

**Joint Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County  
Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Meeting  
Minutes**

**May 19, 2021**

**I. WELCOME**

The Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County and the Iroquois County Opioid Coalition held a joint meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. The meeting commenced from 10 am -12 pm in the Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (E.S.D.A.) Room in the Iroquois County Courthouse in Watseka thanks to host Eric Ceci. The meeting provided members the options of attending either in-person or via Zoom. A reminder email was sent to both coalitions beforehand.

In-person guests were given a meeting agenda and reminded to sign-in. Verbal introductions were heard while Barb and Susan welcomed everyone in-person and via Zoom to the joint meeting.

**Members present at the meeting were:**

- Barb King — Iroquois County Probation Department, Iroquois County Juvenile Justice Council Chairperson, Law Enforcement Sector Representative
- Jenni McTaggart — Iroquois County State's Attorney Office, DFC Grant Project Coordinator
- Sarah Pree — Iroquois County State's Attorney Office, DFC Grant Communication Campaign and YPE Coordinator
- Susan Wynn Bence — Gibson Health, Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Chairperson, Other Sector Representative
- Ryan Roe - Army National Guard Staff Sergeant, Investigative Case Support Analyst for the Counterdrug Task Force for the Illinois State Police, Military Sector Representative
- Jill Brown - Milford School District School Counselor, School Sector Representative
- Ellen McCullough - Iroquois Community Care Services, Civic/Volunteer Sector Representative
- RaDonna Hasselbring - Iroquois County School District #9 School Counselor, School Sector Representative
- Gina Greene - Iroquois County Public Health Department, Healthcare Sector Representative
- Taylor Eades - Iroquois County Public Health Department, Healthcare Sector Representative
- Dr. Katherine Austman - Gibson Health, Healthcare Sector Representative
- Kayla Button - Iroquois County Mental Health Department, State/Local/Tribal Government Representative
- Julie Larsen - Kankakee County Health Department, Kankakee County Opioid Chairperson
- Stacey Smith - WGFA/WIBK Radio Station Manager, Business Sector Representative
- Eileen Woolums - Gibson Health, East Central Illinois AHEC (Area Health Education Center) Network, Other Sector Representative

- Lisa Pearson - Iroquois County Mental Health Department, State/Local/Tribal Government Representative

## **II. OPIOID COALITION**

### **A. MAR GRANT (SHERIFF'S GRANT)**

Bence reminded the group that the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR), under its federal funding for the State Opioid Response, is providing funds to be distributed to county teams participating in the Illinois Learning Collaborative to Support Medication Assisted Recovery (MAR) Implementation for Justice Involved Populations (Learning Collaborative). Iroquois County had applied and was selected to receive a stipend of at least \$15,000 to support program activities. Bence then informed the group that a Virtual Kickoff for the MAR grant would be held via Zoom on Friday, May 21st at 8:00 a.m. This orientation will be an overview of the MAR grant for Sheriff Hagen, Barb King, and herself.

### **B. MAT UPDATE**

Bence introduced Dr. Katherine Austman from Gibson Health to provide a MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) update. Dr. Austman noted that Ford County had declined to apply for the MAR grant.

Austman, who has studied addiction medicine for alcohol and opioid use disorders, continues to see patients in Gibson's Health Clinic in Watseka. Patients can call the office there to set up an appointment.

Dr. Austman stated that when an addicted incarcerated person is released, they have a 40% increased risk of dying from opioid overdose the first year of release compared to the regular population. Bence noted that many individuals who are released end up relapsing because they struggle to face many challenges, such as finding employment. This discussion provided a segway to the guest speaker's topic.

### **C. GUEST SPEAKER - TERI TINCHER**

Bence stated that Teri Tincher of the Champaign Regional Planning Committee was scheduled to speak at the meeting, However, she was unable to attend. Bence noted that many adults and kids obtain jobs through Tincher's program. Such a program might help individuals coming out of treatment to find employment in our area.

Bence said that the Iroquois County Historical Society is looking for summer help. They would like to pay youth to create new virtual history links on the museum's website.

Austman stated that Missouri has a program where businesses are designated as being recovery-friendly, similar to the businesses designated as being breast-feeding friendly. Such recovery-friendly businesses are willing to hire individuals who are in recovery. A suggestion was made for Iroquois County to look into designating businesses and possibly giving a certificate.

#### D. LOCAL RECOVERY PROGRAM UPDATES

Celebrate Recovery continues to meet at Trinity Church and is reporting awesome attendance. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) is still looking for a leader.

Austman stated that Gibson Health is looking for someone to lead a SMART recovery program in Iroquois County. This type of recovery program is not faith-based. It is not a paid position, but the hospital will pay for the leader's training. In the future, there is a possibility that the position could be paid. Austman pointed out that the leader does have to be in recovery themselves.

#### E. OTHER OPIOID COALITION UPDATES

Susan reminded members that the next Opioid Meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2021 from 10-12pm. Members can attend either in-person or via Zoom. The location will either be at Trinity Church or the E.S.D.A. room in the Iroquois County Courthouse basement.

### III. JJC NEWS

#### A. CAMPAIGN RE-LAUNCH

King noted that the JJC has been very busy. She turned the floor over to Pree to share recent campaign details/happenings. Pree shared her screen with members and discussed the following:

1. First Message released under the DFC grant: ***Parents, Prevention is in Your Hands.***

This message included helpful prevention TIPS for parents, such as set clear rules, enforce consequences, limit access, check in, offer support, be a good example, etc. It was released in mid-April via poster, newspaper ad, Facebook ad, and radio ad. Pree then played the radio PSA that aired on WGFA for all to hear.

2. Second Message released under the DFC grant: ***Is Your Teen Hooked? Keep your teen from getting caught up in the negative side effects of vaping nicotine or marijuana.***

This message had a fishing theme and was released in mid-May via poster, newspaper ad, Facebook ad, and radio ad. Pree then played the WGFA PSA for those in attendance.

3. The Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education's SUPS grant just released another message from their KEEP SHOWING UP state-created campaign. This campaign focuses only on alcohol and runs through June. Both a poster and Facebook post were released mid-May. Pree stated that we have been working with I-KAN to schedule the release of our materials in order to ensure that we do not overwhelm schools and the community.

4. Third Message that will be released under the DFC grant: ***Prevention is a Partnership.***

This message stresses that it takes everyone (parents, grandparents, siblings, coaches, teachers, counselors, community members, etc.) working together to prevent underage drug and alcohol use. It is set to be released in late August when students are returning to school.

5. Fourth Message that will be released under the DFC grant: ***Make sure your teen's story doesn't end up in the trash. Every teen's life has the potential to be a best-seller when they make good choices.***  
This message is set to be released in September.
6. A Facebook ad ran on TIP's page with helpful prom and graduation TIPs for parents.
7. A graduation ad was created to run in every local newspaper and on Facebook. It praised parents of the graduating class and reminded them to celebrate safely and not be a party to underage drug and alcohol use.
8. A post concerning TIP's graduation fans is currently pinned to the top of TIP the Scale's Facebook page. As parents celebrate the Class of '21, they are reminded that alcohol consumption is illegal and risky for anyone under the age of 21. Families are asked to snap photos of themselves at graduation with the fans and upload them into the post's comments. The weather is supposed to be heating up in time for graduation, so we are hoping that those in attendance at graduation will make use of the fans and be inspired to have a conversation about preventing underage usage.
9. TIP yearbook ads were created to be placed in area high school yearbooks. Stickers were created and printed with a similar message to be placed inside Crescent City Grade School's yearbooks.
10. A TIP ad was placed in Iroquois West High School's playbill.
11. TIP sponsored area baseball/softball leagues. Graphics were created to be put on banners that will hang on outfield fences at ball fields throughout the county.
12. Clint Perzee represented the JJC in a live Hotline Interview on WGFA last week. He gave ideas for how parents can help to keep their teens safe during graduation season. The promo that was posted on TIP's Facebook page is our most liked post to date. It reached almost 5,600 people. This led to TIP's page receiving more likes. Because the hotline was a huge success, McTaggart's husband had suggested taking advantage of our TIP Tuesday feature. He recommended having a different person from the community (police, fire, hospital, health department, mental health, etc.) give helpful TIPs. Members were asked to share their suggestions for future volunteers who could be featured to offer such TIPs.
13. Our graphic designer just created TIP stickers that will be given to area businesses (Casey's, Monical's, Pizza Palace, Franci's, Luke's One Stop, Little Caesar's, etc.) to seal their pizza boxes/bags. Members were asked for names of other businesses that might use them. Gas Depot was mentioned.
14. TIP stickers had been quickly created and printed in-house for use on silverware packets/takeout containers for the Kiwanis breakfast last month. Our graphic designer plans to professionally design stickers that will be used at future drive-up meals put on by Legions, Kiwanis, 4-H Clubs, FFA chapters, Knights of

Columbus, Booster Clubs, etc. CD's Restaurant also plans to make use of the stickers and will stick them on the silverware packets for us.

15. Members were challenged to start thinking about a contest that TIP could host either at the fair or online. Our past four contests were discussed.
16. Pree noted that TIPtheScale.org is in the process of being updated. Many changes have recently happened, such as updating the TIP logo, receiving a new grant, having a new fiscal agent for the grant, expanding the campaign to include addressing underage marijuana and tobacco use in addition to alcohol, etc. She noted that website design is not her area of expertise, so it is a slow process. Austman asked if the website provides resources for parents who have a child who is already addicted. The website has an entire section devoted to helpful resources for parents, including those regarding addiction. Our Facebook posts often provide help numbers, such as for Iroquois Mental Health Center's Substance Abuse/Crisis Line and SAMHSA's National Helpline.

## **B. UPDATED EMAIL LIST**

King said that she had been having some issues sending out emails. She asked those in attendance to bear with her as she makes changes to her email lists so that they can be delivered. McTaggart said that the JJC is needing the email addresses of mayors in the county. Bence shared that new mayors will be sworn in on June 1st, so some will be changing.

## **C. COALITION ASSESSMENT**

King asked those in attendance to take the time to complete the JJC's Coalition Assessment Survey that was emailed. Results will help the JJC to improve its operations and make a bigger impact on Iroquois County.

## **D. UPDATED COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

King stated that McTaggart has been busy creating surveys to send to schools, police departments/police officers, healthcare, mayors/liquor commissioners, and parents in order to ensure that we are doing what is most effective for the county. County resources have changed since the previous assessment was completed and we need to find out what is available and make certain that we are not duplicating efforts. McTaggart urged all who receive the survey to complete it as soon as possible, as we want to continue working together to come up with the best solutions. King also stated that a continuation report must be completed next week for our grant funders. Receiving feedback about our county's needs will help us plan how to better meet those needs.

King noted that in coalition training we were encouraged to draw a map of our service area. McTaggart has started doing so. Survey responses will help us to complete this map and fill in various available resources and items that help to characterize towns in our county. King suggested also using Facebook posts to help gather this information. She thought that we could reach out to different towns and ask for residents to share their town's claim to fame. Such a map might prove to be quite useful by many. Bence

discussed that there is a GIS program that can assist in creating maps. She will find out if we are able to use this program for free.

#### **E. IROQUOIS COUNTY FAIR**

The Iroquois County Fair will run July 13-18, 2021. King shared that the JJC has completed the necessary paperwork to have a booth at the fair. She noted that we will need volunteers to help man the booth. In the past, we have had several individuals step up to volunteer to work a shift. However, the booth is supposed to have a representative at all times. Many members are already busy working booths for their employers or other groups. In the future, we plan to utilize students from our Youth Advisory Councils once they are formed. King said that we may create a Google survey for members to complete regarding volunteering at the fair. Roe stated that he thinks it is important to have representation at the fair in order to get our name and message out. He may be able to volunteer at the booth. Bence noted that kids would be excited to see someone in uniform there.

King stated that we will need to decide if we want to have a contest at our fair booth. McTaggart shared how Eric Cici (E.S.D.A.) uses their mascot Radar the dog to draw attention to their efforts. They hide the stuffed animal mascot somewhere at the fair each day. Whoever finds Radar wins a prize. McTaggart said that such a fun idea would raise awareness for our cause, pull people to attend the fair, attract fairgoers to our booth, and encourage them to engage and return to our booth each day.

### **IV. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **A. KANKAKEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Larsen stated that she liked the sticker idea on utensils and pizza boxes. She is hoping to be in person at our next meeting. She also said that they are working on a state opioid response grant and are partnering with Kendall, Grundy, and Iroquois Counties. She noted that they will have some billboards regarding NARCAN. Findings show that the 45-65 year age range is listening to the radio. It was stated that 94.1 WGFA and 95.9 WIQI are considered the two local stations for our area.

#### **B. NATIONAL GUARD**

Roe stated that the National Guard has been very busy. He is going to check his schedule and hopes to be able to volunteer at our fair booth.

#### **C. IROQUOIS COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES**

McCullough encouraged everyone to safely pick up needles when you see them and place them in sharps canisters or glass jars. She reminded the group that they still have sharps canisters to distribute to anyone wanting one. These canisters are small so they can easily fit in your car. They are available for the public to use in collecting needles throughout the county. Once the canister is full, you are to contact her and she will dispose of the needles and give you a new canister.

#### **D. IROQUOIS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #9**

Hasselbring stated she is looking forward to starting up programs that they had run in the past, but had to discontinue due to COVID. She said that she will probably be able to work a shift at the JJC's fair booth. She likes the idea of piggybacking with another booth to cover the times. On August 5th, 2021 they will hold in-person registration. Hasselbring said that she would be willing to disperse some of our TIP literature at the event.

#### **E. IROQUOIS MENTAL HEALTH CENTER**

Button stated that she is the Director of Child and Adolescent Programs. She sees patients in both offices in Iroquois and Kankakee Counties. Her main focus is the Watseka area. Button is planning to run a parenting class in July. She does not usually do so over the summer, but noted that her last parenting group had been successful. 10 out of 11 of its members were mandated participants. She plans to send us a flyer with information to share about the upcoming class so that we can help promote the event. Both parents and grandparents may attend the course in active parenting (which follows the [activeparenting.com](http://activeparenting.com) curriculum). It focuses on how to communicate with kids, how to form good relationships, and how to educate kids on drugs and sex as they get older. The \$25 fee for the class covers the cost of the book that is used. King asked Button if she could solicit information from participating parents, such as where they would be likely to see posted campaign materials. She noted that such feedback would be good in order to make our campaign most efficient. Button's previous parent group will be asked to take our Iroquois County Needs Assessment Parent Survey.

#### **F. WGFA/WIBK RADIO STATIONS**

Smith had Zoomed in late to the meeting due to another commitment. King told Smith that she had missed all of the accolades WGFA received for their work with the PSA's and hotline interview. Smith reminded the coalition that a PSA still needs to be written for the third message that will release in August as well as scheduling more upcoming Hotline Interviews.

#### **G. IROQUOIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Greene reported that the Iroquois County Health Department is ready to distribute NARCAN and provide training for its use. They have flyers with tear-off tabs to aid in spreading the word. She noted that each participant receives 2 doses upon completion of the training. Anyone interested should contact them to set up free group or individual trainings. She said that NARCAN is still good beyond its expiration date if not exposed to heat or light. It does not become toxic after its expiration date. There is a program ([stopoverdosedeadths.com](http://stopoverdosedeadths.com)) that has been developed to mail NARCAN.

Greene reported that the Hidden in Plain Sight exhibit is getting ready for the fall. They are working to coincide with school parent/teacher conferences. They will set up the exhibit in either a trailer or school building.

The Iroquois County Health Department currently has the Moderna vaccine. Pfizer is available at CVS.

#### **H. BOY SCOUT TRAILER UPDATE**

Bence reminded the group that the old Boy Scout Troop #188 trailer is still a possibility for use with some of our upcoming events. The hope is that the trailer will be used to benefit youth again. They are in the process of getting the title of the trailer transferred to Watseka First Christian Church so that it can be used. A suggestion was made that the trailer could be used for the Hidden In Plain Sight exhibits either at schools where there is not adequate available indoor space or at outdoor events. King mentioned that perhaps it could be used with our Vape Escape Room presentations, too.

#### **I. EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS AHEC (Area Health Education Center) Network**

Woolums stated that they are wanting to host another rural Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) education opportunity. The first one that they held in June 2019 was successful. Their 2020 event was canceled due to COVID. She is hoping to do a virtual event this summer.

### **VII: ADJOURNMENT**

King announced the next JJC meeting will be September 15th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. JJC committees may meet prior to this next full council meeting. She reminded the group that volunteers will be needed for June, July, and August for various activities that may arise. Anyone wanting to volunteer was told to let King, McTaggart or Pree know. **We are also looking for volunteers to help compile survey data, help brainstorm contest ideas for the fair, and participate in upcoming Hotline Interviews.** A suggestion was made to ask FFA, NHS, or Key Club members to volunteer. Another suggestion was to utilize select individuals on probation to perform their mandated community service hours by assisting the JJC with such matters.

King reminded members that both full council and committee meeting minutes will continue to be shared via email. Full council meeting minutes are also posted on the TIPtheScale.org website.

The next Opioid coalition meeting will be on June 16th, 2021 at 10 a.m. with options to attend via Zoom or in-person. The meeting place (either Trinity Church or Iroquois County Courthouse's E.S.D.A. room) will be announced soon.

Meeting adjourned.