Will County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (WCSAPC)
Main Meeting – January 2026
January 27, 2026
9:30AM
In person & Zoom Meeting
Approved: February 24, 2026

Members Present

In-Person: Tim Ackermann (10), Mert Aksoy (10), Emma Arnold (11), Aishwarya Balakrishna (10), Yolanda Barnes (12), Kathleen Burke (11), Magdalena Campos (12), Alexciana Castaneda (7), Caitlin Daly (10), Kayla DeCant (13), Brian Delli (3), Connie Dewall (11), Cecilia DiSomma (12), Jan Dombrowski (12), Mike Dombrowski (12), Paula Ekstrom (12), Patricia Ferdon (10), Courtney Garfield (7), Brittany Gruver (7), Paul Hempel (12), Stephanie Hook (12), Dan Jungles (7), LaSondra Lee (12), Bill McCarty (13), Bonnie McPhillips (7), Tracey Papesh (12), Madeline Slepski (11), Joan Stefka (10), Sheree Stilwell (8), Allison Thomas (12), Jessica Vigil (10), Loren Yaksich (9), Katie Zacharias (7), Jeremy Zdzinicki (7)

Zoom: Crystal Allen (12), Gloria Bloodsaw (12), Laura Brack (12), Dominica Dybas (12), LaShae Hudson (12), Suni Leal-Markley (12), Amber Mitchell (5), Cristyna Ramirez (12), Neesha Stringfellow (12)

Note: Due to the HERO presentation, time did not allow for Sector or Subcommittee Reports for this meeting. Please send any information to Courtney to forward to the membership: cgarfield@willcosheriff.org.

I. **Call to Order/Welcome**
Start: 9:02 a.m.

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

Heroin Epidemic Relief Organization (HERO) Presentation on emerging drug products

Member Awards- Courtney

Inaugural (legacy) members- Lauren, Tim Cramer, Diane DeVries, Dr. Bill McCarty, Bonnie McPhillips

IV. Reports:

- **Treasurer** - Loren Yaksich - Financial Report
  - $21,750.93 ending balance
  - 0 expenses in December
  - Motion from Bonnie McPhillips, second by Paula
- **Secretary** – Kayla DeCant- approval of December minutes
  - Motion from Aishwarya, second by Lauren

V. WCSAPC Requirements:

- **DFC Grant Report** – Courtney Garfield
  - Coalition Survey: https://uic.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ehTnUYCBeYLmoei
    - $5 Starbucks gift card for completing survey
  - Annual Report is due at end of March, has begun working on it

VI. Old Business:

- **Too Good For Drugs Update-** Brittany Gruver
  - First week at Hadley Junior High—5th and 6th grade. Will be there for the next 8-9 weeks
- **Deflection Grant Update-** Alexciana Castaneda
  - With cold weather, remember that they can hand out coats, gloves, basic needs, etc. for anyone with substance use challenges (learn more here)
  - Creating patrol bags
  - Quarterly report just finished, working on continuation for year 3
  - Will be attending CADA next week to represent Deflection Grant and the Coalition as a whole
  - If you have a client in need- reach out or refer
    - 815-724-1404 , acastaneda@willcosheriff.org
- **Advocacy Update-** Aishwarya Balakrishna
  - State legislature back in session—legislation committees have been meeting
    - Deadline to file bills for fall session was last Friday, will have more information about what to pay attention to or do advocacy around soon
  - Illinois Prevention Network (IPN) meets today as well

VII. New Business:

- Assistance in filling the Youth Sector – Courtney
  - Still looking for contacts to fill this sector
  - Anyone under the age of 18, looking to fill ASAP
- Parent sector- Courtney
  - Also need a new representative for this area

- CADCA Leadership Forum- February 2-5th
- Announcement (if time permits)

VIII. Subcommittee/Action Team Reports

- **Alcohol** – Brittany Gruver
- **Smoking/Vaping (formerly Marijuana/Nicotine)** – Aishwarya Balakrishna
- **Opioid –** Connie Dewall
- **Social Media** – Courtney Garfield
- **Care Team Updates** – Lt. Robert Platos/Katie Zacharias, report out by Courtney Garfield
- **Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) Update** – Dr. William McCarty and Tim Cramer

***No Sector Reports for this meeting, please send any information to Courtney to forward to the membership.**

IX. Sector Reports & Sharing:

- **Business in the Community:** Brian Delli
- **Civic Volunteer Groups:** Loren Yaksich/United Way
- **College or University-** Kayla DeCant/Lewis University
- **Faith-Based, Religious or Fraternal Organizations:** Sheree Stilwell
- **Healthcare Professionals:** Allison Thomas/Rosecrance, Gloria Bloodsaw
- **Law Enforcement Agency:** Lockport PD
- **Media:** Diane DeVries
- **Organizations Focusing in Substance Abuse:** Tim Cramer
- **Parents:** Undersheriff Brian Conser
- **Schools:** Homer Glen District 33C
- **State or Local Government Agencies:** Kathleen Burke
- **Youth:** OPEN
- **Youth Servicing Organizations:** OPEN

Adjournment
End Time: 10:30 AM

Next Meeting: February 24th, 2026 9:30am In person/Via ZOOM. Opioid subcommittee meeting at 9am before full Coalition meeting. Next member appreciation meeting in April.

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.