Will County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (WCSAPC)
Monthly Meeting Agenda – IN PERSON AND ZOOM
August 25, 2026 – 9:30AM
Approved: September 22, 2026

Members Present,

In-Person: Tim Ackermann (10), Yolanda Barnes (12), Diana Belicke (10), Connie Dewall (11), Paula Ekstrom (12), Courtney Garfield (7), Brittany Gruver (7), Chuck Mascolino (7), Bonnie McPhillips (7), Taylor Mealey (10), Brook Melvin (10), Liaquath Mohiuddin (10), Tracey Papesh (12), Joan Stefka (10), Jackie Van Overmeiren (7), Katie Zacharias (7), Jeremy Zdzinicki (7)

Zoom: Aishwarya Balakrishna (10), Gloria Bloodsaw (12), Amy Bloomberg (12), Tim Cramer (12), Caitlin Daly (10), Kayla Decant (13), Brian Delli (3), Dominica Dybas (12), Anysse Evans (10), Matisha Green (12), Troy Green (12), Ram Guduri (12), Conrad Hardeman (12), Lori Kehoe (12), Suni Leal-Markley (12), Amber Mitchell (5), Kelsey Novak (6), Cristyna Ramirez (12), Angelia Robinson (12), Frank Slabenak (7)

I. Call to Order/Welcome- Meeting called to order at 9:35am by Caitlin Daly

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Introductions (Name & Organization)

Reminder about our Virtual Rolodex! Want to be added? Submit a form here.

CADCA Mid-Year Recap: Troy Green & Paula Ekstrom (see email for more details)

Prevention-track insights

-Important to have people from every part of the community

-Strong family and peer connections is still one of the major protective factors for substance use, mental health, and more

Organizations

-Operation Parent was a great organization to learn about, how to support parents to have meaningful conversations with children about substance use, mental health, social media, and other challenges

Records all of their webinars, available on their website.

-Move into Light was another great organization that highlights the need to address mental health and substance use together

-Lots of DEA resources

- For General Information: www.dea.gov
- For parents, caregivers, and educators: www.getsmartaboutdrugs.gov
- For colleges and universities: www.campusdrugprevention.gov
- For teens: www.justthinktwice.com

-Emily's Story

IV. Reports:

a. **Treasurer** - Loren Yaksich - Financial Report given by Caitlin Daly
    a. No expenses for last month
    b. Ending balance $21,750.93
    c. Motion made by Bonnie, seconded by Aishwarya
b. **Secretary** – Kayla DeCant - Approval of July minutes
    a. Motion made by Bonnie, seconded by Yolanda

V. WCSAPC Requirements:

a. **DFC Grant Report** – Courtney Garfield
    i. Notice of award for Year 9, will start October 1st
b. **708 Mental Health Board Grant Report**– Courtney Garfield
    i. One spot available for Connections in Prevention Conference in Springfield, October 29-30. Please reach out to Courtney if interested by August 28th!
c. **Deflection grant**- Bonnie
    i. Renewed for another year
    ii. Alexciana has ended her time with the grant. The new coordinator, Connie Dewall, will start on Monday.

VI. Old Business

a. Advocacy Update- Aishwarya Balakrishna
    i. State legislature & congress are currently on recess
    ii. Many municipalities are currently proposing local ordinances around Kratom: bans and restrictions. Illinois Prevention Network is compiling a list of local communities that have these ordinances.

VII. New Business

a. Coalition Event – October 7th at Lewis University. Guest speaker Tony Hoffman.
   i. Updated start time to 5:00 to have more time for tables and refreshments.
   ii. 5pm-7:30pm at Lewis University
   iii. Working on raffle prizes

   -Please notify Courtney at cgarfield@willcosheriff.org if you would like to have a table and/or volunteer.

b. Board Slate for 2026:

   President: Aishwarya Balakrishna
   Vice President: OPEN
   Treasurer: Loren Yaksich
   Secretary: Kayla DeVries
   Member at Large: Diane DeVries

*Please let me know if you are interested in serving on the board this upcoming grant period by September 1st.

Will vote next month on the full Slate, with the new Board starting their term October 1st.

VIII. Subcommittee/Action Team Reports

a. **Alcohol** – Brittany Gruver
   i. Next meeting Oct 27th at 9am before main Coalition meeting
   ii. Ordered magnet notepads to help promote prevention around social hosting

b. **Smoking/Vaping** – Tim Ackermann
   i. Quick kits are assembled and ready to be distributed throughout the community
   ii. Working on creating a form for the media scan project, will have gift cards for students who participate.
   iii. Next meeting is September 18th.

c. **Opioid-** Connie Dewall
   i. Next meeting September 22nd at 9am before the Coalition meeting.
   ii. Will be setting new goals

d. **Social Media** – Courtney Garfield
   i. Facebook: 2,467 views, 2 new followers
   ii. Instagram: 289 views, 3 new followers

e. **Care Team Updates** – Courtney Garfield
   i. 12-14 more events scheduled for this season
   ii. Was at the Lockport car show last night

iii. Still taking requests!

f. **Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) Update** – Tim Cramer
   i. County reports are out, still waiting for Statewide report

IX. Sector Reports & Sharing:

a. **Business in the Community:** Brian Delli
   i. Saturday, October 10th from 10am-3pm at Slammers Baseball Field is 15th Annual Joliet Fun Fest. Will be sending tabling forms ($0 for non-profit and government agencies) and free adult admission sheets. HIPS trailer will be there.
   ii. Looking to have representatives with LEDO (Latino's Economic Development).

b. **Civic Volunteer Groups:** United Way

c. **College or University:** Kayla DeCant/Lewis University
   i. Wellbeing fair scheduled October 7th from 12-1pm. Email kdecant@lewisu.edu if you are interested in having your organization table.

d. **Faith-Based, Religious or Fraternal Organizations:** Sheree Stilwell

e. **Healthcare Professionals:** Rosecrance

f. **Law Enforcement Agency:** Lockport PD

g. **Media:** Diane DeVries

h. **Organizations Focusing in Substance Abuse:** Tim Cramer

i. **Parents:** Jackie VanOvermeiren

j. **Schools:** Homer Glen District 33C

k. **State or Local Government Agencies:** Kathleen Burke

l. **Youth:** Amy Flores/Give Back

m. **Youth Servicing Organizations:** Joan Stefka

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

X. Announcements/Adjournment

XI. Next Main Meeting: September 22, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. IN Person/VIA ZOOM

Next Alcohol Meeting: October 27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. IN Person/VIA ZOOM
Next Smoking/Vaping Meeting: September 18, 2026 at 10:00 am VIA ZOOM
Next Opioid Meeting: September 22, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. IN Person/VIA ZOOM

Meeting adjourned at 10:28am by Caitlin Daly. Additional sector reports shared via e-mail.

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.