals asked to be included on this committee: Barb King, Jenni McTaggart, Sarah Pree, Stacey Smith, RaDonna Hasselbring, and Jed Whitlow. This meeting will take place very soon. Ideas for future events that the JJC could partake in were shared and discussed:

- Working with the Watseka Park District next summer on events similar to Summer in the Park
- Working with the local library programs
- Watseka Methodist Church's Family Carnival (School Kick-off) next year

- Watseka's Harvest Daze: Kiwanis are sponsoring a Kid's Zone. Perhaps they could utilize the JJC's giant scale or the owl could make an appearance.
- Watseka Park District's Ghoulish Goblins Event - possibly have an activity or sponsor the event
- Watseka Block Party if not too expensive to have a booth
- Educating Parents about Snap Chat Drop Pin Parties and Location Apps that Parents can use to Track their Teens: It was decided that we should market this concept by stressing that we are teaching parents to protect their teens by knowing their location which can be especially helpful if they are in an accident. Our Facebook pages could share an article written on the subject, or better yet, a video that would explain. A suggestion was made to reach out to Steve Sigler with the Illinois State Police for help in locating such a video.

V. YOUTH GROUPS/ACTIVITIES

McTaggart stated that we plan to work closely with the Donovan SADD Chapter this year. We hope to learn through their organization so that we are ready to start the JJC's own youth advisory group that would possibly encompass students from every school in the county. We hope to utilize these youth to make our campaign materials more relatable and impactful with teens.

VI: OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

A. Iroquois County Public Health Department - Hidden in Plain Sight

Beth Keller of ICPHD stated that they are planning to set up the HIPS display at IWMS during Parent/Teacher Conferences on October 19th and 26th. She thought that they had enough HIPS items and room decorations to set up the display at two different locations on the same date. RaDonna Hasselbring would like to set up the display at Parent/Teacher Conferences at Watseka HS on October 24th and 26th. Hasselbring, Erica Miller (another school counselor), and Teresa Castonguay (school nurse) will be assisted by JJC members Joy Carlson at Watseka HS. Beth Keller (school nurse) will be assisted by Susan Bence at IWMS. Whitlow noted how during his time as a former police officer, he almost always found items taped under dressers or hidden in the ductwork. He suggested pointing this out to parents during the HIPS display.

B. Health and Wellness Team at Milford High School

Mary Kay Lavicka shared that the Milford School District received a grant that focuses on student mental and physical health and well-being. They are partnering with three agencies on this grant: Iroquois Memorial Hospital (IMH), Iroquois Mental Health Center (IMHC) who is providing counseling (Kim Rabideau) once a week for students to reduce the barriers that interfere with receiving counseling, and I-KAN who is providing SEL support and curriculum (Linda Jasmin). Mary Kay Lavicka is coordinating all of the pieces.

Lavicka noted that she knew right away that the JJC would be a fabulous help with putting together several worthwhile activities for the 160 Milford High School students, as the JJC encompasses many area agencies with the goal of improving the lives of Iroquois County youth and preventing underage substance use. She said that a meeting

had been held on September 15th in order to start planning the activities for the school year. She shared the following tentative schedule of topics and activities that were decided upon at that meeting:

- **October 27th, Thursday, 11:00 - 12:00 Students to be held in the HS gymnasium - Introduction of the Community Wellness Team:** Breast health/teach the girls the importance of self breast examination to tie in with Breast Cancer Awareness by IMH, Vaping Hazards by the JJC, and Consent by Clove Alliance.
- **November date to be determined:** Diabetes Awareness/Nutrition-IMH
- **January date to be determined:** Body Image/healthy weight/safe dieting/fitness/posture confidence-IMH and Robinson Chiropractic
- **February date to be determined:** Teen Dating Violence Awareness month-Kickoff Student video explaining what Teen Dating Violence is. Healthy relationships vs Toxic relationships ALL STUDENT ASSEMBLY - Clove Alliance
- **March date to be determined:** Hidden Hazards/Parent program and Vape Escape Room/Student program - JJC

C. Resource Cards

McTaggart noted that she has been handing out older Recovery Resource Cards funded by Gibson Health to educators after her Life Education Center visits. There are few cards left. The jail would like to give them out as inmates are released. Everyone liked the plastic credit card format of the Resource Card. She said that we can use current grant year funds to purchase new resource cards. Bence stated that these cards needed to be updated, as the phone number for Celebrate Recovery needs to be changed from an individual's personal phone number to Trinity Church's phone number. The JJC plans to create a QR code that will be placed on the Resource card so that the cards will no longer become outdated. Once scanned, this QR code will link the user to the list of resources which can be continuously edited.

VII. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Iroquois County Opioid Committee

Bence said that the Iroquois County Opioid Committee is setting up a tour at Banyan to see how they are doing things. The committee's goal is to have Banyan save a bed for local Medicaid patients needing detox. She noted that the next Opioid Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21st, but may be canceled, as many JJC members attend both meetings. The JJC and Opioid Committee may start holding joint meetings again in the future.

B. Iroquois County MAR Update

King gave a brief update on the Medication Assisted Recovery grant. She stated that there will most likely be funding for a second year. She commended Megan Rich for doing a phenomenal job, as well as the ICPHD nurses. Telehealth is working great and the system is also working well for inmates to meet with judges. They are still wanting a medical cabinet safe to store items so that they do not need to haul everything back and

forth. The mental health counseling provided through this grant funding is helping them to better meet needs.

C. Transportation Grant

King informed the coalition that Iroquois County had been awarded a transportation grant intended to help provide transportation to justice-involved individuals who struggle to make court appearances, medical appointments, mental health appointments and who can't keep employment due to transportation barriers. We will be developing a database to more accurately track the number of individuals living in our county that legitimately cannot get to and from appointments and employment. We are able to purchase bicycles & locks and provide gas cards to qualified volunteer drivers. This will most likely develop further as the grant unfolds.

D. Birth to Five Illinois

Liz Gibson stated that she is the Regional Council Manager for the Iroquois and Kankakee Counties Region of the Birth to Five in Illinois program. This new initiative from the State of Illinois was created to develop and implement a community effort addressing early childhood needs within our region and ensure that ALL children have access to high-quality early childhood education and care. She asked everyone in attendance to help spread the word and raise awareness of their efforts. They are very excited to be getting this program started here and are beginning with a needs assessment and regional scan. She stated that they will be forming both Action Councils and Family Councils. She handed out folders to all in attendance and noted that a QR to join the councils was inside the folder. She encouraged all to consider joining, as when families succeed, our community succeeds.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Barb King stated that the next JJC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. The location is TBD. Future JJC meetings will be scheduled in March and May of 2023. She 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.