Will County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (WCSAPC)
Main Meeting – October 2025
October 28th, 2025
9:30AM
Zoom Meeting
Approved: November 18, 2025

Members Present

In-Person: Yolanda Barnes (12), Kathleen Burke (11), Alexciana Castaneda (7), Cecilia DiSomma (12), Courtney Garfield (7), Matisha Green (12), Troy Green (12), Brittany Gruver (7), Dan Jungles (7), Chuck Mascolino (7), Bonnie McPhillips (7), Sheree Stilwell (8), Dan Vlasaty (12)

Zoom: Crystal Allen (12), Gloria Bloodsaw (12), Kristine Bukala (12), Betsy Cozzie (10), Caitlin Daly (10), Kayla DeCant (13), Dominica Dybas (12), Paula Ekstrom (12), Celeste Fonseca (12), Gabriel Garcia (10), William McCarty (13), Cristyna Ramirez (12), Allison Thomas (12), Loren Yaksich (9)

Call to Order/Welcome
Start: 9:36 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Reports:

- **Treasurer** - Loren Yaksich - Financial Report (sent electronically)
  - $21,700.93 ending balance
  - 0 expenses in September
  - Motion from Kathleen Burke, second by Chuck Mascolino
- **Secretary** – Kayla DeCant- approval of September minutes
  - Motion from Sheree Stilwell, second by Kathleen Burke

WCSAPC Requirements:

- **DFC Grant Report** – Bonnie McPhillips
  - We are in year 8 of the grant, match is up to 1.5
  - Grant goals- any ideas for this grant period?
    - For the overall coalition, and also for each subcommittee

        - Crystal suggested having local businesses sponsor/support the meetings every month, could have them bring snacks/food
        - Paula suggested reaching out to the surrounding chamber of commerce's and getting involved/becoming a member
        - Gloria suggested having a community presentation to present to local business owners, to educate them on substance use/abuse, mental health, suicide prevention, etc.
        - Potential for overlap/collaboration with MAPP Collaborative
    - Will be sending out a poll to membership
        - Looking for 100% completion, so please look out for that!
    - Main goals discussed by board
        - Increase member involvement—Courtney will be reaching out to each sector representative
        - Increased visibility in the community
        - Increase coalition member recognition

Subcommittee/Action Team Reports

- **Alcohol** – Brittany Gruver
    - Working on developing new goals for the subcommittee
    - Looking to meet again soon, please reach out to Courtney if you would like to join
    - Reminder: always open to new members
    - Compliance checks scheduled for November in East Joliet and Lockport
- **Smoking/Vaping (formerly Marijuana/Nicotine)** – Aishwarya Balakrishna (report out by Caitlin Daly)
    - Met Friday, 10/24
    - Will send a doodle poll for November meeting
- **Opioid –** Troy Green
    - Working on short and long-term goals for 2026
        - Short-term: communicating with local libraries
        - Long-term: develop a presentation on alternative substances like Kratom
    - Next meeting- before coalition meeting at 9am
- **Social Media** – Courtney Garfield
    - Facebook: 1,100 views 255 reach 4 new followers
    - Instagram: 290 views 37 reach 16 new followers
- **Care Team Updates** – Lt. Robert Platos/Katie Zacharias
    - Have 3 more events at schools for parent/teacher conferences, before closing up for the season
- **Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) Update** – Dr. William McCarty and Tim Cramer
    - Dr. McCarty will help with coalition survey
    - 2026 is an IYS year—promote and advocate for survey at your local schools
    - Having the local/state data is important for our work

Sector Reports & Sharing:

- **Business in the Community:** Brian Delli

    - Thank you to everyone who attended/participated in Joliet Fun Fest
    - Has some new nonprofit connections that may benefit from the coalition- working to get them connected with Courtney
- **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, Gloria Bloodsaw, Troy Green
    - Rosecrance
        - Currently developing a "mind your mind" 6-session series about mental health in the workplace. Will start in January
        - The coalition could host a watch party for the series, have an opportunity for others to get together and learn information, and then maybe have a small discussion in-person afterwards
        - Slated to open 4 new offices this fiscal year- have secured buildings for 2 offices. 1 in St. John, IN and 1 in Madison, WI
        - Acquired Ascend—now have clinicians with specialties in eating disorders and sports performance
            - Locations in Chicago, Champaign, Urbana, Northbrook, and also telehealth options
    - Gateway Foundation
        - Joliet office has morning, evening, and virtual. Does basic outpatient group M-F
        - Construction is ongoing for Aurora recovery home
- **Law Enforcement Agency:** Lockport PD
    - No updates
- **Media:** Diane DeVries
    - No new updates
- **Organizations Focusing in Substance Abuse:** Tim Cramer
    - No new updates
- **Parents:** Undersheriff Brian Conser
    - No new updates
- **Schools:** Homer Glen District 33C
    - No new updates
- **State or Local Government Agencies:** Kathleen Burke
    - County finance committee levy did not pass, does not meet the recommended budget so there need to be cuts
        - Losing family health services, WIC
    - Highlighted that the cost for services has increased for the health department
    - Concern about increase in demand with federal changes and ongoing shutdown
    - Contact your local county board member- share that you support a levy to continue funding services

    - Support local food banks, help keep micro-pantries full (maps)
        - Toiletries, menstrual products, hygiene are high need
        - Or provide financial support to local organizations
- **Youth:** OPEN
    - 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
    - No updates
- **Deflection Grant Update-** Alexciana Castaneda
    - Q1 report submitted
    - Reminder- grant can support coats, gloves, basic needs, etc. for anyone with substance use challenges (learn more here)
    - If you have a client in need- reach out or refer
        - 815-724-1404
        - acastaneda@willcosheriff.org

New Business:

- **Elections for Board**

    -President: Caitlin Daly
    -VP: Aishwarya Balakrishna
    -Treasurer: Loren Yaksich
    -Secretary: Kayla DeCant
    -Member at Large: Diane DeVries

    Slate presented by Caitlin. Motion from Bonnie. Second by Gloria.

- **Red Ribbon Week Activities/Updates**

    -Ribbons sent to Homer schools, will be displayed at office and put on social media

    -St. Raymond school had a presentation, and multiple activities

-Announcements- send any other announcements to Courtney via email

Motion brought by Bonnie to move meetings to 3rd week of month for November & December due to holidays. Nov 18th and Dec 16th. Southwest Coalition meeting is on those days at 10am. Will move up to 9am to accommodate.

Motion from Allison. Second by Gloria.

Adjournment
End Time: 10:37 AM

Next Meeting: November 18th, 2025 at 9:00 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.