Will County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (WCSAPC)
Main Meeting – April 2026
April 28, 2026
9:30AM
In person & Zoom Meeting
Approved: May 26, 2026

Members Present

In-Person: Tim Ackermann (10), Aishwarya Balakrishna (10), Yolanda Barnes (12), Alexciana Castaneda (7), Caitlin Daly (10), CeCe DiSomma (11), Anysse Evans (10), Courtney Garfield (7), Natasha Grover (12), Brittany Gruver (7), Mireya Guzman (7), Bernadette Landeros (7), Shelley Marevka (7), Chuck Mascolino (7), Bill McCarty (13), Brook Melvin (12), Christine Miller (7), Liaquath Mohiuddin (10), Kelsey Novak (6), Robert Platos (7), Jennifer Smith (12), Larry Smith (12), Leanne Smith (12), Jacklyn VanOvermeiren (7), Katie Zacharias (7), Jeremy Zdzinicki (7)

Zoom: Gloria Bloodsaw (12), Kristine Bukala (12), Kathleen Burke (11), Magdalena Campos (12), Brian Delli (3), Connie Dewall (12), Heather Drew (12), Dominica Dybas (12), Troy Green (12), Sam Ortega Hughes (10), Tracey Papesh (12), Cristyna Ramirez (12), Michael Rojas (11), Courtney Sanfilippo (10), Neesha Stringfellow (12), Allison Thomas (12), Jennifer Trivelli (12), Xiomaira Villa (10), Lauren Wagner (12)

I. **Call to Order/Welcome**
Start: 9:40 a.m.

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

*Presentation on Kratom- Jarrett Burton- unfortunately did not attend to present training

* Member Awards

- Catalyst awards for bringing new ideas to the Coalition: CiCi DiSomma and Sheree Stilwell
- Connector awards: Brian Delli and Neesha Stringfellow

IV. Reports:

- **Treasurer** - Loren Yaksich - Financial Report reported by Courtney Garfield
    - $21,750.93 ending balance
    - 0 expenses in March
    - Motion from Lt. Platos, second by Yolanda Barnes
- **Secretary** – Kayla DeCant- approval of March minutes
    - Motion from Aishwarya, second by Lt. Platos

V. WCSAPC Requirements:

- **DFC Grant Report** – Courtney Garfield
    - Annual Performance Review was submitted a couple weeks ago, waiting to hear approval.
        - Serves as our non-compete continuation application for year 9
    - Training Opportunities
        - Please submit applications for trainings by May 1st
        - Amber Mitchell and Joan Stefka are currently in Denver attending Nat Con
    - New Youth Sector Leader Introduction- Kelsey Novak
        - Amy Flores from Give Back Program will be new youth sector representative
        - Kelsey introduced Amy and provided background and Amy's goals for participating in the Coalition
        - Amy is currently in school but hoping to participate virtually once school is finished for the year

VI. Old Business:

- **Too Good for Drugs Update-** Brittany Gruver
    - Completed curriculum at Hadley Middle School—5th and 6th grade last month
    - Pre and post tests will be sent to Dr. McCarty for evaluation
- **Deflection Grant Update-** Alexciana Castaneda
    - Completed quarter three grant report
    - Submitted year three continuation grant
    - If you have a client in need- reach out or refer
        - 815-724-1404 , acastaneda@willcosheriff.org
- **Advocacy Update-** Aishwarya Balakrishna
    - Tobacco flavor ban, SB 3148
    - Kratom Prohibition
    - Nicotine Sales near schools- passed 4/15 and is moving to the house
    - Preventing accidental ingestion and encouraging locked storage bags at dispensaries

VII. New Business:

- Assistance in filling the Youth Serving Organization Sectors ASAP – Courtney

VIII. Subcommittee/Action Team Reports

- **Alcohol** – Brittany Gruver
    - Committee met via Zoom and in-person this month to work on new goals for the year
    - Social hosting PSA has been running due to timing around prom time
    - Been posting for alcohol awareness month on social media
    - Reach out to Courtney if interested in joining
    - Will start to alternate with the opioid subcommittee, 9:00 am before the main coalition meetings will have a new Zoom option as well for both of the subcommittees. Log in to the same Zoom link at 9:00 as the main meeting.
    - Next meeting will be 9:00 am on June 23rd
- **Smoking/Vaping (formerly Marijuana/Nicotine)** – Tim Ackermann
    - Continuing goals for the year. Focus on parents…
        - Making quit kits for teens who are currently smoking and vaping to assist in quitting
- **Opioid –** Connie Dewall
    - Next meeting- 9am on May 26th
- **Social Media** – Courtney Garfield
    - Facebook: 1.4k views 95 reaches 4 new followers
    - Instagram: 111 views 29 reaches 3 new follower
- **Care Team Updates** – Katie Zacharias
    - Next three Saturdays are booked with events
    - Lt. Platos explained purpose of the trailer and how it can support community events
    - Thank you so much to care team for all their hard work!
    - Can request for community events, schools, etc. Can go anywhere within Will County if requested through Sheriff Office page, email HiddenInPlainSightForm@willcosheriff.org at least 30 days before event
- **Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) Update** – Dr. William McCarty/Tim Cramer
    - No updates at this time

IX. Sector Reports & Sharing:

- **Business in the Community:** Brian Delli
    - Completed HIPS request for Joliet Family Fun Fest, encouraged other agencies to request HIPS trailer
    - Working with local bars and restaurants to have Narcan available and accessible.
- **Civic Volunteer Groups:** Loren Yaksich/United Way
    - Not present
- **College or University-** Kayla DeCant/Lewis University
    - Not present
- **Faith-Based, Religious or Fraternal Organizations:** Sheree Stilwell
    - Not present

- **Healthcare Professionals:** Allison Thomas/Rosecrance, Gloria Bloodsaw/Gateway Foundation
    - Rosecrance: New location in Dyer, Indiana which will offer outpatient group programming, intensive outpatient group programming, mental health primary intensive outpatient group programming and TMS beginning in summer
        - Mental health IOP in Warrenville
        - Champaign location- offers residential; will be opening a mental health ER/triage center
- **Law Enforcement Agency:** Lockport PD
    - Completed Too Good For Drugs Program
- **Media:** Diane DeVries
    - No updates
- **Organizations Focusing in Substance Abuse:** Tim Cramer
    - Not present
- **Parents:** OPEN
- **Schools:** Kristen Schroeder/ Homer Glen District 33C
    - Not present
- **State or Local Government Agencies:** Kathleen Burke
    - Federal government no longer supporting harm reduction which means federal funds cannot be used to purchase harm reduction supplies including test strips, however, WCHD reports they have alternative funding sources to do so
    - 1244 boxes of Narcan distributed last month, 268 fentanyl/Xylazine test strips distributed
    - Three new red boxes in the community which distribute Narcan to community members
    - WCHD is accepting referrals for outpatient and IOP substance use treatment programming
- **Youth:** Amy Flores
    - Kelsey Novak introduced earlier in meeting
- **Youth Servicing Organizations:** YMCA
    - Not present

Other Announcements

- Neesha Stringfellow
    - Will County ROSC meeting at 11:00AM, Grundy County ROSC at 12:30PM, and Kankakee County ROSC meeting at 2:00PM on 4/28/26
    - Recovery care bags still available
    - In need of brochures to fill bags with, please provide Neesha with agency literature/handouts
    - Looking for interns for Project Light- youth substance use prevention workshops in the summer
        - Hour-long presentations, stipend is available

Adjournment

End Time: 10:24 AM

Next Meeting: May 26, 2026 9:30am In person/Via ZOOM. Opioid subcommittee meeting at 9am before full Coalition meeting. Next member appreciation meeting in July with Caitlin Daly presenting about MAPP Collaborative.

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.