

Joint Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2024

I. WELCOME

The Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County held a meeting on Friday, September 27, 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
- Liz Gibson - Birth to Five Illinois Regional Council Manager
- Morgan Hamblen - Iroquois Mental Health Center Director of CAS
- Sarah Winkel - Project Sun Project Manager
- Jed Whitlow - Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Co-Chair, Iroquois County Board Member, Retired Police Officer
- Joy Carlson - Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Co-Chair
- RaDonna Hasselbring - Iroquois County School District #9 Counselor
- Sara Christiansen - Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education Truancy/Attendance Assistance Program
- Jenna Brutlag - Parent
- State Senator Tom Bennett

II. JJC INFORMATION/GRANT UPDATES

A. Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Update - Opioid Communication Campaign

Barb King reminded JJC members that the Opioid Coalition has been partnering with other agencies to distribute the STARR Program Medication tri-fold brochure throughout the county in order to reduce the possibility that opioids/medications will harm others and

the environment. This brochure provides information on the proper use, storage, and disposal of medications, as well as a list of safe medication disposal drop-off sites in Iroquois County. The Opioid Coalition has also put together a pull-tab flyer resembling their Recovery Resource Card. Each pull tab includes a QR code that can be scanned with a smartphone and links with the list of recovery resources on the JJC's website. The plan is for this flyer to soon hang in bar and gas station restrooms throughout the county.

King shared that they are continuing to collect stats on opioid-related calls to ICOM. She noted that they have been shocked by the number of suicide calls that are received. King said that they will be scheduling an Iroquois County Opioid Coalition meeting soon to discuss these findings and plan future initiatives to combat the opioid crisis.

B. IL MAR Grant Update

Sheriff Perzee shared that the Sheriff's Department hosted a booth at this year's Iroquois County Fair where he and his deputies distributed child ID kits and Roth ID Tags, as well as their Recovery Resource Cards to those in attendance.

Sheriff Perzee stated their number of participants in the jail's Smart Recovery (an evidence-based, secular-based online program in addiction recovery) varies anywhere from two to eight people. He noted that Iroquois Memorial Hospital hired a new person to assist them with the meetings. Friends and family are able to attend meetings with inmates.

Sheriff Perzee said that they are once again planning a DEA Drug Take-Back Day this October. They continue to work with Livingston County on disposing of the medications that are collected. He stressed that the Iroquois County Jail is a location where pills can be dropped off for safe disposal 24/7.

C. DFC (Drug-Free Communities) Grant Status

McTaggart shared that the current fiscal year will end on September 29, 2024 and the new year will begin on September 30, 2024. She stated that we just received notification that our grant funding for this next year has been approved.

III. YOUTH PREVENTION EDUCATION UPDATES

A. Too Good for Drugs

Preer stated that the JJC's 7th grade, 8th grade, and high school Too Good for Drugs (TGFD) youth prevention education programming has been delivered to the schools listed on the slide. Several teachers have already begun implementation. She shared that teachers will once again be given a \$30 Amazon gift card as a thank you for teaching this important curriculum. Preer said that some of their grant funding in this new year will go toward updating the 7th grade TGFD programming that will be available mid-June 2025. The 8th grade and high school programs are slated to be updated in 2025. The Mendez Foundation typically updates their programming every five years.

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 (LEC) youth prevention education to K-6th grade students throughout Iroquois County for the 2024-2025 school year. The visits are now in full swing. She has already visited Iroquois West schools and will be headed to Crescent City Grade School next week.

McTaggart shared that the LEC is trying to make their programming more AI interactable. This year they are utilizing a Virtuali-tee (a t-shirt covered with codes) that can be worn by a student during a second grade lesson. With the help of an app and a cell phone, a 3D video of our internal circulatory, respiratory and digestive systems can be shown on a large screen. In the future, she is hoping that this t-shirt can be used in more than just the 2nd grade lesson.

Sarah Winkel, who serves on the I-KAN Regional Office of Education and Pledge for Life Partnership subcommittee tasked with determining how LEC lessons should proceed, reminded all members that the mobile units that were used to house the LEC lessons in the past are old and unusable. They are discussing if anything can be saved from the units before they are disposed of and have been meeting to decide how to move forward with the prevention programming without the units. She noted that the program is an incredible asset that will not be going away. Instead, they want it to continue to grow and plan to create a special subcommittee that meets to support the Life Education Center teachers.

McTaggart 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).

V. COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN UPDATES

A. Updated JJC Brochures and Rx Safety Inserts

McTaggart shared that each LEC student is given the JJC's tri-fold brochure and medication safety insert. The updated brochure includes some different graphics/colors and wording, as well as new Illinois Youth Survey stats. The updated medication safety insert lists all current medication disposal site locations. McTaggart noted that medication safety is an important topic, as all kids that she has seen in kindergarten through sixth grade classrooms so far this year have told her that it is okay to throw unwanted/expired medications away. She is educating them on how to safely dispose of these medicines.

B. WGFA Hotline Interview

Pre shared that (JJC Member) Jenni McTaggart took part in our last WGFA Hotline Interview for the current fiscal year on July 12th. She shared summer prevention TIPS

with families and informed the public about all of the activities the JJC was hosting at the Iroquois County Fair.

C. TIP Radio Advertising

Pree stated that in addition to our Celebrity TIP PSA's playing on WGFA/The Buckle, the JJC also had a special radio PSA run in July to promote our Iroquois County Fair activities on WGFA/The Buckle, WIQI/WHPO, and WVLI/WFAV/WIVR. She noted that we had a total of four special PSA's this fiscal year, which also included Red Ribbon Week, Alcohol Awareness Month, and Graduation.

D. TIP the Scale Tuesday Celebrities on WGFA/The Buckle

Pree reminded members how successful our TIP the Scale Tuesday Celebrity Facebook posts have been in reaching more of the county's population and spreading our prevention messaging. To date, we have featured approximately 173 celebrities for their efforts in our community. These local celebrities share a TIP (or advice) with area families. Some of the individuals that we have featured since our last meeting include: the new 2024 Iroquois County Fair Queen Jahni Lavicka, a Family and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, area school teachers/administrators, community volunteers, etc.

We also post these celebrity TIPs on our TIPtheScale.org website. Many of our featured celebrities record their TIPs to be played as PSA's on WGFA/The Buckle.

Anyone with recommendations for future celebrities who can be featured should contact King, McTaggart, or Pree.

E. Press Releases

Pree stated that the JJC wrote and submitted 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 were as follows:

1. Teen Mental Health PSA Contest Launch
2. Teen Mental Health PSA Contest Winners
3. Alcohol Awareness Month/Prom/Distracted Driving Awareness Month School Lunchtime Visits
4. Summer in the Park Activities

Pree shared a slide showing the latest press release that had run in The Gilman Star. This press release was also shared with WGFA/The Buckle so that a snippet could be pulled and read during local radio news broadcasts as suggested at our last JJC meeting. Pree said that we would lose some of our match in the new fiscal year because the Gilman Star had recently closed.

F. Facebook Ads

Pree shared that the JJC had budgeted \$130 for Facebook ads this fiscal year. To date we had boosted the following Facebook posts:

- Prom TIPs for Parents (\$25)
- Alcohol Awareness Month (\$25)

- Graduation (\$25)
- Iroquois County Fair Activities/Contests (2 ads x \$15 each = \$30)
- ~~To be determined (\$25)~~

She shared a slide showing the Iroquois County Fair ads that promoted our Rock Hunt and #TIPtheScaleFair Photo Contest. She stated that we decided not to spend the remaining \$25 in our Facebook ad budget, but rather save it to promote an important future event/message.

G. Sports Program Ads

Pree said that we are once again sponsoring area fall and winter sports programs with ads for Iroquois West High School and Watseka High School. She noted that we were unable to advertise in Central High School's program, as they did not print one this year.

H. Yearbook Ads

Pree shared that most school yearbooks were distributed this past month or two, so families very recently got a glance of our yearbook ad. Our personalized ads were placed in the following yearbooks: Cissna Park HS, Central HS, IWHS, and Watseka HS.

I. Onarga Theater Ad & Prize Donation

Pree shared that our ad had run all summer through the beginning of September on the big screen at the Onarga Theater. She added that the JJC was once again sponsoring the Spin the Wheel Prize Game during each movie's intermission. We donated prize bags which included plush owls resembling our mascot, as well as JJC information/prevention messaging and swag. If your ticket is pulled, you get to spin their giant wheel and see what goodies you have won from one of their many sponsors. Pree said that the theater is closed now for about a month or so as they usually do every year at this time.

J. Baseball/Softball Sponsorships

Pree said that the JJC continued 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 were visible to summer leagues as well as school ball teams.

K. Tobacco/Vaping Signs at Area Parks/Ballparks

McTaggart shared that the JJC had talked with mayors/village presidents/park boards/etc. about receiving signs to discourage smoking and vaping at area parks and ballparks. Those parks agreeing to display the signs are as follows:

Ashkum - 2

Beaverville - 6

Buckley -

Chebanse -

Cissna Park - 3

Clifton -

Crescent City - 2

Danforth -

Donovan -

Gilman - 2

Iroquois - No Contact

Loda -

Martinton -

Milford -

Onarga - 0

Papineau - 6

Sheldon - 6

Thawville - 2

Watseka - 4

Woodland - 0

McTaggart stated that the towns with a zero behind their names did not want any signs. Those listed towns without a number did not respond. She noted that we have 3 signs remaining if any park would like to receive them.

L. Summer Events (Parades and County Fair)

McTaggart shared that the JJC has taken part in almost every available parade in the county, except the Ashkum Homecoming Parade, as our schedules did not allow. This year we took part in our first lighted parade, which was a fun experience. With the help of our mascot Ollie, we spread good cheer and our prevention messaging was exposed to many new people through our signs/banners, bracelets that were distributed, and the blurb about our entry that was often read over a microphone as we passed by. McTaggart said how much her sister/JJC member (Sherri Hendricks) enjoys dressing as Ollie and interacting with children at each parade.

McTaggart and Pree continued with an explanation of the JJC's activities at the Iroquois County Fair. The JJC once again hosted a booth in the south commercial building. To attract visitors, we offered a different game/activity each day, such as

giant Jenga, Cornhole, Bozo Bucket Game, giant Connect 4, etc. Those who took part earned their choice of an Ollie sticker or tattoo. The tattoos were extremely popular. Many kids were covered from head to toe in our tattoos and kept revisiting our booth multiple times each day to earn another tattoo. Pree and McTaggart thanked the JJC members who had offered advice at our last coalition meeting for what was needed for tattoo application.

The JJC also hosted our Annual Rock Hunt and the #TIPtheScaleFair Photo Contest. The Rock Hunt was a hit again this year and the kids were very excited to choose a food prize from the assortment that was suggested by JJC members at our last meeting. In order to enter our photo contest, many fairgoers posed for a pic with our mascot Ollie and his owl family who were sitting in a nest. WGFA/The Buckle once again donated water park prize packages to award the randomly chosen photo contest winners. Winners also received a candy treat, a book that was donated by the Sheriff's Department, a stuffed version of our mascot, and our prevention messaging/literature.

Our booth had a large screen TV playing a continuous slideshow of the JJC's initiatives and prevention messaging. We handed out numerous freebies, including hot/cold packs, Smarties postcards, pens, photo frame magnets, JJC brochures/Rx safety inserts, Resource Recovery cards, etc. Our hot/cold packs were a hot commodity, as most adults wanted one. This made attracting fairgoers to our booth and striking up a conversation easy. McTaggart's daughter had fun being Ollie one day as she danced, walked around the fairgrounds, and posed for pics.

M. 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 Iroquois County Fair ad was included in the July edition and our Rx Safety Insert will serve as our October ad.

N. WACC Block Party Booth

McTaggart shared that the Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce annually hosts a Block Party event that involves inviting community members to visit booths set up by Chamber members. The community is enticed to attend to receive information, register for raffles/giveaways, and pick up various freebie promotional items. McTaggart noted that the location was moved this year from uptown to a baseball field at Legion Park to coincide with the Watseka Family Festival. The JJC hosted a table to promote the JJC and its initiatives and distributed our prevention literature, as well as pens, notepads, photo frame magnets, hot/cold packs, and Smarties postcards to those in attendance. She noted that there were few attendees at the Block Party, but was unsure if it was a result of the changed venue.

O. Kiwanis Presentation

McTaggart stated that the JJC was asked to present at a Kiwanis meeting. She gave a brief presentation about the JJC and its initiatives during their August meeting. Those in attendance received our literature, pens, notepads, hot/cold packs, and Smarties postcards. She noted that it was the largest Kiwanis meeting to date.

P. Toilet Times

Pree informed members the fall edition of the Toilet Times focused on the Too Good for Drugs Decision Making Model, Inspirational Quotes about Decision Making, Teen Gambling Risks, and a Message from Sheriff Perzee about Opioid Safety. This publication hangs in all junior/senior high school bathrooms, youth centers, etc.

Content for the winter issue was discussed. Suggestions included sharing new Illinois Youth Survey data and addressing seasonal depression. Another idea shared was in response to the large number of school threats that have recently occurred. Students should be encouraged to say something to a school official, police officer, etc. if they see something in order to be upstanders, not bystanders.

Q. Upcoming Harvest Daze Activity

The JJC is once again planning to take an active role in the upcoming Harvest Daze festival in Watseka on October 5th-6th. Our mascot Ollie the Owl will be making appearances and dancing with a scarecrow both days. The JJC is also co-sponsoring the Harvest Daze Coloring Contest. McTaggart and Pree will be helping with various activities, such as creating cards for the Manteno Veterans' Home residents and making goofy hats, in the Kidz Zone tent Saturday morning.

R. Upcoming IW Reading Night Guest Reader

McTaggart shared that Iroquois West Elementary School had reached out to the JJC to host a room at IW Family Reading Night on November 21st. She shared that this year's theme *America Runs on Reading* is based on the Dunkin Donuts logo and catchphrase - *America Runs on Dunkin'*. The theme will encompass donuts and coffee, as well as various other foods and exercise. McTaggart shared that she is looking at books that tie in running or exercise, such as *Sloths Don't Run*. Ollie the Owl will definitely be making an appearance, but we are unsure if the LEC's mascot Harold the Giraffe will take part. She noted that it is good to reiterate what is taught in LEC lessons in this evening program that is attended by both students and their parents/grandparents.

S. 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 reminded members that Red Ribbon Week (RRW) is scheduled for October 23rd-31st. She mentioned that they had been contemplating hosting a door decorating contest that would include categories for classrooms, businesses, organizations, and homes. Anyone wanting to take part would decorate a door with a prevention message, snap a photo with the door decoration, and

email it to the JJC to officially enter. She noted that we would need both judges and prizes for such a contest.

Other possible contest ideas discussed included a contest for schools where the entire school could show their school spirit during RRW by posing for a photo or having the highest number of kids sign a pledge to not drink or use drugs. McTaggart noted that RRW already has an official pledge that students can sign. Some discussion was had regarding whether signing a pledge really held any true meaning based on the age of the kids and that kids are “forced” to sign whether they intend to adhere to the promise or not.

Possible contest prizes suggested were Amazon gift cards, cookies (perhaps a partnering agency like Kiwanis could be asked to help sponsor the contest by purchasing a treat), pencil pouches, and bubbles. Another idea was to offer a special rewards day to the winners (such as PJ Day). Stephanie offered to donate Harbor House’s drawstring bags as prizes.

A suggestion was made to include education for youth about stronger alcohol types, such as moonshine. Many young people are drinking these more lethal forms of alcohol without fully understanding the impact a small amount can have on their minds and bodies.

Another suggestion was to ensure that the JJC addresses what a student should do if the friends they rode with somewhere are drinking and they want to safely exit the situation and need a ride home. McTaggart and Pree pointed out that this issue is addressed in the Too Good for Drugs curriculum. Students must assess their options and the consequences when deciding whether or not to get in a car with someone who is under the influence, which sometimes might even be an adult, such as a friend’s parent.

VI. YOUTH GROUPS/ACTIVITIES

A. Summer in the Park

McTaggart reminded members that the JJC partnered with the Sheriff’s Department to provide programming for two mornings of Summer in the Park at Durham Park in Onarga. Our theme was “Donut do drugs!” Summer in the Park’s funding purchased donuts for those in attendance on both June 12th and 25th.

On the first day, our programming focused on drug/alcohol prevention and child safety awareness. The JJC played a Jeopardy-style game with questions and physical challenges based on drug prevention and healthy activities. Sheriff Perzee and some of his deputies showed those in attendance some of the equipment that they use on the job and allowed the kids to climb inside a police cruiser. Child identification kits were also passed out for children to take home to their families.

On our second day, stormy weather caused us to relocate inside the Garage Community Center in Gilman. Here we played various Minute to Win It style games that were both educational and physical with a prevention and drug education theme. For example, the sheriff hosted mini golf and some of his deputies ran an obstacle course that used drunk goggles to demonstrate how our sight and perception can change when using substances.

B. Upcoming Red Ribbon Week Prom Lunchtime Trivia Activity at Middle Schools

McTaggart shared that this year's Red Ribbon Week theme is *Life is a Movie, Film Drug Free*. She then reminded the group that the JJC had visited all of the area high schools last spring with lunchtime trivia on the subjects of prom safety, Alcohol Awareness Month, and Distracted Driving Awareness Month. 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. She noted that lunchtime is the perfect time to go into schools so as not to interrupt the curriculum. She stated that we are in the process of reaching out to area junior high schools to see if we are able to do a similar lunchtime trivia game during Red Ribbon Week which takes place October 23rd-31st. She noted that we may need volunteers to assist at some schools since she will be teaching in the Life Education Center on several of those days. Pree stated that we would need funds to purchase candy, as this is always a huge motivation for students to take part in our activity. This candy would be offered as prizes in addition to JJC pens, wristbands, flashlight keychains, Ollie stickers and tattoos, etc. King noted that the JJC would be able to find the funding to purchase some candy.

C. WACC Business Education Partnership and You Program

McTaggart reminded the JJC that we had partnered with Ms. Law's 5th Grade Class at Glenn Raymond School last year through the Business Education Partnership initiative offered by the Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce. Last year we taught the class about the JJC and worked together to make giant snowflakes as a community service project in December. We then returned in May to teach how plants and humans are similar and the importance of growing the good. Students signed a pledge to utilize healthy coping strategies and finished the lesson by decorating a flower pot and planting a petunia. She asked for members to share their suggestions for projects/lessons that could be done this school year. She also invited members to assist in this year's classroom lessons.

VII. OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

A. School Policy Changes Regarding Vaping

Pree reminded those in attendance that the American Lung Association 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. Because vaping has become such an issue in our schools, the JJC is composing an email to make all school administrators aware of this program. We are hoping that if schools change their policies to include this education

and support in addition to punitive measures for being caught vaping, it will be beneficial to all. The JJC does not have the manpower to assist the schools with this program directly, but wanted to offer it up as a possibility.

B. Illinois Youth Survey (IYS)

McTaggart stated that the 2024 Illinois Youth Survey results are in. She reminded those in attendance that this survey is taken by 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students every other year and it provides very useful data for our community in determining where to focus our efforts and helping us secure funding to address the issues. The Iroquois County results can be found on the TIP the Scale website. McTaggart will send out a link to the results.

McTaggart shared some slides that detailed a snapshot comparison of results from 2020, 2022, and 2024. Our grant had shared these comparisons with the JJC. She shared that the following results for alcohol and marijuana were favorable to our mission. In regard to alcohol, the past thirty day use decreased while the perception of risk increased with both middle and high school students from 2020 to 2024. The same results were true regarding marijuana. In regard to tobacco, past 30 day use went down for both middle and high schoolers from 2020 to 2024, but unfortunately the perception of risk decreased for both groups. McTaggart noted that the IYS does not list vaping separate from tobacco which can be problematic in assessing the data. Many kids might not realize tobacco is in vapes. The IYS should add an actual vaping question.

A question was raised if the product Zin is included in the survey, as it is becoming an increasingly popular method of discreetly consuming tobacco. At this time, such a question does not exist.

C. 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 stated that this grant will end on September 30th. Unfortunately, it was unsuccessful here in Iroquois County due to a lack of public transportation and ride services. To make a true impact, they would have needed funds to purchase actual vehicles, hire drivers, and acquire insurance. They have some money left over and are able to keep the gas cards that they had purchased. They will continue to give these cards to qualifying individuals until they are gone.

VII. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Project Sun** (Sarah Winkel) - Project Sun announced that Rhonda Showers is now focusing more on parent support. Ann King was just hired as the new Family Liaison and Project Sun will offer new trainings based on Ann's skill sets, such as Mental Health First Aid, etc. Be on the lookout for Project Sun to take a more active role in Iroquois County.

- B. I-KAN ROE Truancy** (Sara Christiansen) - I-KAN Roe Truancy had 475 truants at the beginning of the year, 75 of which were from Iroquois County. They now have 2 truancy workers in Iroquois County. If anyone would like to serve on the Truancy Board, please let her know. Their first meeting is October 30th.
- C. Jenna Brutlag** - Brutlag is excited to get involved in the JJC. She shared that she had observed the serious issue of middle schoolers vaping at an area event this past week.
- D. Birth to Five Illinois** (Liz Gibson) - Birth to Five has seen a good succession. They are focusing on early childhood education and care. They want a strong Iroquois County voice and will host their October meeting in Iroquois County.
- E. Iroquois Mental Health Center** (Morgan Hamblen) - Hamblen is getting parenting groups started next month at Iroquois Mental Health Center. These groups will involve a 6 week course and be open to anyone. Pricing for the course is not known at this time. Information about these groups will be listed on IMHC's Facebook page. Hamblen is the only one offering this course. IMHC plans to first offer the course in Iroquois County. The next course will take place in Kankakee County and continue to go back and forth between the two counties.
- F. Iroquois County Sheriff's Department** (Sheriff Perzee) - The Iroquois County Sheriff's Department appreciates the overwhelming and amazing support from the community that was shown in the procession to bring Corporal Schreiber back.

Sheriff Perzee is now serving on the United Way Board, as United Way plans to return to having more of a presence in Iroquois County. Food grants will come to assist food pantries, schools, and programs supplying backpacks loaded with food to be sent home with students.

Sheriff Perzee is also serving on the Child Network Board. Child Network has an office in Iroquois County and has helped with 40 investigations in Iroquois County to date. They plan to bring the CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) program to Iroquois County where trained volunteers are appointed to advocate for abused and neglected children throughout the process. They will be looking for volunteers and the JJC will share this information.

- G. Jed Whitlow** - Jed was laid up with two casts throughout the summer. He is ready to get reacclimated with all that is happening in the area.
- H. Harbor House** (Stephanie) - October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Harbor House has created a master calendar of their many events. They are hosting an event on October 17th at Trinity Church in Watseka called "Their Story," an eye-opening, interactive experience that offers a powerful glimpse into the challenges faced by domestic violence survivors.

Stephanie is starting back up at schools with classroom presentations on domestic violence. Harbor House is working with Marisa Perzee at IWGES to get clothes delivered to the school in case a child has an accident, etc.

- I. **Iroquois County Community Unit School District No. 9** (RaDonna Hasselbring) - Watseka High School once again has a clothing/toiletries/food pantry in the guidance office. A local book club/sorority in town donates items every year. They supply the list of needed items for the group. Students can take whatever is needed. (Stephanie intends to donate some extra toiletries that Harbor House has on hand.)

This year their school district is trying to crack down on cell phones being used in the classroom. Watseka Junior and Senior High Schools just hosted an Attaboy assembly where a 3 person band sang and stressed the importance of positive choices. Clove Alliance is scheduled to come into Watseka High School in February.

IX. MEETING ADJOURNED

King thanked all for taking part this morning. She noted how we love to hear all of the good things happening throughout the county. Our next meeting is scheduled to take place in December. After a discussion about the many events scheduled to take place that busy month, the group decided to plan our next JJC meeting for **December 6, 2024**, which is different from what is listed on the meeting agenda. A group photo of JJC members will be taken at the December meeting. 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.