

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

**September 15, 2023**

## **I. WELCOME**

The Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County held a meeting on Friday, September 15, 2023. The meeting commenced from 10:00 a.m. - Noon in the E.S.D.A. room at the Iroquois County Courthouse 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. Current town mayors were also invited by snail mail.

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
- Taylor Eades - Harbor House, Outreach Advocate, Civic Sector Representative
- Stacey Smith - WGFA/WIBK Radio Station Manager, Business Sector Representative
- Clint Perzee - Iroquois County Sheriff, Law Enforcement Sector Representative
- Liz Gibson - Birth to Five Illinois, Regional Council Manager, Civic/Volunteer Sector Representative
- Myla Munro - University of Illinois Extension Office, 4-H Youth Development Leader, Civic/Volunteer Sector Representative
- Gina Greene - Clove Alliance, Training and Education Specialist, Other Sector Representative
- Tammy Barragree - Clove Alliance, Other Sector Representative
- Tammy Selvey - Clove Alliance, Other Sector Representative
- Sara Christensen - I-KAN Regional Office of Education Truancy, School Sector Representative
- Charles Cox - National Guard, Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Abuse Sector

## **II. JJC INFORMATION/GRANT UPDATE**

### **A. Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Update**

Barb King, JJC Chair, stated that she does not have an update on the status of the Iroquois County Opioid Coalition at this time. Due to many factors, Kim Rabideau and Jed Whitlow (who were recently appointed as co-chairs to the Opioid Coalition) have been unable to meet. King noted that another council member has volunteered to step up and help chair if needed.

King reminded 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.

### **B. IL MAR Grant Update**

Sheriff Perzee stated that they are utilizing opioid settlement funds through HMA. Additional Resource Recovery cards have been ordered to continue distribution to those being released from jail to aid them in their next steps. WorkForce Development is still coming into the jail to assist inmates in preparing to find employment once they are released. The jail is providing mental health and substance abuse counseling every Wednesday.

Sheriff Perzee reminded members that through the Safety Act, the no cash bail policy will go into effect on Monday, September 18th. He said that the jail population is likely to drop at that time, as they will no longer be holding people for bail.

The jail has switched over from a phone system to a tablet system. The tablets provide inmates access to 70,000 books, a law library, self-help resources, video calls which only show faces, and texting. This is good for all, as it keeps inmates occupied. He noted that everything is recorded on the tablets, so investigators can go back and listen or read for evidence.

Sheriff Perzee said that the jail switched to a new computer system as of September 6th. This system is much more modern than the one they had been utilizing. They are still working out the kinks. Perzee also shared that the jail now has a body x-ray scanner. When a person is brought into a holding cell, they are patted down and have a body x-ray scan done. This enables the jail to only have to perform strip searches when the scanner picks up something. This will help out immensely if they do not have a female working who can assist with a female strip search.

Sheriff Perzee stated that he is planning to get together soon with Jenni McTaggart and Sarah Pree to create a logo for the new STARR (Sheriff's Treatment And Recovery/Reentry) program that he plans to implement. He is hoping to have the logo designed in time for their upcoming bi-annual DEA Drug Take-Back Day in October. The other Take-Back Day will take place in April. The coalition members in attendance agreed that the more unused/unwanted prescriptions are taken out of homes, the less

likely it will be for teens to get their hands on them. Sheriff Perzee reminded all present that they have drop-boxes at the county courthouse and jail that collects unwanted medicines and prescriptions year-round. McTaggart shared that the JJC distributes a Prescription Safety handout at events and also to all students visited by the Life Education Center. This document lists the 3 drop box locations in Iroquois County (Iroquois County Courthouse, Iroquois County Jail, and Illinois State Police headquarters in Ashkum) where unwanted/unused medicines can be safely disposed of.

A member questioned if the JJC could use DFC grant funds to purchase the Detera safe drug disposal bags like I-KAN's DFC grant had done. McTaggart pointed out that our DFC funds are to be focused on the prevention of underage alcohol and marijuana use and smoking/vaping. Our grant is not geared toward opioid prevention like I-KAN's grant. A member shared that the Kankakee area has recently hosted several senior fairs which focus on prescription safety and lock-up. The JJC is happy to assist with any such local event, but is unable to spearhead it due to the parameters placed on the spending of our grant funds.

A member wondered if Julie Larsen at the Kankakee County Health Department would be a good person to partner with regarding an opioid communication campaign. Others pointed out that Larsen recently left her position with the Health Department to work for a non-profit in the ag industry. Many shared that she and her expertise will be missed. Kayla Pacton is her replacement.

**C. JJC Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Goals/Objectives (needed for grant)**

King noted that the JJC's Vision and Mission Statements, as well as Goals and Objectives needed to be updated, as these were written when the JJC was under the SPF-PFS grant which focused primarily on the prevention of underage alcohol use. Thus, it needed to be revised to include underage alcohol, marijuana and tobacco/vaping which is not targeted under the current DFC grant. McTaggart led the group through discussions that led to the selection of the new wording as follows:

***Updated Vision Statement:***

To create a community where youth are drug and alcohol free.

***Updated Mission Statement:***

To reduce underage drug and alcohol use rates and negative consequences associated among 8th through 12th graders in Iroquois County.

***Updated Goal:***

To increase community collaboration by 36% and reduce youth substance abuse by 4% by September 29, 2025.

**Updated Objectives:**

- Increase the number of network agreements by 36%, from 16 to at least 25, in order to proliferate partnership activities by enhancing the operational processes of the JJC, increasing awareness of the vital role the JJC plays in the community's prevention crusade, and creating symbiotic partnerships with local agencies and youth by September 29, 2025 as measured by signed networking agreements.
- Decrease the percentage of 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders in Iroquois County who report drinking alcohol in the past year on the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) by 4%, from 40.3% in 2018 to 36.3% by September 29, 2025, by providing information about risks associated with underage drug use, presenting opportunities for parents and other adults to enhance their skills for talking with youth about these risks, providing alternative activities in Iroquois County to encourage positive behavior, and adopting/modifying school policies to increase parental responsibility for underage incidents to be measured by the IYS.
- Decrease the percentage of 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders in Iroquois County who report using marijuana in the past year on the Illinois Youth Survey by 4%, from 16% in 2018 to 12% by September 29, 2025, by providing information about risks associated with underage marijuana use, presenting opportunities for parents and other adults to enhance their skills for talking with youth about these risks, providing alternative activities in Iroquois County to encourage positive behavior, and adopting/modifying both school policies to increase parental responsibility for underage marijuana use at school and municipality policies to prevent smoking at parks to be measured by the IYS.
- Decrease the percentage of 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders in Iroquois County who report using tobacco/vaping products in the past year on the Illinois Youth Survey by 4%, from 17.7% in 2018 to 13.7% by September 29, 2025, by providing information about risks associated with underage tobacco and vaping use, presenting opportunities for parents and other adults to enhance their skills for talking with youth about these risks, providing alternative activities in Iroquois County to encourage positive behavior, and adopting/modifying both school policies to increase parental responsibility for underage tobacco and vaping use at school and municipality policies to prevent smoking/vaping at parks to be measured by the IYS.

**D. DFC (Drug-Free Communities) Grant Status**

McTaggart shared that the JJC's Annual Progress Report had been approved with flying colors and that we had also just received approval for next year's budget and 12-month action plan that will run 9/30/23-9/29/24. She noted that we plan to continue with many of the same initiatives, including youth prevention education programs, the TIP communication campaign, collaborations with other groups/agencies, etc. In addition,

we may start working with schools to possibly provide an alternative to suspension for underage drug and alcohol use on school grounds.

### **III. SUMMER EVENT SYNOPSIS**

#### **A. Summer in the Park**

McTaggart shared that the JJC was very busy with Summer in the Park, as we volunteered to take 3 days of activities. This year we focused on Mental Health Matters with 2 of the days focusing on Coping Skills with stations for the kids to migrate to every 35 minutes. Ollie the Owl was in attendance each morning to pose for pictures and give high fives.

The first day we focused on 2 types of coping skills - creative and social.

1. Creative coping skills involved activities such as coloring, drawing, writing, journaling, creating with origami, playing with different textures such as dry rice, building with blocks, playing with Play-Doh, and assembling their own bird feeders.
2. Social coping skills involved activities such as playing board or card games, playing outdoor games together such as jump rope with two holding the ends and one person jumping, dodgeball, playing catch, playing Spikeball, playing the bags game, etc. – as long as they were doing something together to help them cope.

The second day we focused on 3 types of coping skills – active, relaxing, and mindset shifting.

1. Active coping skills involved yoga poses, hula hooping, squeezing a stress ball in which they all took home, running in place, jumping jacks, jump roping, playing catch, exercising of any kind and dancing.
2. Relaxing coping skills involved the kids laying on beach towels and practicing deep belly breathing, guided imagery, progressive muscle relaxation, and looking at the clouds in the sky. They also blew bubbles to practice their breathing by breathing in through their nose and blowing out the bubbles slowly with their mouth. Harold the Giraffe stuffed animals were handed out as a relaxing coping skill of hugging a stuffed animal.
3. Coping strategies that shift the mindset involved them thinking of something positive, focusing on things they're grateful for, envisioning something they're looking forward to, thinking about something that makes them laugh, grounding method of coping – 5,4,3,2,1, focusing on things they can control, brainstorming solutions and talking about the importance of a growth mindset.

The kids were given a JJC stress ball and a laminated sheet containing these coping skills for them to practice on a regular basis. They also took home their journals and the birdfeeder with a guide on what birds to look for in their yards.

Unfortunately, the 3<sup>rd</sup> scheduled visit was canceled as the wildfires in Canada wreaked havoc on the air quality in Onarga and Summer in the Park was moved indoors. The planned activity was a Jeopardy style game in which each category was focused on the different kinds of health such as physical health, emotional/mental health, environmental

health, social health and brain push-ups/intellectual health. It was to be very interactive with fun games and challenges for the kids to enjoy with a chance to work as teams to accomplish their goal. We will be able to use this activity next year for sure. JJC members able to assist were Sarah Pree, Jenni McTaggart, Sherri Hendricks and Stephanie from Harbor House.

## **B. Parades**

McTaggart said that the JJC was able to participate in parades galore this summer and fall as you can see them listed on the slide – Onarga 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Watseka 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Clifton Fun Days, Milford Fun Days, Cissna Park Old Settlers, and Sheldon Fun Days. These were all different themes with the main focus being Ollie the Owl, our banners and making good choices. We were able to hand out the remaining bracelets that say “I am awesome!” which included our website address as well as our mints with an attached prevention message. As you can see in the pictures, we had many members helping including some of our student ambassadors. Thank you goes out to Larry and Patti Mennenga, Barb King, Sherri Hendricks, Madison McTaggart, Gina Greene, Sarah Pree and Jenni McTaggart for making this happen for our communities and helping to spread our prevention message.

## **C. Church Tent Silverware**

King shared that St. Peter’s Church’s Food Tent is always the most popular place for people to eat at the Iroquois County Fair. She said that the church had reached out and asked for the JJC to once again provide silverware packets stickered with a prevention message. Iroquois Memorial Hospital agreed to help us sponsor this initiative. We used the 1,500 silverware packets that were left over from last year’s fair. IMH purchased additional packets and both JJC and IMH stickers. Public service workers attached both the JJC’s prevention sticker and IMH’s sticker to each packet. The church tent was very happy to receive our donation and mailed a thank you note in appreciation.

## **D. Fair Booth**

Pree shared that after taking part in several events over the past year and noticing what other agencies were doing, we decided that the JJC needed to modernize our booth for this year’s fair. At previous events, we used large dated bulky display boards to hold our campaign material. Instead, this year we created a slideshow that detailed who the JJC is, our activities and initiatives, and general prevention TIPs. This slideshow played on a continuous loop on a large TV borrowed from Jenni’s son. We utilized a new tablecloth and backdrop (or step and repeat banner) that featured our mascot Ollie the Owl, the JJC and TIP the Scale logos, our website address, and Facebook information. Because the owl costume is very thick and unbearable to wear in warm weather, we propped the costume in a “nest” made out of a collapsible swimming pool covered with a disposable faux wood plastic tablecloth.

To attract families to our booth, we featured a different game each day. We had many repeat visitors for this reason. Our booth displayed both the winner board for our Rock

Hunt activity and the hoverboard and bike prizes that could be won at our fair High School Hangout activity. Fairgoers could pick up a free JJC pen, flashlight keychain, or Smarties candy with a prevention message, as well as literature about the JJC and our programs. (On a side note, we were able to give away so many flashlight keychains, as the order that we received for prom distribution had a large number that did not work, so the company sent us a second shipment of 1,000 free keychains.) All-in-all, I would say that our booth definitely caught the attention of those walking through the commercial buildings.

#### **E. Fair Rock Hunt**

Pree said that the JJC had decided to bring back the fair Rock Hunt as it was very popular and effective in getting people to learn about the JJC and TIP the Scale. We had discussed at our last meeting that instead of awarding candy to winners at this year's fair, it would be easier and cheaper to give out Cheez-Its and/or Goldfish crackers, as they would not require a refrigerator to keep from melting in the warm commercial building. We discovered that we could get a few flavors of larger packages of Cheez-Its at a reasonable cost. These larger packets seemed worthy of being called a prize and included the attached encouraging message *Smile and say CHEEZ! IT's going to be a "grate" day because...You're making extremely wise choices. Keep ROCKing life and preventing underage substance use.* We hid 10 rocks when the commercial building opened and 10 more around suppertime. Our booth had a large whiteboard that listed the names of the winners. Kids enjoyed seeing their own names and the names of friends on the board. Fairgoers were once again very excited to take part in this activity and it took very little effort.

#### **F. Fair Coloring Contest**

Pree stated that the JJC had partnered with the Iroquois County Fair to offer a coloring contest that was open to all ages. The fair paid someone to design the coloring page which included our owl mascot, the fair's new corn mascot named Maizie, and a calendar detailing the major events happening each day of the fair. Our booth served as a place where blank entry sheets could be picked up and completed sheets could be dropped off for entry. The fair awarded the excited winners with a gift certificate to a fair food vendor. We were all hoping to have a huge turnout for the coloring contest. Unfortunately, the number of entries was low. If this activity is planned for the next year, we discussed the need to have crayons available and a place for kids to color on site, as some fairgoers only attend the fair one day or were busy and forgot to enter once they left the booth. Also, awarding certificates to fair food vendors meant that the contest had to end early in order to have enough time for the certificates to be distributed and used and some families were unable to make it to the fair until the weekend.

#### **G. Fair Scavenger Hunt**

Pree shared that the fair had asked the JJC to help create some fun activities for youth and families to take part in during fair week. This was right up our alley, as the JJC is all about providing and promoting healthy alternative activities. Thus, we used some of our

grant funds to purchase the Goosechase app at a discounted trial rate for a fair activity. Anyone wanting to participate in the scavenger hunt could download the free app and enjoy jokes, animal facts, and fair history while completing various missions that involved snapping a photo of oneself with specified items around the fairgrounds. Some of the missions included: snapping a pic with Ollie the Owl at our booth, a lemon shake-up, a petting zoo bunny, a grand champion ribbon, a rooster, the cow milking demo, Harbor House's *Love is... Wall*, a Slow Boys' tractor, your choice of fair fun, a goat, an open class flower entry, Iroquois Memorial Hospital booth, the carousel, the fair queen, a fair cut-out photo op, a 4-H clover, Iroquois County Public Health Department's sign, a corn dog, a 4-H corn stalk entry, and petting a sheep.

We had many teams compete and received lots of awesome pics of families and friends enjoying quality time together at the fair. WGFA/WIBK graciously donated two 4 packs of family tickets for both Indiana Beach and Deep River Waterpark. We asked those working at surrounding booths to push a button that would randomly choose a number that would determine each of our four winners.

#### **H. Fair Teen Activity**

The JJC partnered with Harbor House to host the High School Hangout event which took place the Saturday night of the Fair from 7-9pm. Harbor House procured pizza and the JJC provided bottled water to give out to participants for free that evening. Many games were dispersed amongst the tables for anyone visiting to sit and play as a group. Stephanie brought her Polaroid camera which served as a photo booth option for teens as well. At the end of the evening, two raffle items were raffled off thanks to Iroquois Memorial Hospital and Mary Kay Lavicka putting in the request to Walmart of Watseka for a ten-speed bike and a hoverboard – very sought after items! The attendees had a great time – it ended up being more of a teen hangout than strictly a high school hangout, but it worked well. We had lots of leftover pizza so those were raffled at the end of the evening.

### **IV. YOUTH PREVENTION EDUCATION UPDATES**

#### **A. Too Good for Drugs**

Pre shared that we've been busy getting 7th grade, 8th grade, and high school youth prevention education programs prepped and delivered to area junior and senior high schools. Almost all participating schools have received their Too Good for Drugs programming. We put together a TIP swag bag for each teacher who is implementing the curriculum. These bags included JJC/TIP freebies as well as our Recovery Resource card, local Prescription Drop Box locations, and literature about the JJC and its initiatives. Once a teacher has finished teaching the program, we plan to thank them again this year with a \$30 Amazon gift card. The teachers truly appreciated this small token of gratitude this past school year.

#### **B. Life Education Center programming**

McTaggart reported that the JJC is once again partnering with the Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education to bring youth prevention education to K-6<sup>th</sup> grade students



throughout Iroquois County. The I-KAN ROE harbors the programming, contracts and payment while JJC member, Jenni McTaggart implements the programming in Iroquois County schools. We see every student in K-5<sup>th</sup> grade once for 45 minutes and every 6<sup>th</sup> grader twice for 45 minute sessions each school year. We give post activities in order for teachers to incorporate the lessons into their curriculum. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms are presented a contest opportunity to create a billboard promoting healthy choices while each teacher is presented a Best Practice Contest opportunity which is basically asking them to share their follow-up activities - both sponsored by I-KAN. Students take home our "Join the Prevention Movement to TIP the Scale" overall guide, our Medication Safety pamphlets, the LEC overall guide and grade-level guides for parents and guardians explaining what was discussed in the program with their child that day as well as parenting tips, and follow-up activities they can do at home to reinforce the programming.

One thing that we've encountered this year is that the students remember me, Jenni from the Summer in the Park programming or at the Fair, and parades and that I have an owl friend, not a giraffe friend. We are going to brainstorm with I-KAN to see how we can mesh the two as friends for a while to show the collaboration of the two entities and how we work together and complement each other's programming. A sticker recently created showing both Harold the Giraffe and Ollie the Owl was passed around to the group as one possible solution. McTaggart welcomed everyone's thoughts.

## **V. COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN UPDATES**

### **A. TIP the Scale Tuesday Celebrities**

Pree said that the TIP the Scale Tuesday initiative was started on Facebook as a way to not only spread our prevention message and raise awareness about the JJC/TIP the Scale campaign, but to also honor local community members for their efforts in the community. We ask participating individuals to record themselves sharing their advice to be used for a PSA on WGFA. We also post these Celebrity TIPs on our TiptheScale.org website. To date we have featured approximately 123 local celebrities offering advice to area families. It continues to be a huge success. Pree asked if anyone had any nominations for possible future celebrities who could be asked.

### **B. Toilet Times**

Pree shared that the start of a new school year brings the need for a new issue of our bathroom reader - The Iroquois County Toilet Times. We focused this issue on mental health and healthy coping skills. We tried to list as many different strategies as possible, so that readers could find an option that worked best for helping them to deal with stress. We also included a QR code linking to our Recovery Resource webpage. Our communication campaign committee was consulted through email to proof and give much appreciated feedback on the draft before it was sent to the printer. Once we receive the copies, we will laminate them and deliver them to area junior and senior high schools, youth centers, etc.

Pree pointed out that Milford now has a youth center named the Milford Crossroads Youth Center. We plan to reach out to them about displaying our bathroom readers. We also have a free quarterly ad that will run in the October Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce's newsletter that promotes the Toilet Times and offers an email address that can be contacted if a local business or organization would like to receive the Toilet Times to display.

Pree asked if anyone has any suggestions for topic(s) for the Winter Toilet Times. A few members pointed out that we could incorporate Sheriff Perzee's STARR program and the topic of teen prescription misuse into the next issue, as well as the risks of fentanyl-laced marijuana, heroin, etc. We might also include a different coping skill, such as box or triangular breathing, in future issues. We just did not have enough space in the latest issue to include all of the helpful coping strategies.

### **C. TIP Radio Advertising**

McTaggart shared that in addition to our Celebrity TIP PSA's playing on WGFA/WIBK, we also had four general ads running. The topics of the four ads were as follows: two general overviews of the JJC, an explanation of the JJC's initiatives, and general prevention advice for parents. Members were asked to give input for content of future PSA's. Stacey Smith said that we had options. Perhaps we would want to do one general ad (focused on Red Ribbon Week, Alcohol Awareness Month, prom/graduation time, etc.) in addition to the Celebrity TIP PSA's or we could eliminate the general ads altogether and just run more from the rotation of Celebrity TIPs. Members discussed how local celebrities' voices tended to better catch the attention of listeners. After discussion, the coalition was leaning toward running more of the Celebrity TIP ads and running an additional ad during important prevention-related months.

### **D. WGFA Hotline Interview**

Pree stated that RaDonna Hasselbring from Watseka High School will be participating in our next WGFA Hotline Interview. It will take place on Friday, September 22nd at 8:15 a.m. Because September is Mental Health Awareness Month, she will be speaking about her role as a school counselor, the need to utilize healthy coping strategies rather than turning to substances that only create additional problems, coping skill examples, and our Toilet Times. So, everyone, be sure to listen to WGFA that morning.

### **E. TIP PSA Contest**

McTaggart said that she and Pree had been talking about the possibility of hosting a PSA contest for 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to write a PSA for the JJC. Students would be given guidelines (including timing parameters from WGFA) for writing a PSA and a deadline. The winner would get to record their PSA and have it air on WGFA.

McTaggart asked for member feedback. The coalition discussed possibly going through an established group at the schools (such as Studio 9, SADD, NHS, etc.) in order to make the initiative more successful. The group decided to target only high schoolers with this contest and to work directly with schools to promote it, rather than advertising it on

the radio. Smith stated that we could have one winner from every high school in the county.

#### **F. Red Ribbon Week**

McTaggart reminded all present that Red Ribbon Week is October 23<sup>rd</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> this year. We have been asked to work with Jane Mathy in Clifton on putting on a Health Fair. We plan to have a booth there, but will have more details as soon as we are able to meet. This year's RRW theme is *Be Kind to Your Mind. Live Drug Free!* We are in the midst of brainstorming ideas of what to do at schools. We do have a pull-down menu specifically marked "Red Ribbon Week" on our TIPtheScale.org website linking schools to numerous ideas and resources already. We have been contemplating making a Red Ribbon Week scavenger hunt available for schools and families alike similar to the Goosechase app hunt we utilized at the fair this year. More details are to come. McTaggart encouraged members to share what they think the JJC could do for schools and families to promote the week.

#### **G. New Ideas????**

McTaggart asked if anyone had any new ideas for the TIP the Scale parent communication campaign. We have numerous things happening at all times, but we are liable to miss certain groups, etc. She pleaded with members to let us know what we are missing or what they think we should focus more attention on.

#### **H. Harvest Daze**

McTaggart shared that she is on a Harvest Daze committee this year that is helping to plan the Kidz Zone led by Susan Wynn Bence. Harvest Daze will take place on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> with the Kidz Zone open from 10-4pm. The JJC's portion of the Kidz Zone will be the following: We plan to have Ollie the Owl there in costume for pictures (signs will say to take your own pictures and use a certain hashtag to tag us), Ollie will dance with the kiddos during line dance and square dance lessons, we will host the spin-the-wheel game and the coloring contest in which Sarah Pree is hard at work creating the graphics for which include Ollie the Owl. Sarah Pree is creating stickers for them to hand out saying – *I visited the Kidz Zone at Harvest Daze* as well. If anyone has any newspapers, please get them to the old courthouse museum or Susan Wynn Bence for an activity they are doing. If anyone would like to volunteer for the Kidz Zone, let us know. If you'd like to help represent the JJC – our shift will be on Saturday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> from 10-12pm.

A suggestion was made to purchase a neck fan for volunteers wearing the Ollie the Owl costume. Because the costume is covered in heavy material, it is difficult for a person to wear the costume for any length of time on a hot day. Perhaps acquiring such a fan that hangs around one's neck will make it more bearable.

#### **I. WACC Adopt-a-Classroom Initiative**

McTaggart stated that the JJC will continue with the Adopt a Classroom initiative through the Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce with Mrs. Bohlmann's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class. We

ended the last school year discussing coping skills and resiliency with the students while doing an art project of lilac painting. Each student received a JJC student ambassador t-shirt as a reminder to continue the work the JJC began with their class. We will begin with a new class of 5<sup>th</sup> graders this fall. If anyone would like to represent the JJC in one of these classroom activities, please let us know and we can get your paperwork started.

## **VI. YOUTH GROUPS/ACTIVITIES**

Pree reported that we have no definite youth group activities planned at the present date. We are planning to continue working with Kristin Lundquist and the Donovan High School SADD Chapter, even though Kristin did retire this past spring. We are discussing possible Red Ribbon Week activities to take place at the school.

## **VII. OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **A. KEEP SHOWING UP campaign**

Pree shared that we are once again partnering with I-KAN to promote the *KEEP SHOWING UP. They're still growing up.* state-created campaign that focuses on underage drinking prevention and utilizes posters, postcards, newsletters, and social media posts. All of the campaign material will include both the TIP and JJC logos.

### **B. JAG Transportation Grant**

King stated that the Probation office is the lead agency for the JAG Transportation grant. She noted that a justice-involved person who meets the guidelines can receive gas money to get them to and from appointments. They were also able to obtain 2 bicycles that can be used to help someone get to work or re-established.

## **VII. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. JJC** - McTaggart said she and Pree are presenting an overview of the JJC at the next Gamma Nu meeting at the Crescent City Grade School on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm. King shared that she snail mailed letters to all mayors in the county to reintroduce them to the JJC. She did have one mayor reach out to her and is hoping to hear from more.
- B. Birth to Five Illinois** - Liz Gibson stated that Birth to Five finished their needs assessment. The two main issues that they found were that this area is a childcare desert and transportation difficulties exist. They are trying to make the public aware of the situation. Jim Rowe (Kankakee County State's Attorney) will be hosting a town hall on the matter on Thursday, September 21st at the Kankakee Public Library from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Gibson distributed several handouts to promote the event and raise awareness.
- C. National Guard** - Chase Cox reported that they are hiring 30 more people to work throughout the state on the counter drug task force. He noted that their outreach is growing throughout the central Illinois area.
- D. University of Illinois Extension Office** - Myla Munro shared that the new program year for her role in the schools starts October 1st. Their programs encompass health, community, economy, etc. She is currently planning the Welcome to the Real World

county-wide simulation that is being held on September 20th at Iroquois West High School.

After completing key informant interviews in Ford County, it was determined that schools were lacking programming regarding self-confidence and tobacco and alcohol prevention. Munro is going into PBL fourth grade classrooms with the 4-H program Health Rocks to help fill this void. She is unable to visit all of the schools in the counties that they cover to deliver all of the lessons. She noted that in the past they worked with the Cissna Park High School FFA Chapter to recruit teens for a teen teacher program. In this situation, they instructed teens on how to teach ag and STEM career-based programs to grade school students.

Munro noted that there are currently 16 community clubs in Iroquois County with 500 members.

- E. Clove Alliance** - Tammy Baragree stated that they have hired an additional advocate to work in Iroquois County. She introduced her new co-worker Tammy Selvey. Baragree noted that, unfortunately, the number of cases is not decreasing. Clove recently received funding that enables them to also serve Ford County. Gina Greene shared that Clove is ramping up their prevention education activities. Susan is visiting grade schools to educate area students about body safety. Clove has sexual harassment training sessions open.
- F. Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education's Truancy** - Sara Christensen stated that they are bringing back the Truancy Review Board as a step before filing on families and sending them to court for truancy issues. She noted that they have two caseworkers in Iroquois County (Kayla James and Noelle Bradley). One serves the eastside and the other the westside. Iroquois County State's Attorney Jim Devine will preside over the board in the small courtroom. They are planning to meet on October 11th at 3:00 p.m. Anyone wanting to serve on the board and assist in helping locate and provide resources is welcome to attend.
- G. Harbor House** - Taylor Eades stated that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She noted that domestic violence and truancy often overlap. Eades passed around a set of flyers detailing their upcoming events.
- October 2nd - Domestic Violence Awareness Month Day of Unity
  - October 5th - Exposing an Abuser's Playbook with Dr. Scott Hampton Zoom at Noon
  - October 19th - Wear Purple Thursday
    - Their Story - Teen Edition from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Kankakee Public Library 4th Floor
  - October 21st - Laugh for a Cause at Quality Inn and Suites in Bradley, Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
  - October 26th - Candlelight Vigil at 6:30 p.m. in Kankakee
  - October 23rd-31st - Pets for Prevention Photo Contest
- Eades also shared that free Domestic Violence Awareness Month yard signs could be picked up locally at the Harbor House Resale Shoppe in Watseka. She volunteered to deliver signs to other local agencies. Eades also mentioned that Harbor House is bringing trainings to the community and their shelter in Watseka is thriving.

## **IX. MEETING ADJOURNED**

Barb King noted that meeting on a Friday morning this time seemed to have a good turnout. Our next meeting is scheduled to take place in December. She asked those in attendance if they preferred Friday, December 8th or 15th. The group chose the earlier date. She will send out the next meeting date (12/8/23) 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.