

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

March 10, 2023

I. WELCOME

The Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County held a meeting on Friday, March 10, 2023. The meeting commenced from 10:00 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. in the E.S.D.A. room in the Iroquois County Courthouse basement in Watseka. Coalition members and potential members were invited by email, social media, and website to attend this meeting either in person or via Zoom. The email invite included a Zoom link.

In-person guests were given a meeting agenda and reminded to sign-in. A digital meeting agenda file was shared via Zoom and email with those attending online. Barb King, JJC Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Verbal introductions were heard from both those present at the meeting and those attending virtually.

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
- Taylor Eades - Harbor House, Outreach Advocate, Civic Sector Representative
- Stephanie Brown - Harbor House, Prevention Advocate, Civic Sector Representative
- Stacey Smith - WGFA/WIBK Radio Station Manager, Business Sector Representative
- Mary Kay Lavicka - Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Community Outreach Director, Healthcare Representative
- Eric Ceci - Iroquois County Public Health Department, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Healthcare Sector Representative
- Clint Perzee - Iroquois County Sheriff, Law Enforcement Sector Representative
- Liz Gibson - Birth to Five Illinois, Regional Council Manager, Civic/Volunteer Sector Representative
- Gina Greene - Clove Alliance, Training and Education Specialist, Other Sector Representative
- Darin Hartman - Iroquois County School District #9 Teacher, School Sector Representative
- Dave King - Carle Health, Community Outreach Manager for Carle Addiction Recovery Center

- Patty High - I-KAN ROE, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, School Sector Representative
- Ginger Boas - University of Illinois County Extension, Director of Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties, Civic/Volunteer Sector
- Ben Meils - Iroquois Mental Health Center, Addiction Recovery Program Director and Counselor, Government Sector Representative
- Myla Munro - University of Illinois Extension Office, 4-H Youth Development Leader, Civic/Volunteer Sector

II. IROQUOIS COUNTY OPIOID COALITION/MAR GRANT UPDATE

A. Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Update

Susan Bence, Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Chair, announced her resignation at Gibson Health and her stepping down as chair of the Opioid Coalition. She stated that the coalition has done great work over the years and that Iroquois County is lucky to have Sheriff Perzee, as he understands the opioid epidemic. She continued saying that the group will need to discuss the next steps for the Iroquois County Opioid Coalition. Should it be folded into the JJC? A merging of the two groups might be possible, as Ford County now has its own opioid coalition through which Gibson Health can obtain future grants.

King noted that we are willing to absorb the Opioid Coalition, but will need someone to fill the role as its chair or co-chair. If anyone is interested in filling this position for the Opioid Coalition and reporting back to the JJC at quarterly meetings, please let us know.

B. MAR Grant Update

Sheriff Perzee shared that the county had received opioid settlement funds and they are working carefully to ensure that the funds are being used properly. A communication campaign would be a good use of some of these funds. King stated that the JJC would be glad to work on this campaign with them.

Perzee noted that they have set up the jail with the needed tools for the Medication Assisted Recovery (MAR) program, buprenorphine (which is taken to treat opioid use disorder), and Iroquois Mental Health Center visits. The MAR grant pays for the meds and treatment. Iroquois Memorial Hospital is working on treatment.

Perzee stated that they offer pretrial services where if addiction is documented, the lawyers and judge are informed. If the offender continues with their treatments, the treatments are paid for and the offender will look better in front of the judge. They also have someone to help offenders build their resumes and reintegrate them into society. He stressed that they are trying to give people a hand up to better their lives, not a handout. They are not running a hug a thug program.

King stated that there will be a training offered by Health Management, the company that oversees the IL MAR grant in the jail, on April 20th in Bloomington-Normal. The JJC and Opioid Coalitions are welcome to attend. She will send out the information to both groups.

III. JJC INFORMATION/GRANT UPDATES

A. Progress Report/Continuation Grant

Jenni McTaggart shared that it is once again that time of year to prepare a continuation of our DFC grant. The continuation will run September 30, 2023 through September 29, 2024. She stated that we must reapply each year because what we plan to do changes as time progresses. The continuation is due Wednesday, March 15, 2023. We will find out a few months later if our continuation is approved. She reminded all that we are in the third year of our five year grant and can reapply at the end of the five years for an additional five years.

B. Give Away Items

Sarah Pree stated that we are needing to decide on personalized promotional items that we would like to give away at upcoming events, such as prom and the county fair. One such item that had been suggested at a previous meeting was promotional air fresheners. She shared a graphic of the two-sided air freshener that contained the JJC mascot and JJC and TIP logos, as well as the message "Make Healthy Choices" and the 2023 Red Ribbon Week graphic and logo that states "Be kind to your mind. Live Drug-Free." These air fresheners could be given to students at prom time and adults at the county fair and would cost approximately \$0.66 each. Members discussed how it is illegal to hang anything from a car's rear view mirror, but the freshener could be hung from a car vent and clothes hook, in a locker or bedroom, etc.

Other items discussed as possible giveaways included: nice pens (possibly containing a fidget spinner on the end), hand sanitizer, pop-its, vinyl stickers for water bottles, magnetic chip clips, stress balls, cinch sacks, etc. The idea of small megaphones (like used at sporting events) with something about shouting a prevention message on the side was also thrown into the discussion. Another possibility shared included personalized placemats (similar to what Livingston Rosk made) that are given to local restaurants, such as Monical's, asking "Did you Know?" and sharing information about the JJC and area resources.

C. Tobacco/Vape Free Signs for Park

Jenni McTaggart shared that one of the JJC's planned activities to prevent underage marijuana and nicotine use at parks is to purchase and hang Smoke-Free/Vape-Free signs at area parks/ballfields. McTaggart noted that we are thinking 11x17 inch signs would work perfectly for this initiative. She stated that we would create our own sign design that would catch people's attention and serve as a reminder to neither smoke nor vape around children who are at play as well as deter youth from smoking in the first place, but we first need to get ahold of park boards for permission. Sherry Johnson or Todd Oster would be the individuals to contact about these signs for the Watseka Park District. It was noted that private park contacts would be different from those of the public parks. McTaggart said that she is making a list of people to contact around the county. If you can help McTaggart in acquiring these contacts, please let Barb King know and she will pass the information on to McTaggart. McTaggart said that we do not want towns or park boards to create ordinances regarding not smoking/vaping that would have to be enforced by police. We would like them posted as more of a deterrent

and reminder. A suggestion was made to hang some of these signs around the fair as well.

An idea was shared to use our owl mascot with the *Who's on First?* bit or *WHOOO's on First?* on the sign.

D. Owl Mascot - Meet Ollie the Owl!

Pree reminded the coalition about the lengthy process the JJC has undergone to name the JJC's new owl mascot. She shared several visuals with the group. The JJC had asked for name suggestions at last year's Summer in the Park, Iroquois County Fair, etc. At our December JJC meeting, the group chose their favorite five names and these would be the choices given to the public in a Google Forms Survey. The five names were Hoot, Hootie, Ollie, Whodini, and Wisdom. School administrators were emailed asking for our survey to be shared with teachers and parents and via social media. Laminated paper copies were also dropped off at all of the schools. JJC members were emailed to vote as well. A Facebook ad was also used to encourage voting.

At the poll's close, 210 votes had been cast and the winning name was chosen...OLLIE the Owl. The name was announced in a press release, a Facebook post, and a news post on TIPtheScale.org.

E. Modernized Display Board

Pree shared that their booth has looked somewhat outdated when they have set up at area events. The large cumbersome display board makes it difficult to man the JJC's table and it often blocks the air flow at warm events, such as the fair. In place of the display board, the idea of a television that could show slides with JJC information was being contemplated. Members made several suggestions regarding this subject, such as getting a portable projector and portable screen with touch interface or getting a large portable touchscreen monitor. Another suggestion was to get a projector that hooks up directly to a laptop, however this would not have touchscreen capability. It would need to be a 43 or 50 inch screen in order to be large enough. After much discussion, the group decided that a touch-screen would definitely be the way to go, but available power sources and the weight of lugging the screen to different venues would all have to be taken into consideration.

A discussion took place about interacting with people at events. Members shared the importance of how you make visitors feel rather than what you show them. It is vital to create a meaningful relational experience. A suggestion was made to lay out a large rug and host activities at our booth, such as cornhole and other games, that would attract kids. Other possibilities shared included showing a movie/serving popcorn, using our Spin the Wheel game and awarding bigger prizes for more difficult questions, and using interactive Mentimeter on a screen to ask questions while kids use tabletop tablets or their own phones to answer.

F. 501c3 Status

King stated that little has happened lately with the JJC's efforts to achieve 501c3 status. King promised to start moving forward again with the process by the next JJC meeting. She noted that Christopher Both had been extremely helpful with this in the past.

III. YOUTH PREVENTION EDUCATION

A. YPE Updates

McTaggart shared that through our partnership with the Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education, she has been busy delivering Life Education Center lessons to area Kindergarten through sixth grade students. She stated that the lessons have been going well. She noted that she had most recently visited the Watseka school district and would finish the school year in Donovan. She enjoys seeing the students progress from kindergarten to sixth grade with caring for their bodies, nutrition, substance-use prevention, bullying, etc. She said that more medication safety was added to each grade level this past year and it is going great. McTaggart continues to distribute the JJC's brochure and Iroquois County Safe Medicine Handling/Safe Drop Box Locations insert to every student she sees through the Life Education Center.

Pree stated that the Too Good for Drugs curriculum continues to be taught in 7th grade, 8th grade, and high school. She noted that several teachers had already finished implementing the program. Pree shared that our grant allowed us to thank each of the junior and senior high educators teaching this curriculum this year with a \$30 Amazon gift card upon completion of the program. Those who already received the gift card were extremely appreciative.

B. National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week (March 20-26)

Pree stated that the purpose of this week is to empower youth to make informed decisions about drugs and alcohol. Facebook posts have been designed and scheduled. Illinois Youth Survey statistics will be included in the facts. She reminded members that our Facebook followers are parents, not kids. Thus, she asked members for suggestions for what else could be done. A suggestion was made to create Tik Tok videos in order to reach the kids. Asking the Donovan High School SADD chapter for help in creating these videos was discussed, as well as reaching out to the Studio 9 class at Watseka High School. Using hashtags and content with trending words would link our videos to relevant content which would feed it into people's pages.

A suggestion was made to use another form of social media, such as Instagram, since many parents are not allowing their children to use Tik Tok.

The conversation about Tik Tok led to a discussion about using a step and repeat banner, or backdrop with repeating logo, at our fair booth to encourage kids to make a Tik Tok video. Parental permission would be needed in order to use the videos if children are underage.

C. Toilet Times Spring 2023

Pree stated that with a new season approaching it was once again time to publish a new issue of the Iroquois County Toilet Times. She passed around a draft of the spring issue with those attending in person and shared a slide with those attending virtually. She said that this issue formally introduces readers to our new mascot Ollie and provides facts that they need to know in order to protect themselves and their loved ones from drug

use. It includes a QR code that links to our Recovery Resource page. The draft was approved.

D. Prom/Post Prom

King shared that Iroquois West and Milford are holding their proms on May 6th. All of the other high schools in Iroquois County are having prom on April 29th. Pree noted that approximately 715 giveaway items would be needed for the students attending proms in Iroquois County this year. A more accurate number will be available in a few weeks once tickets are sold at area schools.

In addition to the air freshener idea, Pree shared that another possible prom giveaway could be a cookie or several pieces of candy in a bag with our message attached. This would be more costly and labor intensive, as we would have to purchase the food item(s) and bags and then bag the item(s), print/cut the messages, and attach the messages to the bags. Odds are that students would quickly consume the sweets and dispose of our message. Personalized cookies cost \$0.60 each. 3-4 fun-size candy bars for each person would run approximately \$0.63-\$0.83. The bags and printing would be an additional cost. A drink (pop) with a prevention message was suggested as another possibility.

A suggestion was made to distribute our giveaway/prevention message when prom tickets are sold at the schools, as waiting until the evening of prom/post prom might be too late if students have already decided to use substances and have plans set in motion. Pree stated that this is an excellent idea for next year, but that we did not have enough time to order and distribute the giveaway prior to ticket sales. Another idea was shared to call each high school and ask to get in an advisory period at the end of the day a few days before prom. All prom goers could be asked to come to the gym and the giveaway item could be distributed then. (Some schools hold a brief assembly the day before to review prom/post rules and encourage safe choices. Perhaps our item could be given then.)

Several members mentioned working together or co-sponsoring prom giveaways that would include multiple agencies' messages/branding because underage substance use ties in to many other issues, such as mental health, domestic violence, sexual assault, etc.

A member inquired how we could help teens who already used a substance the night of prom and needed help. Would a simple business card that could be kept in a wallet stating a simple reminder about not drinking/using drugs and driving as well as a list of resources be helpful? Or is it unlikely teens will call if already impaired? Who could help...sober friends, parents, etc.? Sheriff Perzee stated that his office cannot look the other way if kids are drinking or doing drugs.

E. Prom Ad

Pree reminded members that when our budget was set for the current fiscal year it was decided that we would only place one newspaper ad in all of the area papers. Our prom/post prom ad this year will be a Facebook ad. It will also be shared with area

schools and hopefully shared through school email, website, and social media accounts. A paper copy of the ad was passed around and a slide was shared with those attending through Zoom. A member shared that she liked how the main points were shortened and bolded to increase the odds that a parent will read. The prom ad was approved.

F. Graduation Ad

Pree stated that our graduation ad will run in all local newspapers with the printing of the graduates' photos and as a Facebook ad. It will also be emailed to all schools to be shared through each school's email, website, and social media. A suggestion was offered to bolden the main points as was done in the prom ad. This edit will be made.

IV. COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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

A. TIP Tuesday Celebrity Posts

Pree noted that we have featured approximately 90 local celebrities on Facebook offering advice for families. Stacey Smith shared that to date 63 of these celebrities have recorded their TIPs as radio PSA's that play on a daily basis. She said that 6 of these air each Tuesday to coincide with our TIP Tuesday theme. The TIPs rotate every 10 weeks. Pree asked for names of people we could honor as future celebrities. Names shared included: Jenny Schoenwetter, Dave King, and Ben Miles.

B. General PSA's on WGFA and WIBK

Pree stated that we continue to have 4 versions of PSA's that run on WGFA and WIBK. These ads share a general overview of the JJC, an explanation of JJC initiatives, and general prevention advice for parents/families.

C. WGFA Hotline Interview

Pree shared that we had one Hotline Interview since our December meeting. Jenni McTaggart of the JJC and Jenny Schoenwetter of Harbor House shared information about the Bowling Against Bullying event with listeners on February 16th.

D. I-KAN's SUPS GRANT

Pree shared that the JJC continues to partner with the I-KAN ROE on their state created campaign. Its tagline is *KEEP SHOWING UP. They're still growing up.* Our logos are added to all of the posters they distribute throughout the county, newsletters and postcards they mail to all parents of 8th-12th grade students in the county, and Facebook posts made on the TIP the Scale page.

E. Silverware Packet Stickers

Pree announced that the JJC was officially out of the silverware packet business. Over 14,250 silverware packets with a prevention message were given to area schools, churches, and community organizations that were hosting meal fundraisers. She shared a graphic that listed all of the groups that had received our free silverware packets. She also thanked the Iroquois County Probation Department and public service workers for their help in affixing the prevention stickers to the packets. It was a successful initiative and these groups were thrilled to utilize our packets and help spread our prevention message.

F. Onarga Theater Ad

Pree said that they are continuing to advertise on the big screen at the Onarga Theater, the only operating movie theater in the county. The ad is set to run during the grant year's busiest movie-going times, including June, July, and August. Pree noted that the theater is working with us to ensure that we receive our full paid ad time, as the theater has not been open every weekend.

G. Winter Sports Program Ad

Pree stated that our winter sports program ads just finished running at Iroquois West High School and Watseka High School. Central High School sports program ads will be added in the Fall.

H. Yearbook Ads

Pree stated that yearbook ads had been created for all of the schools accepting ad space, including Cissna Park High School, Central High School, Iroquois West High School, and Watseka High School. These yearbooks will be printed and distributed at the start of the next school year.

Yearbook stickers with our messaging were printed in our office and delivered to Crescent City Grade School to be affixed to their yearbooks. Pree noted that Crescent City Grade School is deactivating their junior high next year and may no longer print yearbooks after this year. Thus, we may not be able to reach these parents in the same way in the future.

I. Playbill Ad

Pree said that we have placed an ad in Iroquois West High School's upcoming Little Mermaid Playbill. This is the only school that has allowed us to advertise in their playbills this year. McTaggart noted that she had checked in to advertising in the Watseka Show Choir's program. However, they do not allow actual ads. Instead, they would only mention the JJC by name. This did not seem like a good use of our grant funds.

J. Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce *Connections* Ad

As part of our membership, the JJC receives a free quarterly ad in the Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce's *Connections* newsletter. Our January ad thanked members for their dedication and assistance in helping the JJC receive Blue Ribbon Coalition status with CADCA. It included a photo of the members who were present at our December meeting.

K. Baseball/Softball Sponsorships

Pree shared that McTaggart was busy reaching out to area baseball and softball organizations about advertising on their outfield fences. She shared a slide naming all of the leagues that we are sponsoring.

L. Sharing of Local Healthy Activities for Youth/Families on Facebook

Pree stated that the TIP the Scale and JJC Facebook pages continue to share healthy events for youth and families in our area. She reminded those present to share their planned events with the JJC so that we can help promote them.

M. Website

Pree said that daily updates are made to the TIPtheScale.org website. News, meeting announcements, meeting minutes, celebrity PSA's, and resources are constantly being added and updated.

N. Fair Contest Ideas

McTaggart stated that the Iroquois County Fair had reached out to the JJC to see if they plan to continue with last year's Rock Hunt activity. The fair is offering to help us promote it. She noted that this interactive activity brought many to our booth. Many returned each day to play or check the winner board. The group decided it would be a good idea to continue with the Rock Hunt. A suggestion was made to incorporate the fair's new mascot Maizie into our activity.

V. YOUTH GROUPS/ACTIVITIES

A. Creation of Harmful Toxins in Vape Video

McTaggart stated that we are working with the Donovan High School SADD chapter to create a video about vaping and its harmful contents. She said that we provided JJC Student Ambassador t-shirts for those taking part in creation of the video. She is hoping that the students will wear the shirts out and about in the community and others will see the shirt and ask them about it. The created video will be shared and used in conjunction with the Vape Escape Rooms and a presentation at Milford High School.

B. Brainstorm Activities for Youth Groups

McTaggart reminded the group that we have Vape Escape Rooms that have been updated. These are available for use with youth groups. Patty High stated that I-KAN has escape room style boxes that the JJC could borrow for use with their Vape Escape Rooms. McTaggart asked for additional ideas that we can do with youth groups. A suggestion was made to consult JJC member Stephanie from Harbor House, as she works with youth and has many ideas.

VI. OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

A. Iroquois County Public Health Department's Hidden in Plain Sight

Eric Ceci stated that the Iroquois County Public Health Department (ICPHD) is planning to set up the Hidden in Plain Sight (HIPS) display at Milford High School soon. He shared that anyone wanting to host this exhibit should let the ICPHD know. He noted that they are somewhat short-staffed during the school year, but will try to make it work. He also asked for those present to share any new ways that teens may be hiding substances. Perzee offered additional confiscated drug paraphernalia for future HIPS displays. Members commented that including such items in the display does help to drive home the fact that substances are an issue in our county.

Ceci said that they plan to bring the Hidden in Plain Sight display to the fair again. He noted that they do distribute Narcan.

B. Health and Wellness Community Team at Milford High School

McTaggart shared that we have been working with Milford High School, Iroquois Memorial Hospital, and Clove Alliance as a Health and Wellness Community Team. She shared a graphic detailing the themes of each of their prior visits. She shared that we had originally planned to utilize the Vape Escape Rooms during our visit centered on vape prevention. Unfortunately, we found out that this was not possible, as we will have freshman and sophomore in one half hour block and juniors and seniors in another and the Vape Escape Rooms are most effective if they are done with small groups over a longer time period. Pree shared that we are now leaning toward centering our visit around a game show that would include facts about vape contents, vape's harmful

effects, vaping laws and consequences, vape marketing, peer pressure, and resources for quitting. The game would be fast moving to hold students' attention and enable us to cover a great deal of material in the short time period that we are being allotted.

C. April is Alcohol Awareness Month

Pree stated that last year I-KAN had partnered with us to create radio PSA's and newspaper ads for Alcohol Awareness Month. Pree shared that this year so far we will have Facebook posts throughout Alcohol Awareness Month and asked for ideas on how else we could help raise awareness.

D. Recovery Resource Cards

King reminded members that the JJC, Iroquois County Sheriff's Office and the Iroquois County Opioid Coalition had designed Recovery Resource cards to be distributed to those in need throughout Iroquois County. DFC grant funds were used to purchase the credit card style cards that include a QR code that links to a TIP the Scale webpage listing various resources. She noted that more cards will need to be ordered. The coalition discussed possibly adding additional resources to the list, including Secretary of State Office, food pantries, online job finding tools, transportation, Veterans Assistance resources, treatment centers, Never Use Alone phone numbers, etc. The group decided that anyone needing help would not want to have to scroll through too many items. A member pointed out that one of the resources already listed (211) included information about many of the items in question. However, the English and Spanish phone numbers for the Never Use Alone hotline would be added to our list.

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

McTaggart reminded everyone that the JJC is a member of the WACC and that the chamber is encouraging members to go into schools and help in 1st-5th grade classrooms in the Watseka School District (a WACC member as well). The JJC was partnered with Mrs. Bohlmann's fifth grade class at Glenn Raymond School. McTaggart shared that she and Pree had gone into the fifth grade classroom earlier this month to make paper fortune cookies containing encouraging/inspirational/funny messages in honor of Share a Smile Day and World Compliment Day that take place in March. She said they had a great time. The students had voted to make and give these cookies to area nursing home residents. JJC member Mary Kay Lavicka was asked if she would assist in delivering the cookies to residents at Iroquois Resident Home. She said that she would reach out to the Activity Director there and be in touch with us about setting up a date and time to deliver the cookies. McTaggart noted that we will return to the classroom in April to do another project with the class.

F. Bowling Against Bullying Event

Taylor Eades stated that in honor of February being Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, Harbor House had partnered with the Juvenile Justice Council to host a Bowling Against Bullying Event at Concord Bowl in Iroquois on February 19th, 2023. The subject of the event focused on healthy relationships, bullying, peer pressure and preventing underage substance use. Free bowling, food, and prizes were offered and all area 6th-12th grade students were invited. Upon completing a kindness activity at the event's start, students were entered in a prize drawing that took place at the end of the evening. By playing a Spin the Wheel Game and answering questions centered on the night's theme, those attending could win affirmation bracelets, stickers, and candy. Upon

departure at the end of the evening, attendees were given a cinch sack containing additional freebies and resources, etc. The event had a great turnout with approximately 50 well-behaved boys and girls in attendance who all acted kindly and willingly intermingled with one another. Eades shared that Harbor House had created the t-shirts worn by the organizers to raise awareness. These shirts are available for teens upon request.

Eades mentioned that they would like to try something like this again, but perhaps next time it will be a family-centered event.

G. Blue Ribbon Coalition Accreditation

Pree reminded members that the JJC was recognized as a CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) Blue Ribbon Coalition. She noted that they still have Certificates of Appreciation that need to be distributed. Certificates were handed out to those in attendance who had missed the December meeting.

VII. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Members in Attendance Share

- 1. 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. Gibson reminded members that early intervention is a preventative measure with drug and alcohol use. She said that they are holding a one-time focus group for Iroquois County early childhood parents and caregivers to pinpoint needs for this area. It will take place on Tuesday, March 14th with an in-person option from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at KCC's Watseka Campus or a virtual option from 6:00-7:30 p.m. that same evening. Those participating will receive a \$25 gift card. She passed out flyers for the event and asked those in attendance to share the information with parents/caregivers of the targeted age group. She stated that anyone wanting to participate will need to scan the flyer's QR code, RSVP, and sign consent forms. Please call their office if you have questions.
- 2. Harbor House** - Taylor Eades and Stephanie Brown stated that the Harbor House shelter in Iroquois County is open and available to anyone who needs it through Harbor House's 24 hour helpline. They also informed the coalition about the launch of Harbor House's Survivor Stories Instagram page. One can find real accounts from survivors based on thought-provoking prompts. March's prompt is "What do you want people to know about survivors of domestic violence?" New prompts are released monthly and survivors are welcome to submit their stories, anonymously, by visiting <https://linktr.ee/harborhousedv>

Eades and Brown continued to share that Harbor House is partnering with Options CIL to host a Spring Fling event on March 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at

the Unit 9 School District Office. Those in attendance will enjoy FREE music, food, games, a photo booth, crafts, giveaways, and more! In celebration of Women's History Month, Harbor House is hosting a matinee showing of the movie *A League of Their Own* on March 19th at 11:00 a.m. at Paramount Theater in Kankakee. All are invited to attend and enjoy free entry and food. They noted that Harbor House plans to host a future Family Movie Night in Iroquois County, as they are wanting to become more involved in the community.

Eades continued to share that Harbor House is forming youth councils in both Iroquois and Kankakee Counties with teens who want to be domestic violence advocates. Finally, they encouraged members to join the Community Commission to End Domestic Violence that meets the third Thursday of each month at noon.

3. **Iroquois Unit 9 School** - Darin Hartman who teaches the 7th grade, 8th grade, and high school Too Good for Drugs programs shared that Julie Larsen of the Kankakee County Health Department had spoken to his class about the opioid epidemic in our area. He noted that she was a great guest speaker.
4. **Clove Alliance** - Gina Greene stated that she has a sexual harassment training session open next week if anyone is interested. She also shared that Clove is hosting a conference on April 21 from 8:00 a.m - 4:30 p.m. at KCC featuring two speakers: Jackson Katz and Shawna Potter. Dr. Katz will be speaking on involving men in gender violence prevention and how leaders can engage in gender violence prevention (domestic violence, sexual violence). Shawna Potter will be speaking on harassment and making spaces physically safer. She has done a lot of work with places like bars, concert venues, etc. Here is the registration link:
<https://www.enrole.com/kcc/jsp/session.jsp?sessionId=2023SP.WELL-9227.001&courseId=WELL-9227&categoryId=1CC2FAA8> Cost is \$15 and includes CEUS'/CPDUs and lunch.

Greene also shared that Clove will be holding their 3rd annual Brave, Bold, & Believed Art Show, an evening to celebrate and honor the journey of survivors and efforts to end sexual violence on Thursday, April 13th at the Kankakee County Museum. Check their Facebook page and website for additional details.

5. **Carle Health** - Dave King shared that the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network is hosting their annual opioid conference on June 27th, 2023 at the I-Hotel in Champaign.

Dave King noted that he sees Iroquois County as a leader and enjoys attending our meetings because he can learn and share new knowledge with other groups to which he belongs.

6. **Iroquois County Public Health Department** - Eric Ceci reminded the coalition that the Iroquois County Public Health Department continues to distribute Narcan. Call to set up an appointment for this service.
7. **Iroquois County Chamber of Commerce** - Susan Bence stated that the Iroquois County Chamber of Commerce has scheduled their Annual Meeting for May 3rd, 2023. It will have a Denim and Diamonds theme. The chamber is hosting a Watseka City Council Candidates Forum on March 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the Unit 9 School District Office.
8. **Kiwanis** - Susan Bence stated that the Kiwanis' motto is Serving Children of the World. Because Kiwanis care about kids just like the JJC, she invited JJC members in attendance to join the Kiwanis. The Kiwanis are partnering with the fair and plan to provide a bags tournament for adults.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

After a group discussion, the next JJC meeting date was chosen. The JJC will convene on **Friday, May 12th, 2023 from 10:00 to noon**. Barb King reminded members that both full JJC and committee meeting minutes will continue to be shared via email. Full JJC meeting minutes are also posted on the TIPtheScale.org website.

Meeting adjourned.