

# Joint Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2024

## I. WELCOME

The Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County held a meeting on Friday, March 8, 2024. 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.

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
- 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 - Harbor House, Outreach Advocate
- Clint Perzee - Iroquois County Sheriff
- Liz Gibson - Birth to Five Illinois, Regional Council Manager
- Mary Kay Lavicka - Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Community Outreach Director
- Charles Cox - National Guard
- Kim Rabideau - Iroquois Mental Health Center, Clinical Director
- Morgan Hamblen - Iroquois Mental Health Center, Director of CAS
- Kira Ebert - State Representative Jason Bunting's Chief of Staff
- Jennifer Mansberger - Iroquois County State's Attorney Office, Assistant State's Attorney
- Jamie Mowrey-Bakken - Iroquois County Republican Women
- Kirk Gohsman - Banyan Treatment Center, Executive Director
- Tammy Marcotte - United Way, Coordinator
- Kristin Jackson - Child Network, Executive Director
- Sarah Winkel - Project Sun, Project Manager
- Joy Carlson - Parent Sector Representative
- Loren Petrakis - Kankakee County Health Department, Health Promotions Coordinator/Opioid Task Force - Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND)
- Kate Reed - Illinois Overdose Response Strategy Public Health Analyst
- Beth Gomez - Banyan Treatment Center, Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

- Scott Watts - Iroquois County Board, Member

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

### **A. Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Update - Opioid Communication Campaign**

King reminded all that the Iroquois County Opioid Coalition would be holding a separate meeting directly following the end of the JJC meeting. She encouraged members to attend if able to help with the Opioid Coalition's revival and planning of new projects.

King shared that the Opioid Coalition has been working with the JJC and the Sheriff's MAR grant to create a tri-fold brochure that can be distributed to local funeral homes to give to families burying a loved one, local pharmacies to include in customers' bags at checkout, discharged local hospital patients, and booth visitors at upcoming local events. The brochure would provide information on the proper use, storage, and disposal of medications in order to protect the community and environment. It also includes a list of safe medication disposal drop-off sites in Iroquois County as well as clarification for what items can/cannot be dropped off at these locations. The brochure draft was shared on a Google slide for all to see. McTaggart obtained pricing information from a local printer. (The brochure was later approved during the Opioid Coalition meeting. Iroquois Memorial Hospital is willing to print in-house copies that they will distribute in their emergency department and specialty clinics. Banyan Treatment Centers is willing to print in-house brochures that will be given out in other areas. The MAR grant will pay a professional printer to have additional copies printed for distribution. Pree will finalize the brochure and send it out to those who will be printing them.)

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

Sheriff Perzee briefly summarized the timeline of events that led to his programming in the jail and offered some of the benefits of the program. Then, he shared that the retirement of two deputies brought on the rearrangement of some of the shifts. Sheriff Perzee noted that the newly hired deputies and additional coverage that they provide will give a bigger presence at all times.

Sheriff Perzee stated that the training requirements for new corrections officers has forced CO Garcia to return to shift work until all are trained to standards. CO Garcia has been the medical officer, ensuring doctor's appointments are kept and medications are up to date. Garcia arranges telehealth meetings and coordinates the inmates who seek mental health treatment on Wednesdays. Garcia will primarily work the 7AM - 3PM shift and will continue his duties as the medical officer.

Sheriff Perzee went on to say that tablets used in the jail are working out very well and allow inmates to call/video chat with family and friends and utilize pre-loaded self-help applications. Tablets are serving as a source of revenue for the jail. He has applied for authorization to add the training available from his grant administrators on the tablets so

that inmates can view them. Sheriff Perzee has requested Smart Recovery online meetings be available on the tablets as well.

Sheriff Perzee has partnered with Beth Keller from Iroquois County Public Health Department to offer CPR classes to his deputies. This training will also be opened up to courthouse employees. He added that four squad cars have been equipped with AED units and that one AED unit will be added to the second floor of the courthouse. Two new AED wall-mounted units have been ordered for the courthouse and the Health Department's AED has been moved to the hallway for better access at the Administrative Center. Narcan kits (opioid overdose kits) will be added to each box. The health department administrator has requested the appropriate labels for the boxes and is awaiting their arrival.

By April 1st, the jail is hoping to be able to offer Buprenorphine medication injections that last for several weeks, thus removing the need for daily pills passed by the CO's and the worry that the medicine is not being ingested by the inmates. IMH has applied to add this medication to their pharmacy. The cost of the shots is expensive, but the Sheriff's Department was awarded a grant to provide this medicine for inmates whose insurance does not cover it.

Rabideau from Iroquois Mental Health Center comes to the jail every Wednesday to meet with inmates who request an appointment. He would like to see more inmates take advantage of this opportunity. Sheriff Perzee noted that Smart Recovery is quickly taking the place of AA/NA meetings. It is a program that can be worked both online or in a group setting. He would like to get someone to lead a group in jail. He has grant money that can purchase the guidebooks. Gohsman stated that Banyan utilizes Smart Recovery and he provided Sheriff Perzee with the name of a Banyan employee he can speak to about it.

Assistant State's Attorney Mansberger and Sheriff Perzee have discussed the possibility of pretrial credit for inmates who attend inpatient treatment in lieu of custody in jail. Sheriff Perzee would like to discuss potential partnerships with resale stores or other agencies who offer clothing and household items to individuals who have nothing, as many who are incarcerated for any length of time end up with their personal belongings disappearing. Lastly, Sheriff Perzee shared that they are continuing to work with the local workforce development agency in hopes of having an individual come to the jail to offer resume building and other services that will greatly help an inmate once they are released.

### **C. DFC (Drug-Free Communities) Grant Status**

McTaggart shared that the new fiscal year began September 30, 2023 and will end on September 29, 2024. She said that we are currently putting together our continuation grant to submit on Wednesday. She noted that today was the last day to make changes to our budget.

### **III. YOUTH PREVENTION EDUCATION UPDATES**

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

Pree shared a Google slide show that accompanied the coalition's meeting discussion. She stated that the JJC continues to work with 7th grade, 8th grade, and high school teachers to implement the Too Good for Drugs curriculum this school year. She shared that we are recognizing both youth prevention education teachers and their students on Facebook for completing the programs and encouraging them to enjoy healthy, happy drug-free lives. She reminded members that the JJC thanks these educators for their time and prevention efforts with a \$30 Amazon gift card.

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

McTaggart reported that the JJC is once again partnering with the Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education to bring Life Education Center youth prevention education to K-6<sup>th</sup> grade students throughout Iroquois County. She stated that she was most recently at Glenn Raymond School in Watseka and will finish up the school year at Donovan schools in April. McTaggart shared that each student is given the JJC's tri-fold brochure, a medication safety insert and magnet containing a list of Rx Drop Box locations in Iroquois County. She noted that the JJC puts out a Facebook post letting parents know that their children have received this prevention programming and that they should check their backpacks for additional information, follow-up activities, and contest(s). This post features the JJC's mascot Ollie the Owl and the Life Education Center's mascot Harold the Giraffe posing in front of the school and encouraging students to remember what they learned in the LEC lessons and to keep making healthy choices.

### **V. COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN UPDATES**

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

McTaggart shared that JJC had visited Ms. Law's 5th Grade Class at Glenn Raymond School on December 18th through the Adopt a Classroom initiative offered by the Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce. She stated that she and Pree gave a lesson on working together and how the JJC cooperatively works to improve our community. Giant paper snowflakes were made and the class chose to donate them to an area nursing home to brighten the residents' winter days. Photos of the class posing with their snowflakes and the residents enjoying the large snowflakes were shared.

#### **B. Bowling Against Bullying Event with Harbor House**

McTaggart stated that the JJC had once again partnered with Harbor House to host a Bowling Against Bullying event. She noted that we had an amazing turnout with 37 students and 13 parents in attendance. On February 10th at Lucky Lanes in Iroquois from 4:00-6:00 p.m., Iroquois County 6th-12th grade students were invited to attend and enjoy free bowling, food, prizes, and more. Harbor House utilized grant funding from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority to provide the food and Lucky Lanes generously donated the bowling alley as a venue for the event. The JJC offered a

Spin-the-Wheel trivia game focusing on bullying, healthy/unhealthy relationships, and peer pressure. Participating students received prizes of stickers, wrist bands, pins, mini plush Harbor House mascot penguins, etc. Upon leaving the event at its conclusion, students were given a Harbor House drawstring bag filled with resources, including a HH stress ball, JJC flashlight/keychain, HH literature, and JJC's Coping Strategy booklet. Taylor from Harbor House noted that she was grateful for the JJC's partnership.

**C. TIP the Scale Tuesday Celebrities on WGFA/WIBK**

Pree reminded members that the TIP the Scale Tuesday initiative was originally started on Facebook as a way to spread our prevention message and raise awareness about the JJC/TIP the Scale campaign as well as to honor local community members for their efforts in the community. To date, we have featured approximately 147 local celebrities offering advice to area families. Participating celebrities are asked to record themselves sharing their advice to be used for a PSA on WGFA/WIBK. We also post these Celebrity TIPs on our TIPtheScale.org website. Pree asked if anyone had any nominations for possible future celebrities.

**D. WGFA Hotline Interview**

Pree shared that (JJC Member and HH Prevention Advocate) Stephanie took part in our last WGFA Hotline Interview on February 2nd to promote the Bowling Against Bullying event. Stephanie gave a great interview. Pree noted that the JJC will still have several Hotline Interviews in the upcoming months and we would be looking for JJC members to volunteer to spread our messaging.

**E. TIP Radio Advertising**

Pree stated that in addition to our Celebrity TIP PSA's playing on WGFA/WIBK, we continue to have four general ads running. The topics of the four ads are as follows: two general overviews of the JJC, an explanation of the JJC's initiatives, and general prevention advice for parents. We are also sponsoring news and high school sports broadcasts.

The JJC will also have special radio PSA's run during Alcohol Awareness Month in April, Graduation time in May, and the Iroquois County Fair in July on WGFA/WIBK and WIQI.

**F. TIP PSA Contest**

McTaggart shared that the JJC launched its Teen Mental Health PSA Contest and shared a Google slide of the promotional flyer. It has been posted on Facebook, added to TIP the Scale's News section on its website, and emailed to all high school principals, YPE teachers, and SADD sponsors. Entries should include a 30 second PSA centered on Teen Mental Health and topics, such as substance abuse, depression, body image, self harm, stress/anxiety, etc. One winner will be chosen from each Iroquois County High School to record their message to play on WGFA/WIBK radio stations. McTaggart noted that the submission deadline date of April 5th was chosen to be after spring break to provide students extra time to create their PSA's. She noted that this initiative is sure

to connect kids with one another, show them that they are not alone, and encourage them to use healthy coping strategies. McTaggart asked members to share their ideas for prizes and let her know if they would like copies of the PSA flyer.

#### **G. WACC Connections Newsletter Ad**

Pree stated that the JJC's yearly membership in the Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce includes 4 free quarterly ads in their Connections Newsletter that is emailed out to all chamber members. Our ad which will be included in the April edition will either be our Prom or Alcohol Awareness Ad.

#### **H. IW Drama Program Ad**

Pree shared that the JJC advertised in Iroquois West's Matilda playbill. This is the only school who allowed paid ads in their play's program and it will take place later this month. We have a full page ad in color on the back of IW's playbill. The ad's graphic contained the JJC's mascot Ollie the Owl and was based on happenings from the play.

#### **I. Toilet Times (Spring)**

Pree shared that the spring edition of the Toilet Times had been drafted. A copy was passed around to all in attendance and a slide was shown to those on Zoom. This issue focuses on General Healthy Habits Trivia (including facts about nutritious eating, exercising, using tech responsibly, getting adequate sleep, making time for fun and relaxation, and choosing positive coping strategies), Basic Medicine Safety TIPS to Protect Loved Ones, and encouragement to understand/accept one another, respect/appreciate our differences, and work together to make a positive impact. Pree noted that information from the Sheriff's STARR Program/MAR Grant opioid communication campaign will be included on the bathroom reader during the next school year, as the campaign is still being developed. The Resource Recovery QR code that links to a list of resources on the JJC's website is again at the bottom of the bathroom reader. This draft was sent to the TIP Communication Campaign Committee for review and has received positive feedback. Unless any suggestions are given for improvement, it will go to print and be distributed to hang in all junior/senior high school bathrooms, youth centers, etc. later this month.

Rabideau shared that she had recently attended a training on Stacked Deck, an evidence-based curriculum for the prevention of problem gambling among teens and young adults. She noted that youth gambling has become an issue that we might want to consider addressing in our fall issue of the Toilet Times.

#### **J. Press Releases**

Pree stated that the JJC would write and submit four news releases to all of the local newspapers that will be used as match with our DFC grant. The topics of the news releases will be as follows:

1. Teen Mental Health PSA Contest Launch
2. Teen Mental Health PSA Contest Winners

3. Alcohol Awareness Month/Prom School Lunchtime Visits
4. To be determined

#### **K. Prom/Graduation Dates**

Pree stated that she had reached out to all area high schools to find out their 2024 prom and graduation dates. The dates are as follows:

##### **PROM**

- April 27th: Central HS, Cissna Park HS, Donovan HS, and Watseka HS
- May 4th: Iroquois West HS and Milford HS
- No Prom: Christ Lutheran HS

##### **GRADUATION**

- May 17th: Cissna Park HS, Donovan HS, and Milford HS
- May 18th: Iroquois West HS
- May 22nd: St. Paul's Lutheran School
- May 23rd: St. John's Lutheran School
- May 24th: Central HS and Watseka HS
- May 31st: Christ Lutheran HS
- No Graduation: Crescent City GS

Pree noted that because Crescent City GS deactivated their junior high school, they would no longer be hosting any type of graduation ceremony.

#### **L. Facebook Ads**

Pree shared that the JJC had budgeted \$130 for Facebook ads this year. The planned boosted Facebook posts will be as follows:

- Prom TIPs for Parents (\$25)
- Alcohol Awareness Month (\$25)
- Graduation (\$25)
- County Fair Activities/Contests (\$30)
- To be determined (\$25)

#### **M. Possible Promo Items for Prom Attendees**

Pree reminded members that last year the JJC had given out customized flashlight keychains and postcard messaging with Prom Safety TIPs to all students attending prom at Iroquois County high schools. She said that the JJC could give another promo item this year if they so desired. She shared a slide with four possible giveaways and their costs. These items included Popper Stress Reliever Silicon Phone Wallets, Rectangle Puzzle Credit Card Mints, Sunglasses, and Puzzler Pro Pens with Phone Stand Caps. She also shared that the JJC had recently given out maze pens at a recent visit to Milford High School. The group commented that they all liked the idea of the mints and sunglasses. Members also shared that the phone wallets and sunglasses are popular promotional items right now. A suggestion was made to request a sample of any items we were uncertain about either the quality or logistics of. More research will be done on which item to order for this initiative by asking area youth for feedback.

#### **N. Newspaper Ads**

Free reminded those in attendance that the coalition had decided to only pay for one newspaper advertisement each year in all of the local newspapers. This ad will soon be created featuring graduation TIPs for parents and be printed in each paper's issue of the graduates' photos. The same ad will also be placed in The Illinois Spirit's printing of the valedictorian/salutatorian speeches.

#### **O. Yearbook Ads**

McTaggart said that yearbook ads have been prepared and are ready to be sent to the four high schools (Cissna Park HS, Central HS, IWHS, and Watseka HS) who allow advertisements in their printings. These yearbooks will be printed at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year. She noted that the ads have been designed to catch people's attention.

#### **P. Baseball/Softball Sponsorships**

McTaggart continued to say that the JJC is advertising at every baseball/softball field throughout the county. These baseball/softball sponsorships include:

- Ashkum Athletic Association
- Buckley Youth League
- Cissna Park Recreation Board
- Clifton Little League
- Iroquois West Youth Baseball/Softball League
- Milford/Sheldon Little League
- Watseka Girl's Softball
- Watseka Youth League

She stressed that these ballfield signs will remain up throughout the entire high school season as well as the summer league season.

#### **Q. Tobacco/Vaping Signs at Area Parks/Ballparks**

McTaggart shared that the JJC had formerly discussed the idea of creating and purchasing Tobacco/Vaping Prevention Signs at area parks and ballparks and that the JJC had budgeted \$700 for this initiative. She noted that we are in the early stages of the planning process and she is talking with mayors across the county to see what they already have in place. She will be checking into the size of the sign and hoping to find one that is universal. Carley Advertising is willing to make the signs. Members agreed that such a sign would be a good conscious reminder for those attending games that smoking and vaping is harmful.

#### **R. Addressing Athlete Substance Use through Coaches**

McTaggart shared that she had seen another coalition was going through school coaches to address athlete substance use. She acknowledged that all students do not participate in sports, but many do and it would be a great way to reach many students and their parents. She had reached out to school athletic directors and



principals for input. The original thought was to provide a presentation for coaches to give to their athletes and parents at parent meetings that take place at the beginning of the season. It would include information about why substance use is a bad idea for athletes as well as touch on the code of conduct and consequences. However, school personnel suggested we create a video that coaches can share with students and parents on their Remind apps. A suggestion could be made for parents to watch it while they are waiting for their child after practice. The school also suggested creating a presentation that could be shared by teachers during their advisory periods where they talk about social/emotional learning.

JJC members liked the proposed initiative. Members suggested addressing Mental Health First Aid for coaches as well in a way that would incorporate both substance abuse and mental health together. Another suggestion was made to ask favorite area athletic trainers to help create the videos for parents.

McTaggart reminded members that we have been having small talks with school personnel about changing policies regarding school suspension for substance use. In place of suspension, there has been a push for mandatory education for those students and their parents.

## **S. Upcoming Summer Events**

Pre shared that it was time to start planning for the JJC's upcoming summer events. She pointed out that in the past we had a strong summer presence at area parades, the Summer in the Park program, and at the Iroquois County Fair. She asked members where they should focus their efforts this year. A suggestion was made to also take part in area summer library programs, as most of the local libraries do host such a program.

Pre asked if the group would like the JJC to check into providing silverware packets to food tents at the county fair as we had done in the past. The group decided that since the most popular food tent would no longer be operated by a local church but instead a business, we should look for other possibilities. A suggestion was made to provide popcorn bags for the 4-H clubs selling food under the grandstand if area banks were not already supplying these to the 4-H.

In regard to a possible contest idea for the JJC's fair booth, a suggestion was made that the contest could focus on substance use trivia, such as the amount of alcohol in flavored alcoholic drinks, such as hard liquor, beer, seltzers, etc. because many people do not realize how high the alcohol content is in flavored drinks. Another member mentioned playing a Name That Tune style of game. Another said that drunk goggles could also possibly be incorporated into the booth's activities. The coalition agreed to keep thinking on this matter.

Sheriff Perzee shared that Verizon is running fiber to the fairgrounds to get better service there. This has been 3 years in the making. He also noted that they are working with AT&T to boost their service there as well.

#### **T. Additional Prizes & Giveaways**

Pree shared a slide showing additional prizes/giveaways that the JJC will offer. She reminded the group that we have magnetic photo frames to give out to parents at upcoming events. These frames include small removable magnets in the center that feature the JJC's logo, owl mascot, and TIP the Scale Facebook and website information, as well as valuable parenting TIPs for preventing underage substance use. This frame was passed around for all to see and members were encouraged to take one for use on their fridges, filing cabinets, etc.

Pree also passed around a stuffed owl resembling Ollie the Owl (the JJC's mascot). She stated that the JJC had purchased several to use as prizes. The JJC plans to personalize the owls with small pet bandanas customized with the phrase, "Life is good...when you make wise choices with Ollie the Owl." The JJC's logo and TIP the Scale website and Facebook information will also be included.

#### **U. Possible Giveaways for Fair Attendees and Parades**

Pree shared that the JJC will need to order some promotional items to both attract visitors to their fair booth and later serve as a reminder of the JJC's efforts and the need to prevent underage substance use. She shared 3 possibilities: a brain-shaped hot/cold pack, a reusable plastic cup, and a pen. Members expressed some concerns that a cup could be used by someone underage to consume alcohol. Pree noted that the researched pens were the same nice pens that Harbor House had recently given out and that the price was very affordable. The nicer pens that the JJC had previously ordered were very popular, but costly. A member suggested that the nicer pens should be saved for special events and that the cheaper pens could be given out more freely at the fair and other events. Some coalition members stated that they liked the hot/cold packs and pens. Other members suggested chip and pizza cutters as other popular giveaway items.

McTaggart stated that the JJC had budgeted \$785 to purchase wristbands this year to give out at parades, Summer in the Park, etc. She had obtained pricing for the wristbands and noted that we could get 5,200 youth wristbands for \$594. She proposed purchasing some larger adult-sized bracelets as well to fit older kids and adults.

#### **V. New Ideas????**

Pree asked if anyone had any new ideas for the TIP the Scale parent communication campaign or the JJC's other initiatives. She stated that the JJC had been wanting to host a training for some time. She shared that Kate Reed (Public Health Analyst with the Illinois Overdose Response Strategy and trauma-informed consultant and trainer with Flourishing Lifeway) is now providing training. Reed shared that her training addresses both preventing trauma and healing from it. She noted that it's important to go after the root causes, rather than just use bandaids, and to also figure out how to stay healthy in the process. She noted the importance of practicing healthy listening and holding space for people who have gone through hard times. McTaggart asked if the training was appropriate for juniors and seniors in high school, as well as parents, teachers, etc. Reed assured her it was. McTaggart is going to look into writing such training into our DFC grant.

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

### **A. Alcohol Awareness Month Lunchtime Trivia Activities**

McTaggart noted that the JJC had struggled to create youth groups at area schools. Thus, we decided to go into schools during the lunch period so as not to interrupt the curriculum. She stated that we had partnered with the Donovan High School SADD Chapter to visit the school during Red Ribbon Week and The Great American Smokeout/Lung Cancer Awareness Month/No Vape November with related trivia and games during their lunch hour. These visits had gone quite well. The JJC is planning to contact principals to see if we are able to go into schools and do something similar during April for Alcohol Awareness Month/Prom time. She stated that we would give out Ollie the Owl stickers and possibly candy, wristbands, etc. She encouraged members to share any ideas they may have.

## **VII. OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **A. Illinois Youth Survey (IYS)**

McTaggart stated that the Illinois Youth Survey means a lot to the community. The results tell us what to focus our efforts on and enables our community to receive needed funding to address the issues. About half of the schools have already taken the survey and the other half will finish this month.

#### **2024 IYS Dates:**

1/29 Watseka JHS and HS

2/14 John L. Nash MS

2/21 IWMS

2/22 Cissna Park JHS and HS

3/12 Central HS, IWHS, & Milford GS and HS

3/14 Donovan JHS and HS

She stated that the county results would be available mid to late summer and the JJC would once again share the results on our website.

### **B. KEEP SHOWING UP campaign with I-KAN Partnership**

McTaggart shared that we have been 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. She noted that some of I-KAN's funding was cut and this resulted in the omission of our JJC and TIP logos on their professionally printed posters and postcards. McTaggart reminded the coalition that the JJC had quit dispersing our own posters so as not to inundate the schools with too many posters. King suggested that perhaps the JJC could print stickers with our logos that could be adhered to the bottom of their professionally printed materials. McTaggart said that she would reach out to I-KAN to find out if this was a possible solution to this issue.

### **C. Milford Community Wellness Program**

McTaggart stated that the Milford School District is in the final year of the grant they received to implement their Milford Community Health and Wellness Program. She said that the JJC had partnered with IMH and Robinson Chiropractic in February to present a program on Healthy Coping Skills at Milford High School. Students received an IMH bag holding an IMH stress ball, peppermint, a maze and word find puzzle, a customized notebook holding a maze pen, and a booklet listing numerous coping strategies.

McTaggart said that on March 12, Milford Grade School plans to host an evening parent event called Parent University. The Iroquois County Public Health Department's Hidden in Plain Sight exhibit will be present for parents to tour. Agencies are being encouraged to host a booth at this event. The JJC will have a booth and McTaggart will be presenting a half hour program on the topic of vaping.

Because Milford's Wellness Grant is ending, Barb will send Milford Superintendent Lindenmeyer information about the IL R 3 grant that is available to certain sectors in Donovan, Beaverville, Milford, Stockton, and Wellington. A member shared that this grant information had already been sent to the Donovan School District. The grant application is due April 30th. Youth development is one of the grant's areas of focus. A suggestion was made that this money could be added to make our programming even better for schools and youth groups.

## **VII. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. **Iroquois Mental Health Center** (Kim Rabideau) - IMHC is offering Anger Management Classes which are being taught by Sarah Meyer. Morgan Hamblen has certification to work with children aged 0-5 years. IMHC's forensic program is huge and they are continuing to see people in jail and have a presence in the Milford School District. Ben Meils has left IMHC. The diversion group, formerly Healthy Habits, continues to meet on an as needed basis. IMHC is hoping to get parenting groups up and running again soon.
  
- B. **Birth to Five** (Liz Gibson) - Birth to Five is seeking feedback and suggestions for improving mental and behavioral health for children aged 0-8 years and their

families. Please email Liz Gibson ([lgibson@birthtofiveil.com](mailto:lgibson@birthtofiveil.com)) to share such information about this subject.

- C. **National Guard** (Chas Cox) - The National Guard is waiting to receive funding in order to hire additional needed personnel.
- D. **Harbor House** (Taylor) - Harbor House was busy throughout the month of February with Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month activities, such as the Bowling Against Bullying event that was discussed earlier in the meeting. She credited the JJC with the suggestion that was made at the last meeting for Harbor House and Clove Alliance to collaborate on a digital safety presentation for parents. She noted how successful the *Building Better Connections: Talking to Teens about Digital Safety* webinars the two groups partnered to host in February had been. Taylor noted that they had put together a resource containing helpful informational links for parents about this matter. King stated that the JJC will look into sharing this valuable resource in some format.
- E. **Iroquois Memorial Hospital** (Mary Kay Lavicka) - Iroquois Memorial Hospital recently presented to Iroquois Paving Corporation employees on the importance of handling stress and where to find available resources. Another company recently reached out to IMH about wanting to help their employees help their families. This company is starting up drug testing and they were curious about what drugs police are currently seeing in the area. Sheriff Perzee shared that at the present time, they are seeing a little bit of everything. Lavicka applauds the companies for trying to do good things.
- F. **Iroquois County Public Health Department** (Eric Ceci) - Ceci was unable to attend the JJC's meeting, but had emailed King asking her to share an update on his behalf. Through the Kankakee County Health Department, ICPHD will soon secure Narcan stickers to put on AED boxes that also have Narcan in them. ICPHD continues to distribute Narcan to the public.

ICPHD is looking to update some of its Hidden in Plain Sight display soon, and will be exhibiting at Milford Public School next week.

ICPHD is once again offering Safe Sitter classes for youth grades 6-8. The first class will be on March 27 in the Iroquois County Administrative Center. Cost is \$35 per student, which is due at registration, which is cutoff after March 13.

March 13 is also ICPHD's initial IPLAN meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Iroquois County Board Room. Community Partners are invited to participate.

## **IX. MEETING ADJOURNED**

Our next meeting is scheduled to take place on **Friday, June 7th, 2024**. King will send out the next meeting date (6/7/24) 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. King also invited all to attend the next Opioid Coalition meeting which will be held on April 26, 2024 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in this same room.

Meeting adjourned.