Will County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (WCSAPC)
Main Meeting – February 2025
February 25, 2025
9:32AM
In-Person and Zoom Meeting
Approved: March 25, 2025

Members Present

In-Person: Brian Conser (7), Caitlin Daly (10), Cecilia DiSomma (12), Courtney Garfield (7), Troy Green (12), Brittany Gruver (7), Terry Lemming (7), Vic Markowski (12), Bonnie McPhillips (7), Shayla Powell (12), Dan Vlasaty (12)

Zoom: Aishwarya Balakrishna (10), James Budrick-Diaz (10), Kathleen Burke (11), Magdelena Campos (12), Brian Delli (3), Michelle DeMato (12), Connie Dewall (11), Paula Ekstrom (12), Natalie Manley Rep. (11), Garland Mays (11), William McCarty (13), Cristyna Ramirez (12), Katie Schram (10), Kristen Schroeder (5), Neesha Stringfellow (12), Allison Thomas (12)

Call to Order/Welcome
Start: 9:32AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions (Name & Organization)
Welcome to any first-time attendees:

Reports:

- **Treasurer** - Loren Yaksich - Financial Report
  - $28,289 ending balance
  - No expenditures since last month
  - Motion from Bonnie, second by Brian Conser
- **Secretary** – Katie Schram - Approval of January minutes
  - Motion from Brian Conser, second by Bonnie

WCSAPC Requirements:

- **DFC Grant Report** – Bonnie McPhillips

- No new updates, Courtney still working on reports that are due in March
- CADCA recap
  - Alexciana: start working with more fire departments, which would be good for both the coalition and the Deflection grant.
  - Aishwarya: bringing in new partnerships – EMT as well to partner with and join the coalition. Strategies for sustainability – maybe neighborhood associations or hospitals to bring in for potential other funding. Increase youth engagement – more youth programs partnerships and to see if any of the TGFD youth would be interested in the coalition. Advocacy within the county for sustainability approaches. Community reinvestment funding – banks give out money every year, to see if they would donate from that fund. North Carolina coalition trying to go after Copyright against companies using flavors of trademarked materials.
  - Katie: Strategies for engaging parents that could also work for youth. Building relationships with parents at events/in the community. Personal invites and then to follow up with social media. Having a more consistent group meeting to talk about substance use issues the parents are concerned with while also then educating when needed. One idea was a craft (of any kind) group because of being able to focus on making something
    - Brian Delli suggestion of a lemonade sip and paint
  - Paula: Storytelling for leadership in action session: when telling emotional stories, people release oxytocin (bonding hormone) so it increases empathy from those listening and relating to people and then also reduce stigma around substance use. Use storytelling with representatives to help them to better understand the work we do and the impact that substance use is having on their communities.

Subcommittee/Action Team Reports

- **Alcohol** – Brittany Gruver
  - No new updates at this time. Will ask today when next explore checks happening
- **Smoking/Vaping (formerly Marijuana/Nicotine)** – James Budrick
  - PSA is made and will be going out eventually
- **Opioid –** Chief Terry Lemming
  - Meeting about Opvi before main meeting
  - Goals are going well
  - Working on the billboard – anyone have a catch phrase or saying that would resonate with youth
- **Social Media** – Courtney Garfield
  - Facebook: 1,271 views 34 interactions 2 new followers
  - Instagram: 218 views 16 interactions 1 new follower
  - Send ideas for posts to Courtney
- **Care Team Updates** – Sgt. Robert Platos
  - HIPS requests have come in.

    - Put in requests on website if have an event coming up
- **Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) Update** – Dr. William McCarty and Tim Cramer
    - No updates

Sector Reports & Sharing:

- **Business in the Community:** Brian Delli
    - 2025 Joliet family fun fest Sat October 18th at Slammer's stadium
    - March competitors group - attend some after hours networking events
    - Maybe a Narcan box by food pantries?
        - Kathleen Burke – do stock Narcan in food pantries in the community
        - Work together to make sure everywhere in the county is getting it
    - Cruise nights/car shows in summer
- **Civic Volunteer Groups:** United Way
    - No updates
- **College or University- Kayla DeCant**
    - No updates
- **Faith-Based, Religious or Fraternal Organizations:** Sheree Stilwell
    - Troy middle school event, over 40 vendors and several families stopped by for information on support groups
- **Healthcare Professionals:** Allison Thomas/Rosecrance
    - Rosecrance: Rockford residential services now have 32 detox beds. 120 adult residential beds there. Hired child/adolescent psychologist and working to expand services in Chicagoland area
    - Gateway: Detox program in Aurora will be coming soon. Essington location looking for a counselor.
- **Law Enforcement Agency:** Lockport PD
    - 45 TGFD classes to be completed by the end of March
- **Media:** Diane DeVries
    - No new updates
- **Organizations Focusing in Substance Abuse:** Tim Cramer
    - No new updates
- **Parents:** Undersheriff Brian Conser
    - Will share updates next month
- **Schools:** Homer Glen District 33C
    - Celebrated 100th day of school
    - Students of the month and principal's breakfast celebrated
    - February is kindness month – door decorating contest and other activities
    - Students test scores have been getting higher!
    - 65 students will be celebrated for reading all through a list of books
    - 4 positions are up for election on board of education, meet the candidate event
- **State or Local Government Agencies:** Kathleen Burke
    - Funding talks a lot as well
    - Illinois state opioid funds are distributing grants to different agencies

    - Update: There has been approval for funding for 3 safe consumption sites (people who have a substance use disorder who can go to an area and safely use with medical staff in case overdoses or other health issues arise)
    - 33% decrease in opioid deaths since last year
    - 2,728 opioid overdose prevention/Naloxone people trained. 624 events attended by Got Naloxone rapid response team. 15,204 boxes of Naloxone distributed, with a 31% increase from 2023. 2,562 Fentanyl/Xylazine test strips distributed, with 55% increase from 2023. 3,020 boxes of Narcan were distributed in the red boxes. 1,131 boxes of Kloxxado were distributed to 15 police departments.
- **Youth:** Peter Conser
    - No updates
- **Youth Servicing Organizations:** YMCA
    - No updates

Note: Please limit any individual sector reporting to 10 minutes.

Old Business

- **Too Good For Drugs Update-** Brittany Gruver
    - Last week of 6th grade this week. 3rd quarter 7th and 8th grade starting.
- **Deflection Grant Update-** Alexciana Castaneda
    - Provide clothing for 2 more people and sober housing to 2 more people
    - Followed up from a police report that has reached 2 months sober!

New Business

- Family guidance center: Manteno location has beds available for inpatient treatment and they can provide transportation
- Rep. Manley: Blood drive on March 10th red cross training room 9am – 2pm by appointment only
- Gateway: bingo event went well, will be setting up for another one soon
- Opioid meeting at 9am before main meeting next month

Adjournment
End Time: 10:26 AM

Next Meeting: March 25, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. IN Person/VIA ZOOM

Drug-Free Communities Definition of a Coalition:
A community-based formal arrangement for cooperation and collaboration among groups or sectors of a community in which each group retains its identity, but all agree to work together toward a common goal of building a safe, healthy, and drug-free community.