Will County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (WCSAPC)
Main Meeting – August 2025
September 23rd, 2025
9:30AM
Zoom Meeting
Approved: October 28, 2025

Members Present

In-Person: Bonnie Phillips, Gabriel Garcia- Joliet Township, Alexciana, Courtney, Courtney Garfield, Yolanda

Zoom: Kristine, Dr. Bill McCarty, Tim Cramer, Amber Mitchell, Troy Green, Caitlin Daly, Brian Delli, Heather Drew- RCCJ, Allison Thomas, Aishwarya Balakrishna, Dominica Dybas- DEA, Cristyna Ramirez, Neesha Stringfellow- Heartlife, Kayla DeCant, Joan Stefka, Tom Deleway, Paula Ekstrom

Call to Order/Welcome
Start: 9:32 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Reports:
- **Treasurer** - Loren Yaksich - Financial Report
  - $21,700.93 ending balance
  - 0 expenses in August
  - Motion from Bonnie, second by Aishwarya
- **Secretary** – Kayla DeCant- approval of August minutes
  - Motion from Brittany, second by Brian

WCSAPC Requirements:
- **DFC Grant Report** – Bonnie McPhillips
  - Progress report approved and heading into grant year 8!

Subcommittee/Action Team Reports
- **Alcohol** – Brittany Gruver
  - Working on red ribbon week programming for schools

- **Smoking/Vaping (formerly Marijuana/Nicotine)** – Aishwarya Balakrishna
    - Met Friday, 9/19
    - Discussed emerging products, and ideas on how to keep community members educated about new products
    - Next meeting TBD, tentatively for Friday before next Coalition meeting
- **Opioid –** Troy Green
    - Meeting rescheduled for October, will discuss goals for next year
- **Social Media** – Courtney Garfield
    - Facebook: 916 views 281 reach 4 new followers
    - Instagram: 210 views 33 reach 6 new followers
- **Care Team Updates** – Lt. Robert Platos/Katie Zacharias
    - Still taking requests for October events
- **Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) Update** – Dr. William McCarty and Tim Cramer
    - Survey year- schools (8th, 10th, 12th grade) can register soon, will take it in January

Sector Reports & Sharing:

- **Business in the Community:** Brian Delli
    - Joliet Family Fun Fest on Saturday, October 18th, 10am-3pm. Rain or shine.
        - Will send table request form and free tickets via email, please share widely. Reach out to bdelli.legalshield@gmail.com with questions.
    - Working on partnerships with some community businesses, will introduce them to HIPPS trailer at the event
    - Gathering information for 2026 events that Coalition should be present at
    - Continue to develop relationship with chamber of commerce, discuss importance of Narcan boxes
- **Civic Volunteer Groups:** United Way
    - No updates
- **College or University-** Kayla DeCant/Lewis University
    - No updates
- **Faith-Based, Religious or Fraternal Organizations:** Sheree Stilwell
    - No new updates
- **Healthcare Professionals:** Allison Thomas/Rosecrance
    - Rosecrance
        - Currently hiring licensed counselors/therapists at various locations
        - Frankfort office- child/adolescent therapist, Dylan, has openings for virtual and in-person appointments
        - LaGrange office- Adolescent IOP (in person and virtual)
        - Will open 4 more outpatient locations in the next year, expanding into Indiana in early 2026
    - Gateway Foundation
        - In-person and virtual IOP available at Joliet location
- **Law Enforcement Agency:** Lockport PD
    - No updates

- **Media:** Diane DeVries
    - No new updates
- **Organizations Focusing in Substance Abuse:** Tim Cramer
    - Reed Custer school will start soon
- **Parents:** Undersheriff Brian Conser
    - No new updates
- **Schools:** Homer Glen District 33C
    - Adjusting to new physical spaces- most teachers have their own classrooms now, instead of carts
    - Clubs and activities are in full swing, lots of athletics events and achievements
    - Looking forward to starting Too Good For Drugs program
- **State or Local Government Agencies:** Kathleen Burke
    - No updates
- **Youth:** Peter Conser
    - No new updates
- **Youth Servicing Organizations:** YMCA
    - No new updates

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

Old Business

- **Too Good For Drugs Update-** Brittany Gruver
    - Will be able to teach 5th and 6th grade at the same time, so can start programs a bit later in the school year
- **Deflection Grant Update-** Alexciana Castaneda
    - Close to closing Q1, no other major updates

New Business

- **Dominica Dybas-**Fentanyl Free America- DEA Initiative in October. Open to collaboration for events, reach out to Dominica Dybas (dominica.a.dybas@dea.gov)
- **Neesha Stringfellow-** Will County ROSC meeting this morning at 11am, Grundy County ROSC at 12:30pm today, Kankakee County ROSC at 2pm today. All via zoom.
    - Send upcoming events or announcements to info@hlmrecovery.com to include on the ROSC newsletter
    - Doing purple zoom backgrounds
    - Project Light, Youth Prevention Project, will be highlighted for Hispanic Heritage Month
- **Paula Ekstrom**- Saturday, September 28th is National Night Out at Wilmington High School from 2-5pm
    - October 11th is Human Trafficking Awareness Event from 1-3pm at Pavillion on South Island. Will discuss child online exploitation.
    - Monday, October 13th at 6pm- 19th Birthday member meeting will be a potluck meeting at the Wilmington Library

    - HERO will be doing presentations about smoke shop products on XXXX
    - Wilmington has events planned for Red Ribbon Week, and is signed up for the IYS survey this winter
- **Gabriel Garcia**- hosts monthly meetings about violent incidents. At Ozzy & Peggy Mitchell center. Will send information to Courtney.
    - Facilitates training modules around violence and violence prevention, if interested in training please reach out.
    - Working on developing community safety response plans for large events and locations like shopping malls, looking for contributors and collaborators.
    - Can provide Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) in English or Spanish

Adjournment
End Time: 10:16 AM

Next Meeting: October 28, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. IN Person/VIA ZOOM. Opiod subcommittee at 9am IN PERSON at Sherrif's office.

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.