

# Joint Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2024

## I. WELCOME

The Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County held a meeting on Friday, June 14, 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
- Stephanie - Harbor House, Prevention Advocate
- Clint Perzee - Iroquois County Sheriff
- Eric Ceci - Iroquois County Public Health Department, Administrator
- Liz Gibson - Birth to Five Illinois, Regional Council Manager
- Mary Kay Lavicka - Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Community Outreach Director
- Morgan Hamblen - Iroquois Mental Health Center, Director of CAS
- Sarah Winkel - Project Sun, Project Manager
- Stacey Smith - WGFA/WIBK Radio Station Manager
- Tammy Barragree - Clove Alliance, Legal/Medical Advocate

## II. JJC INFORMATION/GRANT UPDATES

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

Barb King shared that they are busy collecting opioid-related data. Eric Raymond (ICOM) is able to track some details related to possible opioid issues using keywords. King hopes to start presenting these more credible stats soon. King also stated that the Opioid Coalition is putting together a pull tab flier based on the design and content of their Recovery Resource Card. Each pull tab includes a QR code that can be scanned with a smartphone and links directly to the list of Recovery Resources on the JJC's

website. A copy of the flier was shown in the meeting slide presentation as well as passed around the room.

Sheriff Perzee noted that the Opioid Coalition had been working with the JJC and the Sheriff's MAR grant to create a tri-fold brochure that has been being distributed to local funeral homes to give to families burying a loved one, discharged local hospital patients, family members of those receiving hospice, booth visitors at upcoming local events, etc. It provides 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. This medication safety brochure is being printed and distributed by various agencies, such as Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Gibson Hospital, Banyan, Knapp Funeral Homes, Uplifted Care, etc.

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

Sheriff Perzee shared that they are in the fourth week of Smart Recovery (an evidence-based, secular-based online program in addiction recovery) and currently have 6 inmates participating. He noted that those taking part seem engaged and are completing their homework. All inmates receiving buprenorphine are encouraged to get involved in the program, but anyone with addiction can participate. Smart Recovery takes place on Thursdays and inmates can also see a mental health counselor if they choose on Wednesdays. Sheriff Perzee requested that 10 JJC folders be brought to the jail to be used by inmates taking part in the program.

#### **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 stated that our continuation grant has been submitted and is pending approval. We will know in late August if our funding for next year is approved.

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

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

Preze stated that all of the JJC's 7th grade, 8th grade, and high school youth prevention education teachers completed implementation of the Too Good for Drugs programming. She said that she had picked up all of the materials and delivered a \$30 Amazon gift card to thank the educators for teaching this worthwhile curriculum. Preze noted that workbooks for the new school year had been ordered and are currently in our storage room awaiting the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

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

McTaggart reported that the JJC is continuing to partner 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 for the 2024-2025 school year. They have begun putting together a schedule for visiting schools to deliver lessons in the classroom again for the upcoming year.

McTaggart shared that each LEC student was 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.

Sarah Winkel, who serves on the I-KAN Regional Office of Education and Pledge for Life Partnership subcommittee tasked with determining how Life Education Center lessons should proceed, shared that the mobile units that were used to house the LEC lessons in the past are old and unusable. They are investigating to see if there is funding to replace the units. She noted that the lessons had been moved out of the units and into the school's classrooms due to COVID with the intent to move the lessons back to outside of the normal classroom once the pandemic passed. She added that the curriculum needs to be restructured to be in the classroom setting. Winkel stressed that the LEC program will continue and that the committee is working to determine its best future moving forward.

## **V. COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN UPDATES**

### **A. WGFA Hotline Interview**

Pree shared that (JJC Member and Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education Assistant Regional Superintendent) Patty High took part in one of our WGFA Hotline Interviews on May 9th to share TIPs with families on how to safely host graduation celebrations and other teen gatherings. Then, on May 10th, Jenni McTaggart participated in a WGFA Hotline Interview to discuss teen mental health and the winners of the JJC's Teen Mental Health PSA Contest. They both gave great interviews. Pree noted that the JJC will still have one more Hotline Interview in July to inform the public about the JJC's Iroquois County Fair activities.

### **B. 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 156 local celebrities offering advice to area families. She shared that some of our recent celebrities have included the Iroquois County Fair Queen, the leader of a local recovery group, area teachers, and community volunteers. 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.

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

Pree stated that in addition to our Celebrity TIP PSA's playing on WGFA/WIBK, the JJC also had special radio PSA's run during Red Ribbon Week in October, Alcohol Awareness Month in April, and Graduation time in May on WGFA/WIBK, WIQI/WHPO, and WVLI/WFAV/WIVR. She noted that we will soon have another special PSA run in July promoting our Iroquois County Fair activities on these same stations.

### **D. Teen Mental Health PSA Contest**

McTaggart shared that the JJC's Teen Mental Health PSA Contest had been an overwhelming success. Submitted entries were to include a written 30 second PSA centered on Teen Mental Health. To assist in choosing the winning PSA's, entries were divided into subcategories, such as substance abuse, depression, body image, self harm, stress/anxiety, etc. Winning entries were submitted from Central High School, Donovan High School, and Milford High School. Winners from both Central High School and Milford High School were able to experience the excitement of recording their PSA's in the WGFA studio. Donovan High School recorded their winning PSA's on a cell phone and emailed them into the studio. Pree played one of the winning PSA's for members in attendance to hear. All in attendance agreed this initiative was especially impactful as it provided an opportunity for students to speak directly to their peers about this important subject.

### **E. 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 July edition will be our Iroquois County Fair ad.

### **F. Toilet Times**

Pree reminded members the spring edition of the Toilet Times focused on General Healthy Habits Trivia, 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. This publication hangs in all junior/senior high school bathrooms, youth centers, etc.

Content for next year's issues was discussed, including information from the Sheriff's STARR Program/MAR Grant opioid communication campaign which is still being developed. Kim Rabideau (Iroquois Mental Health Center) had shared at the JJC's last meeting that youth gambling has become an issue that we might want to consider addressing in our fall issue of the Toilet Times. The JJC will be reaching out to IMHC for information on this subject for our next publication. Morgan Hamblen (IMHC) shared that this gambling behavior originally started in school with card games and has continued to grow. Now social media influencers run online contests which are considered gambling.

#### **G. Facebook Ads**

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

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

A suggestion was made that the final Facebook ad should relate to local Homecomings.

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

McTaggart shared that JJC had visited Ms. Law's 5th Grade Class at Glenn Raymond School in May through the Adopt a Classroom initiative offered by the Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce. She stated that she and Pree gave a "Plant the Promise" lesson that compared human bodies to plant bodies. We discussed making good choices for our bodies and minds and the importance of utilizing positive coping strategies to help us grow the good. Each student was given a Positive Coping Strategy booklet and signed a pledge to make healthy choices to ensure they can grow to their full potential. Students then planted a petunia in a flower pot that they had decorated with a picture of themselves using a healthy coping strategy. Students took home their potted petunias and had the option to use their promise and flower as a Mother's Day gift.

#### **I. Spring Concert Program Ad**

Pree stated that Watseka High School offered the JJC free ad space in their Spring Concert Program. We submitted an ad that reminded parents that they are the most important influence in their teen's lives when it comes to using mind-altering substances and encouraged parents to be involved in their children's lives, set a good example, and speak openly about their family's rules and the effects that drugs and alcohol can have on a young person's life.

#### **J. Promo Items for Prom Attendees**

Pree stated the JJC had once again purchased and dispersed promotional items to encourage teens to be safe during prom season. In the week leading up to each Iroquois County high school's prom, the JJC gave out customized maze pens with a cell phone holding cap attached to a postcard with Prom Safety TIPs to all students attending prom. As a second reminder on the actual night of prom, the JJC gave out customized sunglasses with a reminder for students to focus on making choices that will give them a bright future.

#### **K. Press Releases**

Pree stated that the JJC would write and submit four news releases to all of the local newspapers to be used as match for our DFC grant this fiscal year. The topics of the news releases are 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

Pree shared a slide showing the latest press release that had run in The Gilman Star. A suggestion was made to send these news releases to all local radio stations so that snippets could be pulled and read during local radio news broadcasts. Sheriff Perzee offered that the JJC could send future press releases to Sandy Drake in the Sheriff Department's Office for the Correction's Office to disperse to all media outlets, including newspaper, radio, and TV.

#### **L. Newspaper Ad**

Pree 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 featured graduation TIPS for parents and was printed in each paper's issue of the graduates' photos. The same ad was also placed in The Illinois Spirit's printing of the valedictorian/salutatorian speeches.

#### **M. Graduation Fans**

Pree shared that the JJC had distributed 1,070 fans with a prevention message to all high schools in Iroquois County as well as St. John's Lutheran School for use during their graduation ceremonies. If you attended one of these commencements, you most likely noticed the fans getting quite a bit of use, as most local school gyms are not air-conditioned.

#### **N. Yearbook Ads**

McTaggart said that yearbook ads were 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 this summer and most likely dispersed at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

#### **O. 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 are proud and prominent and will remain up throughout the entire high school season as well as the summer league season.

**P. Onarga ALA Poppy 5k Run/Walk Sponsorship**

Pree stated that the JJC helped to sponsor the Onarga Auxiliary's Poppy 5K Run/Walk in May. In addition to donating several items (TIP bracelets, notepads, Coping Skills booklets, brochures with Rx magnet inserts, and Smarties prevention postcards) for goodie bags distributed to all registered walkers/runners, the JJC also gave 2 stuffed owls resembling our mascot wearing JJC bandanas for the top winners in the youth category. The youth winners were pictured holding the JJC owls on Facebook. Pree noted that this type of sponsorship was a great opportunity for the JJC to spread its prevention messaging, as we are usually unable to sponsor many events, as our grant funding cannot be used to purchase food or donate cash to another cause.

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

McTaggart shared that the JJC had budgeted \$700 to purchase Tobacco/Vaping Prevention Signs for area parks and ballparks as a conscious reminder for those attending games that smoking and vaping is harmful. She noted that village presidents/city mayors/park boards had been contacted in regard to this matter. The first batch of signs have been printed. McTaggart held up a sign for all in attendance to see. She noted that a metal screw will be used to attach each sign to wherever each park decides to display it. McTaggart stated that she has heard back from more towns since placing the first order and believes we will hear from more. She plans to deliver the signs very soon.

**R. Upcoming Summer Events (Parades and County Fair)**

McTaggart shared that it was time to start planning for the JJC's upcoming summer events. She noted that the JJC had already signed up for both Watseka's and Onarga's Fourth of July parades. McTaggart asked if anyone is able to represent the JJC in the parade during Milford Fun Days, as she and Pree are both unable. Dates of other upcoming festivals/parades were shared and she encouraged members to take part and help throw out TIP bracelets to parade goers. Winkel stated that Chebanse is preparing for their Fun Days which is held every five years. It will take place on September 25th. The JJC should contact James Smith if wanting to take part in its festivities. McTaggart noted that the JJC had been asked to have a booth/activity on September 21st at the Sheldon Fun Days.

Pree shared that the JJC would once again be having a booth in the south commercial building during the Iroquois County Fair. We plan to offer a different daily game (giant Connect 4, giant Jenga, bags, Coney Island Toss, Bozo Buckets, Golf, etc.) for kids as we did last year, as it was a big draw for getting families to visit our booth. We will pass out our Ollie stickers to kids who play. She wondered if the JJC should also purchase Ollie tattoos as another option that might excite kids to

return to our booth. Members liked the idea and suggested having a spray bottle and paper towels on hand to assist the kids in applying the tattoos.

We also plan to continue hosting our successful Rock Hunt Activity. Some fairgoers take this rock safari pretty seriously and often stalk whoever is hiding the rocks in hopes of finding one and getting their name on our winner board. We will hide 10 rocks featuring our mascot Ollie the Owl throughout the fairgrounds twice a day. Anyone finding a rock will bring it to our booth and claim a prize. Last year we gave out Cheez-its as the prize for this activity and most kids were not excited to receive the crackers. Pree asked for prize ideas for this year. Members suggested Takis (not the blue or purple kinds), Airhead Extremes, popular full-size candy bars, and little donut packs. Pree will design a prevention message postcard for each delicious prize.

We will once again have our mascot costume set up at our booth as a photo op. After discussion, JJC members decided to use this photo op as part of a simple contest, as in the past we have spent funds and a great deal of time organizing contests that do not attract many participants. Ollie the owl will sit in a nest with his family of three baby owls. Fairgoers will be challenged to snap a photo with Ollie and his family and post it on Facebook with a simple hashtag, such as #TIPtheScaleFair. Winners will be randomly selected to receive family-oriented prizes to be decided at a later time. McTaggart stated that we would welcome any prize donations that any agency would like to make.

Pree shared that we will once again have a slide show playing on a large TV at our booth showcasing prevention information and the JJC's initiatives. She said that the JJC has many freebies (TIP brochures, Recovery Resource Cards, pens, photo frame magnets, fans, notepads, etc.) that we can hand out at our booth. She noted that we often look around at what neighboring agencies are handing out so that we do not hand out the same items. She asked members if the JJC should also order hot/cold packs as a draw to get parents to visit our booth. She showed a sample pack. Many members stated that they would like to receive one of these. A suggestion was made to have some frozen at the fair to give out on hot days. These packs will be ordered provided they will arrive on time.

A suggestion was made at our last meeting 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. Pree shared that ProHarvest has already purchased these bags for the 4-H stand.



Sheriff Perzee asked for the JJC's assistance in securing a booth next to ours in the south commercial building. McTaggart said that she will make the necessary contact to ensure this happens.

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

McTaggart reminded the coalition that other prevention groups have had success going through school coaches to address athlete substance use. She shared that the JJC has not yet moved forward on this new initiative, as they are wanting more feedback. She believes that this would be worthwhile, as people in our area take athletics seriously and there is a strong relationship between coaches and kids. Members discussed the importance of stressing the reasons behind the rules/laws regarding substance use to youth. A video link could be sent out by schools through their Remind apps. A suggestion was made to include travel ball and summer coaches, as well as school coaches. The JJC will continue working on this project over the summer in hopes of having it ready by fall.

#### **T. New Ideas????**

McTaggart asked if anyone had any new ideas for the TIP the Scale parent communication campaign or the JJC's other initiatives. She reminded everyone that the JJC is still looking into hosting a training on both preventing trauma and healing from it with Kate Reed from Flourishing Lifeway as the leader/speaker.

Members shared how the recent Trauma and Resilience Summit hosted by Success by 6 had been attended by many. It was noted how helpful it was that they were able to offer the training FREE, as many of the attendees operate on grant budgets. Success by 6 is already planning another training, as many have been asking when the next one will be. King noted that if the next training is cope-approved, she would like to send her officers. King will send more information about cope-approved trainings to Liz Gibson and Sarah Winkel.

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

#### **A. Prom Safety/Alcohol Awareness Month/Distracted Driving Awareness Month Lunchtime Trivia Activity**

McTaggart noted that the JJC had a great time talking to students at all of the area high schools about prom safety, Alcohol Awareness Month, and Distracted Driving Awareness Month. She noted that lunchtime is the perfect time to go into schools so as not to interrupt the curriculum. Any students wanting to take part simply walked up to us and answered a related trivia question. Then, they took a turn playing the Bozo Buckets game and won a prize. We gave out candy, pens, wristbands, flashlight keychains, Ollie stickers, etc. The JJC is considering contacting junior high principals to see if we are able to go into schools and do a similar lunchtime trivia game during Red Ribbon Week this fall with younger students.

## **B. Summer in the Park**

McTaggart shared that on June 12th the JJC helped to provide the programming for the Summer in the Park program at Durham Park in Onarga and the morning went very well. We partnered with the Sheriff's Department for a morning focused on drug/alcohol prevention and child safety awareness. The theme was "Donut do drugs!" Summer in the Park grant funding purchased donuts for those attending the children's program. The JJC hosted a Jeopardy-style game with questions and physical challenges based on drug prevention and healthy activities. Sheriff Perzee with the help of a few of his deputies, showed the children the many tools/equipment they use on the job. Kids also had the opportunity to climb inside a police cruiser. Sheriff Perzee passed out child identification kits for all of the children to take home to their families.

The JJC and Sheriff Perzee are scheduled to take part in one more Summer in the Park day on June 25th. We will have stations set up with Minute to Win It style games, an obstacle course, etc. The emphasis will again be on drug prevention and healthy choices.

## **VII. OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **A. School Policy Changes Regarding Vaping**

McTaggart shared that the American Lung Association has created an alternative to suspension or citation program called INDEPTH (Intervention for Nicotine Dependence: Education, Prevention, Tobacco, and Health). This program is FREE for any school or community to use. McTaggart noted that she was unaware of any schools utilizing this program and vaping is becoming a huge issue. She stated that the JJC does not have the manpower to assist the schools with this program, but wanted to offer it up as a possibility. Pree played a short video explaining the program. McTaggart asked any members to let her know if they would like to serve on a committee regarding this initiative.

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

McTaggart stated that the Illinois Youth Survey provides useful data for our community. The results tell us what to focus our efforts on and enables our community to receive needed funding to address the issues. She stated that the county results would be available toward the end of summer and the JJC would once again share the county results on our website. She noted that participating schools each receive their individual results a few weeks after taking the survey, but this information is not made available to the public.

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

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. This campaign utilizes posters, postcards, newsletters, and social media posts. In the past, I-KAN had included our JJC and TIP the Scale

logos on each of these campaign products. However, they have since been told that they may not add our logos to their materials.

McTaggart stated that by not being included in this campaign we are losing quite a bit of exposure in Iroquois County. The JJC originally had its own communication campaign that focused on the three substances our grant covers, but gave it up as schools were inundated with posters from both I-KAN and the JJC and I-KAN had agreed to partner with us on their campaign. She asked the coalition how we can continue to deliver our messaging, which includes the prevention of underage alcohol, tobacco/vaping, and marijuana use. Suggestions included: putting together a bag of prevention information and walking door to door to hang on doorknobs in different neighborhoods on a designated day at a predetermined time like done in other towns, putting together bags with prevention information to be handed out at ballgames, mailouts, creating TikToks or billboards with sports teams using positive peer pressure, and sticker shock initiatives to educate parents about nicotine, cannabis, and alcohol where/when it is being purchased as a reminder it should not be given out to kids. After discussion, the group decided to look more into the creation of billboards and a sticker shock campaign.

**D. Milford Community Wellness Program (Parent University)**

McTaggart stated that the Milford School District was in the final year of the grant they received to implement their Milford Community Health and Wellness Program. One of their last initiatives was to host a Parent University night for Milford Grade School parents. The JJC presented on the topic of Vaping and also hosted a resource booth throughout the evening.

**E. Birth to Five Update**

Liz Gibson shared that Birth to Five IL has been conducting early childhood assessments in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. They have identified five key findings through their work, two of which they want to currently address - A centralized community network for resources, referrals, and information as well as to provide mental health supports/wraparound services for all children ages birth to eight, all families and all educators in Region 32. Through the support of their community partners on their Action Plan, they will be adding to the online Kan-I Help directory and the phone 211 directory and also plan to offer parent/peer mentor support groups. At the end of the month, their office will launch their published findings on the mental and behavioral health needs of the Region. Gibson will email King the link to share with the coalition as well as the social media QR codes. Gibson will continue to share information at upcoming meetings.

**F. Synthetic THC Products Disguised as Snacks Article**

King shared a recent Chicago news article regarding the dangers of synthetic THC products being disguised as snacks. She noted that many young ones are ending up in emergency rooms because they are touching parents' fentanyl or getting in a candy dish that isn't actually candy. She stressed that we need to address the issue because it will

most likely be coming to our area soon. King is talking with those in probation about the matter in hopes of keeping such products out of kids' hands. She will share the article with the coalition through email. Pree will send her the link for the article.

#### **G. JAG Transportation Grant**

King reminded members in attendance that the probation office is the lead agency for the JAG Transportation grant (a mileage grant that offers transportation assistance for any justice-involved person). She continued to say that the JAG Transportation Grant has been unsuccessful in Iroquois County due to a lack of Uber/Lyft services and public transportation in our area. Although they hoped to do better, they have been unable to make it work. She noted that they were able to purchase two bikes with grant funds to assist, but have had a difficult time giving them away because they must go to someone who lives within five miles of work or the Iroquois Mental Health Center.

### **VII. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A. Harbor House** (Stephanie) - Harbor House is gearing up to host their Pride Disco event on June 22nd in Bourbonnais. Stephanie shared that she has been hosting Dungeons and Dragons gatherings at the Central Citizens' Library. They have a special Dungeons and Dragons event scheduled for June 29th. Stephanie noted that Harbor House currently has no grant funding, so they are looking to partner with other agencies and be creative in brainstorming ideas to continue to have a presence in the community.

**B. Iroquois County Public Health Department** (Eric Ceci) - Ceci shared that the ICPHD released a survey four weeks ago to assist them in putting together their new IPLAN for the county. He noted that 170 responses are needed, but he is hoping to get at least 300 responses. He passed out flyers with a QR code to take the survey and encouraged members to promote the survey, as they are still needing representation from all areas of the county.

Ceci stated that the ICPHD is still looking into a sharps disposal grant. He would like to get permission from the county administrative center to set up a collection box there. He also hopes to get some small collection containers for police so that they are able to safely dispose of any needles they come across when out in the community.

Ceci shared that their school nurses are noticing food insecurity at area schools as a result of either homelessness, parents not being home to make food for their children, etc. He thinks that it would be beneficial for the Ford-Iroquois Extension Office to offer a program on easy cooking for kids.

Ceci stated that sexually transmitted diseases are on the rise everywhere. There has especially been an increase in congenital syphilis. Ceci is wanting to do STI testing at the ICPHD.

Lastly, Ceci noted that ICPHD has several social media posts going out in regards to June being Pride Month and Men's Mental Health Month.

**IX. MEETING ADJOURNED**

Our next meeting is scheduled to take place in September. A date will be chosen closer to the time. 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](http://TIPtheScale.org) website.

Meeting adjourned.