

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

June 5, 2023

I. WELCOME

The Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County held a meeting on Monday, June 5, 2023. The meeting commenced from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 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 and agenda.

In-person guests were given a meeting agenda and reminded to sign-in. 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
- 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 Director, Iroquois County Emergency Management Agency, 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
- Dave King - Carle Health, Community Outreach Manager for Carle Addiction Recovery Center
- Kim Rabideau - Iroquois Mental Health Center, Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Co-Chairperson, Government Sector Representative
- Gerald "Jed" Whitlow - Retired Police Officer, Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Co-Chairperson, Law Enforcement Sector Representative

- Myla Munro - University of Illinois Extension Office, 4-H Youth Development Leader, Civic/Volunteer Sector Representative
- Chauncey Lattimer - Prairie States Christian Service Camp Manager, Youth-Serving Sector Representative
- Tammy Barragree - Clove Alliance, Other Sector Representative
- Brooke Rorem Willms - Iroquois West High School Guidance Counselor, School Sector Representative
- Julie Sluis - The Arc of Iroquois County: FSA, Civic Sector Representative
- Julie Larsen - Kankakee County Health Department, Health Promotion Coordinator and Overdose Prevention Program Manager, Other Sector Representative
- Joy Carlson - Parent Sector Representative
- Maggie (representing Samantha Woodmaster) - Child Network

II. JJC INFORMATION/GRANT UPDATE

A. Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Update

Barb King, JJC Chair, stated that she was happy to announce that two individuals had agreed to co-chair the Iroquois County Opioid Coalition. They are Jed Whitlow and Kim Rabideau. King welcomed and thanked them. She noted that they had met last week and planned to start putting together goals and deciding if they would need to meet outside of our JJC meetings.

King informed the group that the last IL MAR training that she took part in recommended that opioid coalitions deliver communication campaigns educating the public on signs of an overdose and what to do if someone overdoses. She thought that this would be important for the coalition to look into. Chauncey Lattimer noted that overdosing is a huge problem. He shared that Newton County had 3 fatal overdoses within 5 days. Joy Carson stated that she believes more education is needed regarding opioids, as many people fill and begin taking a prescription for pain without realizing that the drug they are taking is an opioid. She further explained that the general public needs to be made aware of the names of the many opioids in existence. The coalition discussed how the majority of individuals who become addicted to opioids start with a pain prescription.

B. MAR Grant Update

Sheriff Perzee stated that the jail's population has dipped. They currently have 16 inmates, but normally average 16-22. He said that the MAR program at the jail is plugging along. He noted that they are still getting a few people periodically who are in need of this service. The program allows inmates to level out when they begin withdrawal which, in turn, means fewer trips to the hospital. He shared that Work Force Development meets with willing inmates on the first and third Wednesdays of the month to assist with resumes and job applications so that when they are released, they are ready to find employment.

Perzee noted that they are now able to provide substance abuse counseling, have Iroquois Memorial Hospital assist with recovery assistance medications, and offer help in finding jobs so that individuals can work to better themselves for both their families and

community. He also shared that he's glad they are able to provide a recovery resource card to those being released from jail to aid them in their next steps.

Lastly, Perzee shared that he is open to suggestions regarding effective spending of Opioid Settlement funds. He noted that he would like to meet with McTaggart and Pree to look at investing in possible youth programs, diversion programs, giveaways, etc. and how to improve the overall program.

III. YOUTH PREVENTION EDUCATION UPDATES

- **Too Good for Drugs**

Pree shared that the Too Good for Drugs prevention education programming wrapped up for the school year. All materials were picked up and checked back in. YPE teachers were thrilled and very appreciative of the \$30 Amazon gift cards that they received as a thank you for implementing the program this year. New workbooks have been ordered for the upcoming school year.

- **Milford Community Wellness Team Visit in April**

McTaggart stated that the JJC presented a fast-paced, fun jeopardy-style game called *The Jeopardy of Vaping* to educate Milford High School students on the dangers of vaping. The categories of the game touched on vape's harmful contents and effects, vaping laws and consequences, vape marketing, peer pressure, and help quitting. McTaggart noted that the Milford School District also hosted a parent night later that same evening which included the Iroquois County Public Health Department's Hidden in Plain Sight Display. McTaggart and Pree assisted ICPHD representatives as parents toured the mock teen bedroom in search of signs of risky behavior and drug use.

- **Prom Flashlight Keychain/Postcard Messaging**

Pree said that flashlight keychains with a prevention message centered on prom safety were given to all students attending prom at area high schools. The JJC also dropped off the keychains/postcards to the junior and senior students at Christ Lutheran High School, as we did not want to exclude these students from receiving our important prevention message. Pree noted that the JJC has many extra keychains because the company reprinted the entire order when we notified them that 71 of the 1,000 we received did not light. Keychains were handed out to present members.

IV. COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN UPDATES

- **Celebrity Suggestions for our TIP Tuesday Feature on Facebook**

Pree shared that 109 local celebrities have taken part to date. These posts are often converted to radio PSA's. Stacey Smith shared that we have had so many celebrities record their TIP to be used as a PSA that the recordings are put on a 9-10 week rotation before any are repeated. Pree asked for suggestions of individuals who are making a positive difference in Iroquois County who could be featured in the future.

- **KEEP SHOWING UP campaign**

Pree shared that we continue to partner with I-KAN on this initiative. They include our logos on their State-created campaign (posters, social media posts, newsletters,

postcards, etc.) focused on preventing underage alcohol consumption. We, in turn, include their logos on our Toilet Times bathroom readers.

- **Prom Hotline Interview**

Pree stated that Central HS SADD/COST students Kylie Smith and Nathan Kohn spoke about their organizations and encouraged parents/grandparents to talk with their kids about prom safety and have rules in place. (COST stands for Comets Operation Safer Teens and is centered on safe driving.)She noted that the JJC was thankful to Eva McGill (the SADD/COST sponsor) for her assistance with this interview.

- **Prom Facebook Ad**

Pree said that the JJC had spent \$20 on their Facebook ad regarding prom safety TIPS for parents. The ad reached 1,904 people and was shared 18 times.

- **Graduation Fans**

Pree shared that TIP fans with a prevention message were dispersed to area high schools, Crescent City Grade School, and St. John's Lutheran School for use at their graduation ceremonies. We have enough fans left over to disperse at our fair booth this summer.

- **Graduation Newspaper/Facebook Ads**

Lastly, Pree stated that our Graduation-themed ad was placed in all local newspapers for a total of \$584.00. This same ad was placed on Facebook for \$20.10. The Facebook ad reached 2,454 people and was shared 59 times - across the nation.

V. YOUTH GROUPS/ACTIVITIES

- ***Escape Vape's Harmful Contents Video by Donovan High School SADD members/JJC Student Ambassadors***

McTaggart said that this video was created by Donovan HS SADD students with the help of their SADD sponsor Kristin Lundquist. She noted that the group did an awesome job! The JJC appreciates their willingness to step up and spread this important message. The video is posted on our Facebook and YouTube pages. It can also be viewed on our TIPtheScale.org website on the "Risks of Underage Tobacco Use" page.

VI. OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Interactive Health Fair**

Stephanie Brown said that Harbor House partnered with the JJC to host an Interactive Health Fair at Watseka High School on May 5th. Harbor House's grant funding enabled them to bring in the MEGA body exhibit, a large inflatable body that attendees could walk through and learn about how trauma and substance use affects different parts of the body. During the school day, junior and senior high school students were given the opportunity to tour the body. After school, the gym was opened up for the public to tour the body and visit several agencies' booths for trauma-related resources. Harbor House also paid for free dinners to those in attendance from a food truck that was located outside the gym. Brown stated that they believed the event to be a success. The kids enjoyed the exhibit and had fun. She noted that although the numbers at night were not high, it was an amazing event. She stated that if they were to plan a similar event for

next year, they would be more intentional in their planning and perhaps include the grade school and schedule it as a week-long event.

VII. UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Summer in the Park**

McTaggart stated that Summer in the Park (SIP) is a free program for Kindergarten-7th grade children at Durham Park in Onarga run by Deanna McIntyre from The Garage Community/Youth Center. It runs from 8:30-11:30 a.m. on June 12th through July 7th. SIP averaged 130 kids in attendance each day in the past and expects to exceed that number this year. The JJC presented activities one morning last year, but plans to organize activities for 3 Wednesday mornings (June 14, 21, & 28) this summer.

McTaggart noted that youth mental health is a major concern as of late so the theme for the first week was easy to decide on. Thus, we plan to rotate kids through various coping skills stations where they will learn active, relaxing, creative, social and mind-shifting coping strategies. Some of the activities that they will take part in will include: making a birdfeeder, blowing bubbles, playing with play-dough, listening to calming music, receiving a brain-shaped stress ball, teamwork building activities, etc. A copy of the Coping Skills handout that will be sent home with the Summer in the Park attendees was passed around to give coalition members a better idea of activities that would be involved at the various stations.

Our second day at Summer in the Park will involve playing a Jeopardy-style game involving all aspects of health. The categories will be: intellectual (brain pushups involving puzzles, riddles, and look at pix games), physical (jumping jacks, dancing, etc.), emotional/mental (coping skills and how to help a friend/family member who is down), environmental (drug use, diet, exercise, socioeconomic), and social (teamwork, role-playing, songs, or friendship building). McTaggart noted that we may bring our large TIP scale to keep score. Last year the winning team chose a camp counselor on which they poured their bucket's water.

The JJC's third day is not yet planned. We are open to any suggestions. Please email your ideas to Jenni McTaggart.

McTaggart asked if anyone was available to help with any of the Summer in the Park days. She passed around a signup sheet and reminded members that they could also sign up online. Barb had emailed the sign up sheet the morning of the meeting and would send it again. Myla Munro and Stephanie Brown stated that they would like to volunteer if possible.

- **Area Parades**

McTaggart stated that we plan to have a large presence in the area over the summer. Parades/dates are as follows:

Milford June 17th at 10:30 a.m. - Welcome to Paradise! (luau/tropical)

Onarga July 1st at 11:00 a.m. - Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness
Watseka July 4th at 10:00 a.m. - Red, White and Blue
Clifton Fun Days July 8th at 11:00 a.m. - Disney
Cissna Park Old Settlers Aug 19th at Noon
Ashkum Homecoming August 26th
Sheldon Fun Days Sept. 16th

McTaggart said that the JJC is planning to throw out leftover peppermints with an attached prevention message and "I'm Amazing" Harold the Giraffe LEC bracelets until we run out. She asked if anyone was available to help with any of the parades. She passed around the signup sheet and reminded members that they can also sign up online. She asked if anyone had any decorating ideas related to the themes or any items that the JJC could borrow to tie into the various themes.

- **Silverware Packets for St. Peter's Church's Food Tent at the Fair**

Barb said that the JJC is partnering with Iroquois Memorial Hospital to provide silverware packets this year to St. Peter's Church's Food Tent at the fair. She noted that we plan to use up 1,000 stickers left over from when we partnered with area pizzerias to place our prevention stickers on pizza boxes/bags used for delivery and pick-up. IMH will purchase the silverware packets and pay to print 1,000 more of our prevention stickers. They will also print stickers with IMH's information to be adhered to the packets. Public service workers will help with stickering the packets.

- **Iroquois County Fair Photo Finds Scavenger Hunt**

Pree reminded members that the JJC works to provide healthy alternatives for youth and/or families to take part in. She continued to say that the JJC was able to use grant funds to purchase a downloadable Goosechase app that will enable us to host a scavenger hunt during the fair. Participants simply download the Goosechase app (at no cost to them) and search for the experience called Iroquois County Fair Photo Finds or enter the code BD5DWR. They then create a profile and begin playing.

She noted that the scavenger hunt will go live and begin when the fair starts and run through Saturday night at 10:00 p.m. It will consist of 22 missions with fun facts, history, and jokes. The first mission is to provide your name and phone number so that we can contact you if chosen as a prize winner. The other 21 missions involve locating specified items at the fair, taking a photo of yourself with the items, and uploading the pics to the app.

The missions will take fairgoers throughout the fairgrounds while they search the midway, livestock barns, petting zoo, commercial buildings, open and 4-H exhibit buildings, tractor display area, food vendors, partnering agency booths, etc. Any individual or team who successfully completes all of the missions will be entered in a drawing for prizes. These prizes have not yet been determined. Winners will be announced on Sunday, the last day of the fair. Possible prize suggestions discussed

included: Monical's, Onarga Theater, and Harvest Moon gift certificates. Awarding gift certificates to area swimming pools was also discussed, but was dropped because of the late summer timing. Giving Cissna Park's Country Theatre Workshop gift certificates was also thrown out as an idea, as most of this summer's shows are geared more for adults.

- **JJC Rock Hunt**

Pre stated that last year's Owl Rock Hunt had been a successful way to lure fairgoers to our booth. We had hidden 10 rocks decorated with our mascot Ollie the Owl around the fairgrounds each morning and night. Found rocks were brought to our booth to exchange for a sweet treat with an attached prevention message. We awarded approximately 107 boxes of Swedish Fish, Sour Patch Kids, and Airhead Extremes last year. Pre asked for prize suggestions for this year's fair. A suggestion was made to give out snack bags of Cheez-Its and Goldfish with a prevention message.

- **Fair Coloring Contest**

McTaggart shared that the JJC is partnering with the fair board on its coloring contest. Entries will be printed and distributed by the fair board at banks and libraries, as well as posted on the fair's website and Facebook page prior to the fair's start. (It is recommended that if someone prints their own copy, they do so on cardstock, as the fair is printing entries on thicker paper.) Entries can also be picked up at the JJC's booth in the commercial building during the fair.

Entry Categories are as follows: Preschool-K, 1st-3rd grades, 4th-6th grades, 7th-12th grades, Adult, and Family (if anyone helps a child color). Completed entries must be turned in to the JJC's booth by Friday (July 21st) at 8:00 p.m. Neighboring commercial building booth staff will be asked to help choose the winners of each category. Winners will be contacted on Saturday around 1:00 p.m. Winning entries will be on display at the JJC booth on Saturday and Sunday.

The fair board is partnering with food vendors to provide first place prizes of \$5 gift certificates for food at the fair. Winners should stop by the JJC booth to pick up their prize certificates in time to use on Saturday or Sunday before the fair's close.

- **Fair Booth Activities**

McTaggart said that the JJC is planning to have Ollie sit in a nest at our booth as a photo opp for the scavenger hunt. The costume will be stuffed and propped up, as it is too hot at the fair for anyone to wear it. We also plan to have a freestanding step and repeat banner that will serve as our booth's backdrop.

We will be offering a different large game (Bozo's Grand Prize Bucket Game, Bags, Jenga, Dominoes, etc.) every day at our fair booth in order to attract fairgoers. We also plan to have our Jeopardy of Vape Trivia Game and Summer in the Park Jeopardy Game on a large TV on our booth's table for visitors to play. She asked members if we

wanted to order some cheap Ollie the Owl stickers to give to kids who take part in our games. Members thought doing so was a great idea.

The JJC booth will be handing out TIP keychain flashlights, pens, magnets, fans, brochures, Rx Safety Inserts, etc. She noted that with all of the planned booth activities, we will need assistance manning it. She passed around the signup sheet and reminded members that they can also sign up online.

- **Saturday Night Activity for Teens at the Fair**

McTaggart shared that the fair had asked the JJC to help create activities for teens. Stephanie Brown said that Harbor House was planning to partner with the JJC to host a Silent Disco for teens on Saturday night. However, Harbor House was unable to commit to funding the Silent Disco. Thus, we are thinking about promoting the Saturday night teen event at the fair as a “teen hangout”. We will work together to provide a place for teens to relax and hang out together playing bags/cards/board games, snapping photos at a themed photo booth, listening to music, crafting, and enjoying some catered food. Food will be served the first hour. Brown is contacting Brett Schmid with Pizza Palace about possibly providing food for the event. She is also reaching out to a rental company about large lawn games.

The event will be on Saturday (July 22nd) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center for high school students only. One chaperone will stand at the door to ensure that adults or younger children are not permitted entrance, as this has been a deterrent to teens attending past fair events. We will heavily market the fact that this event is for 9th-12th graders only. The fair will advertise the teen hangout on their website and Facebook page, as well as over the fair’s PA system.

Brown shared that Harbor House has a speaker to play music. Teens will be encouraged to request appropriate songs prior to the event and that evening. Harbor House will sponsor a raffle drawing at 8:30 p.m. to encourage teens to stay and hang out. Mary Kay Lavicka mentioned asking Walmart to donate a bicycle as a prize for the raffle. Perhaps the fair queen or fair mascot Maizie might make an appearance at the event. Harbor House swag bags will be given out to those in attendance. A recommendation to include the JJC’s flashlight keychains in the swag bags was made. At the end of the event, we will ask teens to help set up the 4-H Center for the next morning’s church service.

Members were asked to brainstorm and share catchy name suggestions for the event. The JJC will need to supply manpower for the event. The JJC booth will also need to be staffed until 8:00 p.m. that evening in the commercial building. Members were encouraged to either help the first hour of the teen hangout or take the last shift at the JJC booth.

- **JJC Summer Event Opportunity Form**

McTaggart reminded members about the online volunteer sign-up for the many upcoming summer events. A suggestion was made to share the volunteer opportunity with high school students needing community service time.

VIII. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **University of Illinois Extension Office** - Myla Munro shared that their Cloverbud Camp is taking place this week. Participants will be rotating through eight stations on various topics. The Extension is gearing up for The Ford County Fair to begin on June 26th and then they will be preparing for the Iroquois County Fair.
- **WGFA/WIBK** - Stacey Smith said that the JJC will need to start working on their fair commercial. The JJC also has 2 Hotline Interviews that will need to be used between now and September. The fair Hotline Interview will need to be scheduled soon, as these dates fill up fast. She reminded the group that each hotline should take approximately 3-5 minutes. A suggestion was made to have our mascot Ollie the Owl take part in one of the interviews with Sheriff Perzee and his sons making realistic owl sounds.
- **Clove Alliance** - Gina Greene stated that Clove Alliance is providing a course at Kankakee Community College on Friday, June 23rd from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. called Behind the Screen: Child Exploitation in the Age of the Darknet. The featured speaker is John Pizzuro. The cost is \$15 which includes breakfast and lunch. PD's and CEU's will be provided.
- **Iroquois Memorial Hospital** - Mary Kay Lavicka shared that IMH is opening a clinic in St. Anne in mid-July. IMH also plans to have a busy summer, by participating in many parades and area fairs.
- **Iroquois County Public Health Department/ Iroquois County Emergency Management Agency** - Eric Ceci shared that he is no longer interim, as has been made the permanent Health administrator for the ICPHD. The county is now looking for a new EMA director. ICPHD recently held its Hidden in Plain Sight exhibit in Watseka and Milford. ICPHD will have a presence at this year's fair and hope to bring Hidden in Plain Sight back to their booth again. ICPHD is hoping to hold remote vaccination clinics at key times of the year (before school starts, flu season, etc.).
- **Harbor House** - Stephanie Brown said that Harbor House is calming down now that the school year has ended. They are hoping to get more events planned in Iroquois County in addition to Kankakee County.
- **Iroquois West High School** - Brooke Rorem Willms shared that Iroquois West High School is seeking a math teacher.
- **Kankakee County Health Department** - Julie Larsen said that Narcan kits are being dispersed in Iroquois County. Many businesses have baskets of Narcan to give out. Kankakee County is seeing an increase in M30 pills. These pills look like oxycodone, but are laced with fentanyl. They have also seen an overdose fatality from Xylazine, which is a vet tranquilizer on which Naloxone does not work. Xylazine is addictive and very sedative and can thus result in falls, robbery, and assault.
- **Birth to Five Illinois** - Liz Gibson stated that Birth to Five has been busy getting out into the community. They are sharing the top five needs and recommendations for our area

and want to work at the local level to see how they can address the issues that their deep dive has shown. Are there any meetings coming up that they could get involved with to help problem-solve locally? Please send details of these events to lgibson@birthtofiveil.com.

- **Iroquois Mental Health Center** - Kim Rabideau reminded members that 988 is the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline to call if needing help. IMHC is going into the jail to provide services. The I-CAHN conference on opioids is coming up in June and is good to attend.
- **Carle Health** - David King said that the I-CAHN Opioid Conference will be held on June 27th at the I-Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign and is focusing on many important topics. The registration fee is \$75.00. Carle is hosting the Addiction Grand Rounds series on Thursday, June 15, 2023 from Noon to 1:00 p.m. This Zoom meeting will feature Jason Kilmer presenting on Words Matter: Considering Messaging in Clinical Work, Prevention, Intervention, and Partnerships. For Recovery Month, they are hoping to do something similar to the Ice Bucket Challenge that went viral in the past, as they feel that people have been desensitized by the numbers of people lost to opioids in news articles.
- **Child Network** - Maggie stated that Child Network recently hired someone to fill a position in their CASA program. She shared that they recently had an issue where a child had overdosed on a drug. They wondered if anyone had resources that they could provide to their staff on the effects of drugs. Julie Larsen will work to get the staff supplied with and trained in Narcan.

IX. MEETING ADJOURNED

Barb King noted that meeting on a Monday this time seemed to have a good turnout. She asked members to contact her if there was a day in **early September** that would be best for our next meeting. She will send out the next meeting date with the minutes. 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.