Will County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (WCSAPC)
Main Meeting – November 2025
November 18th, 2025
9:00AM
In person & Zoom Meeting
Approved: December 16, 2025

Members Present

In-Person: Crystal Allen (12), Alexciana Castaneda (7), Shmir Corzine (12), Cecilia DiSomma (12), Courtney Garfield (7), Bonnie McPhillips (7)

Zoom: Aishwarya Balakrishna (10), Gloria Bloodsaw (12), Kristine Bukala (12), Betsy Cozzie (10), Caitlin Daly (10), Kayla DeCant (13), Brian Delli (3), Connie Dewall (12), Dominica Dybas (12), Celeste Fonteca (12), Matisha Green (12), Suni Leal-Markley (10), Garland Mays (11), Bill McCarty (13), Amber Mitchell (5), Joan Stefka (10), Michael Rojas (11), Allison Thomas (12), Loren Yaksich (9)

Call to Order/Welcome
Start: 9:04 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions (Name & Organization)
Welcome to any first-time attendees: Suni Leal-Markley with Chestnut Health Systems

Reports:
- **Treasurer** - Loren Yaksich - Financial Report (sent electronically)
  - $21,750.93 ending balance
  - 0 expenses in October, $50 donation given
  - Motion from Aishwarya Balakrishna, second by Betsy
- **Secretary** – Kayla DeCant- approval of October minutes
  - Motion from Gloria Bloodsaw, second by William McCarty

WCSAPC Requirements:
- **DFC Grant Report** – Courtney Garfield
  - CADCA National Forum (Feb. 2-5, Washington DC) Midyear (July 12-16, Orlando, FL), Email Courtney if you are interested in either conference by November 28th
  - Reminder: December meeting is changed to December 16, 9:00 am

- Please sent Courtney updates if you are unable to attend meeting, but have something to share. Especially if you are a sector or subcommittee leader

Old Business:

- **Too Good For Drugs Update-** Brittany Gruver, report out by Courtney Garfield
  - Will start 5th and 6th grade at Hadley Middle School
- **Deflection Grant Update-** Alexciana Castaneda
  - 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
- **Advocacy Update-** Aishwarya Balakrishna
  - Federal government is now re-open, but there are still budget and funding questions pending
  - Legislation that passed to re-open government included "closing hemp loophole" that was in the Farm act. Aishwarya will send more information about the legislation and how Illinois plans to enforce it.
  - Illinois- big topic for next session will be Kratom

New Business:

- January Meeting- Courtney
  - We will be having an in-person member appreciation with refreshments as well as a presentation from HERO about emerging products on the market to look out for. We will also be rolling out our new Coalition survey this month.
- Member Appreciation Meeting Overview – Courtney
  - Other member appreciation months will be April and July
- Assistance in filling the Youth Sector – Courtney
  - Currently an open sector, looking for any suggestions
  - Must be someone under 18 who could attend and be involved in the coalition
  - Gloria Bloodsaw suggested reaching out to local churches and their youth groups
  - Joan Stefka requested a handout or any information about the requirements and responsibilities

Subcommittee/Action Team Reports

- **Alcohol** – Brittany Gruver
  - Completed nicotine and alcohol compliance checks last week, will be sending out letters this week
  - Working with Lt. Piazza in Homer Glen to set up medication take-back box, will notify the coalition of the exact location via email and social media
    - Other locations- Sheriff's office and Ravenswood police department
- **Smoking/Vaping (formerly Marijuana/Nicotine)** – Aishwarya Balakrishna
  - Meeting Friday, November 21st
  - Jan & Magdalena will present on vape shops in January
- **Opioid –** Troy Green, report out by Courtney Garfield

    - No meeting this month, no updates
    - Still finalizing a meeting time for December
- **Social Media** – Courtney Garfield
    - Facebook: 1,100 views 157 reach 1 new followers
    - Instagram: 250 views 37 reach 4 new followers
- **Care Team Updates** – Lt. Robert Platos/Katie Zacharias, report out by Courtney Garfield
    - Had 32 events this season, increase from last season
    - Trailer is closed until next year, but can still do backpack presentations during the winter
- **Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) Update** – Dr. William McCarty and Tim Cramer
    - Next year is a survey year, make sure to reach out to your schools to ensure they are participating
    - If anyone is willing to help reach out to schools, reach out to Suni Leal-Markley
    - Survey will run January-May of 2026

Sector Reports & Sharing:

- **Business in the Community:** Brian Delli
    - Attended a non-profit dinner in Tinley Park, has a few contacts that may benefit from joining the coalition. Currently having conversations with them to invite to our December or January meeting
    - Attended a vendor fair at the Aurora Library, met someone from Kane County that has a 6-pack countertop/shelf display for Narcan distribution in the community. Has had good success distributing them to local smoke shops, and is willing to share the template with our group.
    - Whistle stop café in Coal City provides free turkey dinner (in-person or delivery if close to restaurant) 11am-1pm on Thanksgiving Day
        - https://www.facebook.com/whistlestopcafe04/posts/-get-ready-for-a-heartwarming-thanksgiving-at-the-whistle-stop-%EF%B8%8Fwere-excited-to-/1420620590071980/
- **Civic Volunteer Groups:** Loren Yaksich/United Way
    - Started a community-wide 2-1-1 campaign. If you are interested in flyers, please contact Loren.
    - If you are a non-profit, make sure you are included in the 2-1-1 database.
        - Can check status, or reach out to be included, on the website: https://uwwill.org/211-2/
- **College or University-** Kayla DeCant/Lewis University
    - Getting close to the end of the semester, working to support students at all our locations
    - Providing support for students as the holidays approach, may not be safe or fun for everyone, or they may be unable to go home
- **Faith-Based, Religious or Fraternal Organizations:** Sheree Stilwell
    - No new updates
- **Healthcare Professionals:** Allison Thomas/Rosecrance, Gloria Bloodsaw
    - Rosecrance

        - Holiday season can be a difficult time for individuals with family, or the large presence of alcohol & substances
        - Reminder that the living rooms are available for those in crisis
        - Free CEU event- Tuesday, December 9th 1-2pm. Watch, Play, Connect: Using Media to Engage Youth in Mental Health Treatment https://app.tpn.health/education/mental-health-in-shows-and-games-for-children-and-adolescents-0fee2161
        - Rosecrance acquired ascend that specializes in eating disorders for youth and adults
        - Indiana office is close to opening in Dyre, IN
    - Gateway Foundation
        - Free CEU- The Interaction between Eating Disorders and Substance Use Disorders: Special Considerations for Race, Gender, and Sexuality
            - December 4th, 2-4pm, in-person at Downers Grove Public Library
            - https://eatingrecoverycenter.my.site.com/events/s/lt-event?id=a5oUU000000AByH
        - Basic outpatient is at Joliet location, 2-days
        - Seeing more mental health support- can provide virtual support through Bloomington and Peoria sites
        - Check in on your friends and remind them that it is okay to not be okay
- **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
    - No new updates
- **Youth:** OPEN
- **Youth Servicing Organizations:** YMCA
    - No new updates

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

Announcements:

- Connie Dewall- Recovery Community Center in Joliet events
    - Coat giveaway tomorrow from 2-6pm
    - Also providing meals every day from 11am-2pm through November & December
    - Showers are everyday now, not just on Wednesdays between 9am-noon
    - All program updates are on the website: https://www.rccj.org/

- Tish- Montrose
    - This Saturday will be giving away food on the West side
- Brian Delli- has a few black T-shirts that are a misprint, so looking for places to donate them

Adjournment
End Time: 9:49 AM

Next Meeting: December 16th, 2025 at **9:00 a.m.** IN Person/VIA ZOOM. Opioid subcommittee meeting tentatively planned for 8:30am IN PERSON before main Coalition meeting.

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.