Will County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (WCSAPC)
Monthly Meeting Minutes – IN PERSON AND ZOOM
May 26, 2026 – 9:30AM
Approved: June 23, 2026

Members Present

In-Person: Yolanda Barnes (12), Alexciana Castaneda (7), Connie Dewall (11), Courtney Garfield (7), Natasha Grover (12), Brittany Gruver (7), Taylor Mealey (10), Bonnie McPhillips (7), Brook Melvin (12), Sam Ortega Hughes (10), Courtney Sanfilippo (10), Larry Smith (12), Leanne Smith (12), Joan Stefka (10), Sheree Stilwell (8), Jacklyn VanOvermeiren (7)

Zoom: Tim Ackermann (10), Aishwarya Balakrishna (10), Gloria Bloodsaw (12), Kathleen Burke (11), Caitlin Daly (10), Kayla Decant (13), Brian Delli (3), Dominica Dybas (12), Paula Ekstrom (12), Anysse Evans (10), Conrad Hardeman (12), Tyler Giacalone (11), Troy Green (12), Bill McCarty (13), Amber Mitchell (5), Liaquath Mohiuddin (10), Kelsey Novak (6), Cristyna Ramirez (12), Neesha Stringfellow (12), Allison Thomas (12)

I. Call to Order/Welcome

Meeting called to order at 9:33am by Caitlin Daly

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Organization Highlight: Larry Smith / Intrepid Phoenix

- Fitness program in fellowship for people in recovery.
- Started in Indiana, starting branches in Illinois.
- Provide discounted memberships to CFX people in recovery to provide a safe space ($23/mo), and another coping mechanism/tool.

IV. Reports:

a. **Treasurer** - Loren Yaksich - Financial Report
   a. No expenses this month

b. Ending balance is $21,750.93
c. Motion made by Aishwarya Balakrishna, second by Brian Delli

b. **Secretary** – Kayla DeCant - Approval of April minutes
a. Motion by Joan, second by Yolanda

V. WCSAPC Requirements:

a. **DFC Grant Report** – Courtney Garfield
i. Still waiting for approval

b. **708 Mental Health Board Grant Report**– Courtney Garfield
i. NatCon Denver Training Updates
1. See reports for full takeaways and themes
ii. Training Selections made, next training is CADCA Mid-Year
1. Thank you to everyone who submitted for training!

VI. Old Business

a. Deflection Grant Update- Alexciana Castaneda
i. Wrapping up Year 2**,** working on evaluation
ii. Funds are still available if there are clients in need—please reach out

b. Advocacy Update- Aishwarya Balakrishna
i. Last week of legislative session
ii. House & Senate passed the children's mental health act
iii. Nicotine sales near school's act—was referred back to committee
iv. Nicotine flavor ban & Kratom prohibition act are both in Senate, deadlines have been extended

VII. New Business

a. Assistance in filling the Parents and Youth Serving Organizations Sectors ASAP– Courtney
i. If you know anyone who might be interested, or questions about who we are looking for & the responsibilities, please connect them with Courtney

VIII. Subcommittee/Action Team Reports

a. **Alcohol** – Brittany Gruver
i. Did not meet this month
ii. Next meeting scheduled at 9am before coalition meeting

b. **Smoking/Vaping** – Tim Ackermann
i. Funding for quit kits were approved, will start ordering
ii. Finalizing handouts about Kratom and vaping

iii. Next meeting scheduled Friday before coalition meeting at 10am via Teams

c. **Opioid-** Connie Dewall
   i. Have a few PSA options prepared for feedback
   ii. Working with Tim about the Kratom flyer and including Naloxone

d. **Social Media** – Courtney Garfield
   i. Facebook: 2,800 views, 159 reaches, 8 new followers
   ii. Instagram: 286 views, 48 reaches, 10 new followers

e. **Care Team Updates** – Courtney Garfield
   i. HIPS trailer is ready for summer events, will post about events the day before
   ii. First event is June 4th
   iii. Can request trailer for events in Will County online or by emailing Courtney or Bonnie

f. **Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) Update** – Dr. William McCarty
   i. No updates

IX. Sector Reports & Sharing:

a. **Business in the Community:** Brian Delli
   i. Looking for summer tabling opportunities

b. **Civic Volunteer Groups:** United Way
   i. Not present

c. **College or University:** Kayla DeCant/Lewis University
   i. Had over 1,300 students who has their degrees conferred at graduation this month
   ii. Looking for cocaine educational materials & resources

d. **Faith-Based, Religious or Fraternal Organizations:** Sheree Stilwell
   i. Continue to provide resources

e. **Healthcare Professionals:** Allison Thomas/Rosecrance
   i. Friday, May 29th 11am-1:30pm: open house at Champaign location for the opening of their behavioral health urgent care
   ii. Reminder that they have a provider to work with overachievers, and recently hired a Director for their eating disorder treatment program for adults (virtual IOP and 1:1 treatment)
   iii. Gateway—seeing an uptick in cocaine use
      1. Have virtual & in-person 1:1 option for mental health for those with insurance. Peer support can help with applications for Medicaid
      2. Currently hiring—see listings on website

f. **Law Enforcement Agency:** Lockport PD
   i. Have completed TGFD, had a graduation ceremony for the students and working with Dr. McCarty with the evaluations/post-test

g. **Media:** Diane DeVries
    i. Not present
h. **Organizations Focusing in Substance Abuse:** Tim Cramer
    i. Not present
i. **Parents:** OPEN
j. **Schools:** Homer Glen District 33C
    i. Not present
k. **State or Local Government Agencies:** Kathleen Burke
    i. Plainfield passed ordinance banning the sale of Kratom (also banned in Minooka)
    ii. Eleven new Naloxone Distribution Red Boxes have been added to the community. Full list on the website.
l. **Youth:** Amy Flores/Give Back- updates given by Kelsey Novak
    i. Biggest substance use challenge for youth? Vaping and marijuana because it is easy to access and very normalized online and in person. Using for stress, anxiety, and wanting to fit in.
    ii. Do you see ads for substances on social media? Yes, definitely see things about alcohol and vaping on TikTok, Snapchat, and Instagram. Even if it isn't an ad, it is something the influencer is normalizing and making seem fun
    iii. Yes, has interest in helping with social media to help it connect with youth and have content that feels relateable
m. **Youth Servicing Organizations:** OPEN

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

X. Announcements/Adjournment

a. Will County ROSC meeting is today at 11am via ZOOM
    i. Have Project Light Interns who have worked with middle & high school students, who will present what they have learned
b. Monday, June 29th from 4-8pm BASSET class in Wilmington

XI. Next Meeting Dates

Next Main Meeting: June 23, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. IN Person/VIA ZOOM
Next Alcohol Meeting: June 23, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. IN Person/VIA ZOOM
Next Smoking/Vaping Meeting: June 19, 2026 at 10:00 am VIA ZOOM
Next Opioid Meeting: July 28, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. IN Person/VIA ZOOM

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 by Caitlin Daly

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.