Will County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (WCSAPC)
Main Meeting – December 2025
December 16, 2025
9:00AM
In person & Zoom Meeting
Approved: January 27, 2026

Members Present

In-Person: Alexciana Castaneda (7), Cecilia DiSomma (12), Courtney Garfield (7), Brittany Gruver (7), Dan Jungles (7), Bonnie McPhillips (7), Sheree Stilwell (8), Loren Yaksich (9)

Zoom: Tim Ackermann (10), Aishwarya Balakrishna (10), Gloria Bloodsaw (12), Kathleen Burke (11), Caitlin Daly (10), Kayla DeCant (13), Brian Delli (3), Connie Dewall (12), Jan Dombrowski (12), Dominica Dybas (12), Paula Ekstrom (12), Celeste Fonteca (12), Troy Green (12), Bill McCarty (13), Joan Stefka (10), Allison Thomas (12)

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions (Name & Organization)
Welcome to any first-time attendees: Tim Ackermann from Will County Health Department

Reports:

- **Treasurer** - Loren Yaksich - Financial Report
  - $21,750.93 ending balance
  - 0 expenses in November
  - Motion from Aishwarya Balakrishna, second by Chief Jungles
- **Secretary** – Kayla DeCant- approval of November minutes
  - Motion from Chief Jungles, second by Connie Dewall

WCSAPC Requirements:

- **DFC Grant Report** – Courtney Garfield
  - Coalition Survey, HERO presentation & Member Appreciation Meeting, January 27th – highly recommended to attend in person
    - $5 gift card for completing survey, hot cocoa bar

Old Business:

- **Too Good For Drugs Update-** Brittany Gruver
    - Will start with 5th and 6th grade on January 22nd, schedule is set
- **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
    - More information about updated appropriations for substance use funding- getting closer to the budget that was requested. Still being negotiated, but moving in a good direction
    - State session will reconvene in mid-January
    - Dr. Burke also mentioned the potential for Marijuana to be rescheduled on the federal level

New Business:

- Assistance in filling the Youth Sector – Courtney
    - Still looking for contacts to fill this sector

Subcommittee/Action Team Reports

- **Alcohol** – Brittany Gruver
    - Completed nicotine and alcohol compliance checks on November 20th on east side of Joliet. Went to 7 locations, 4 of them did not pass compliance check.
    - Looking to schedule more checks in the future
    - Dr. Burke mentioned that the IDPH released data on their dashboard, shows an increase in alcohol use
- **Smoking/Vaping (formerly Marijuana/Nicotine)** – Aishwarya Balakrishna
    - Meeting Friday, December 19th – will send out meeting notice ASAP
    - Focusing on more education on emerging products for social media and website
    - Joan mentioned they have had 6 complaints this quarter that they have followed up on, doing education with businesses about the smoke free Illinois act.
- **Opioid –** Connie Dewall
    - No meeting this month, no updates
    - Will meet in January at 8:30am before the main coalition meeting
- **Social Media** – Courtney Garfield
    - Facebook: 728 views 256 reach 6 new followers
    - Instagram: 217 views 20 reach 5 new followers
- **Care Team Updates** – Lt. Robert Platos/Katie Zacharias, report out by Courtney Garfield
    - 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
    - As of today, 2 schools were registered in Lockport. No Joliet schools have been registered

Sector Reports & Sharing:

- **Business in the Community:** Brian Delli
  - Want to work with Shorewood chamber of commerce cruise night to increase awareness
- **Civic Volunteer Groups:** Loren Yaksich/United Way
  - 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
  - Commencement was this past weekend, students are off campus until mid-January
- **Faith-Based, Religious or Fraternal Organizations:** Sheree Stilwell
  - No new updates
- **Healthcare Professionals:** Allison Thomas/Rosecrance, Gloria Bloodsaw
  - Rosecrance
    - Has a clinician that can see high-performing students, athletes, and individuals to focus on idealism and perfectionism
  - Gateway Foundation
    - Joliet office now offers gambling program at no-cost
    - Also remember the RCCJ offers great peer support
- **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
  - National overdose deaths are now as low as 2019
  - In IL, all drug overdoses have fallen 30%, Will County overdose has fallen 55%
  - Concerned about overdose from Xylazine
  - Ketamine overdoses and deaths are starting to rise
  - Distributed over 769 boxed of Narcan and 115 test strips this year
  - Coming mid-January, libraries will need to have Narcan available for staff to use. Working with local libraries to be trained and ready for implementation
- **Youth:** OPEN
- **Youth Servicing Organizations:** OPEN

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

Announcements:

- Connie Dewall- Recovery Community Center in Joliet events
    - AA meeting for neurodiverse individuals- Monday nights at 5pm
    - Haircuts on Fridays
    - Will continue hot meals for the rest of the year, starting at 11am
- Dominica: on December 3rd started a new campaign- Fentanyl Free America
- Jan Dombrowski- HERO: Heroin anonymous 3-day convention in Tinley Park in April. Will share when she has more information
- Southwest Coalition holiday party is today at 11:30. Next business meeting is in January.
- Celesete from Heartlife Ministries
    - Please complete Community Needs survey
    - Love & Grief event tonight from 6-8pm. Frankfort office.
    - ROI Council Meeting and Open House December 18th from 10am-4pm

Adjournment
End Time: 9:44 AM

Next Meeting: January 27, 2026 9:30am In person/Via ZOOM. Opiod subcommittee at 9am on the 27th 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.