

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

**December 14, 2022**

**I. WELCOME**

The Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County held a meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2022. The meeting commenced from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the E.S.D.A. room in the Iroquois County Courthouse basement in Watseka. Coalition members and potential members were invited by email, social media, and website to attend this meeting either in person or via Zoom. A meeting reminder email was also sent out including the agenda and Zoom link, as well as an announcement that snacks and drink would be available and a JJC group photo would be taken.

In-person guests were given a meeting agenda, reminded to sign-in, and encouraged to help themselves to the snacks and drink provided. Barb King, JJC Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Verbal introductions were heard from those present at the meeting and those attending virtually.

**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
- Taylor Eades - Harbor House, Outreach Advocate, Civic Sector Representative, Stephanie - Harbor House, Prevention Advocate, Civic Sector Representative
- Stacey Smith - WGFA/WIBK Radio Station Manager, Business Sector Representative
- Mary Kay Lavicka - Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Healthcare Representative
- Julie Sluis - The Arc of Iroquois County: FSA, Civic Sector Representative
- Eric Ceci - Iroquois County Public Health Department, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Healthcare Sector Representative
- Clint Perzee - Iroquois County Sheriff, Law Enforcement Sector Representative
- Liz Gibson - Birth to Five Illinois, Regional Council Manager, Civic/Volunteer Sector Representative
- Ryan Mustered - Trinity Church Pastor/Celebrate Recovery, Religious Sector Representative
- Tracy Tolliver - Parent
- Julie Larsen - Kankakee County Health Department, Health Promotion Coordinator and Overdose Prevention Program Manager
- Mariah Vail - United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, Development Manager

- Kristin Jackson - Child Network
- Valent Majerczak - Addiction Recovery Services Chicago
- Dave King - Carle Health, Community Outreach Manager for Carle Addiction Recovery Center

## **II. JJC INFORMATION/GRANT UPDATES**

### **A. Harvest Daze - Coloring Contest/Activities**

Sarah Pree shared that Harvest Daze took place on October 1st and 2nd. It is held on the grounds of the Old Iroquois County Museum. Susan Bence shared that it is the museum's biggest fundraiser of the year. Pree stated that the JJC had partnered with the Watseka Kiwanis to host a Kid Zone area in a large tent. Children visiting the Kid Zone could take part in various activities, such as a giant Operation game, storytime, a table with corn, an activity sheet created by the JJC, etc. The JJC had a Spin the Wheel activity in which kids could spin the wheel and answer a question about healthy life choices that corresponded to the number the wheel stopped on to earn a piece of candy. (Example questions were provided: Name a food from the dairy group. Name one way to handle a peer pressure situation. Name one way to calm yourself down when upset.) The JJC and Kiwanis sponsored a coloring contest that featured the JJC owl mascot for those in attendance. Candy prizes and ribbons were awarded. A Kiwanis member graciously agreed to wear the JJC's owl mascot costume and walk around the museum grounds to spread awareness about the JJC and its campaign to adults and greet kids who were excited to pose for a picture with the owl.

### **B. Recovery Resource Cards**

King shared that the JJC, Iroquois County Sheriff's Office and the Iroquois County Opioid Coalition had designed Recovery Resource cards to be distributed to those in need throughout Iroquois County. DFC grant funds were used to purchase the credit card style cards that include a QR code that links to a TIP the Scale webpage listing various resources. King noted that such a format would enable the county to constantly update the list, as organization/business names and contact information can be changed for the listed agencies without having to reprint new cards. King asked that we be notified of any edits or changes that need to be made to the list of resources as time passes. Pree noted that she has been unsuccessful in getting East Central IL Worknet to respond to ensure that their information is correct on the resource page. Susan Larsen shared that she would like the Kankakee County Health Department's information for distributing naloxone to be included on the resource page. Cards were distributed to all in attendance.

### **C. New DFC Grant Fiscal Year**

The new fiscal year for the DFC grant began on September 30th, 2022 and will end on September 29, 2023.

### **D. Owl Mascot Name**

Pree noted that the JJC has been struggling to decide on a name for their new owl mascot. She shared that they have asked the public for suggestions at the county fair, Summer in the Park, classrooms, JJC meetings, etc. She added that they had voted on these suggestions at the last JJC meeting, but did not have a strong winner. Pree reminded everyone that the owl mascot will be used with the TIP parent campaign, 7th

grade/8th grade/high school YPE programs and youth groups, as well as with some of the younger grades. A suggestion was made to do a Google poll with students/schools choosing their favorite name from a provided list of approximately 4 names with an ending date of late January. After much discussion, the members agreed that we would target 3rd-12th grade students and provide a QR code linking to the survey that would be sent to schools and shared on Facebook. Voting would end on January 30th, 2023. The possibility of including the QR code on the Winter Toilet Times was also discussed, but decided against because the Winter issue will hang in bathrooms through March making them seem outdated. The students will have the options of the following names: Hoot, Hootie, Ollie, Whodini, and Wisdom. Suggestions were made to do a live reveal on Facebook or reveal during one of our WGFA Hotline Interviews.

**E. Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce (WACC) Business Education Partnership**

McTaggart reminded everyone that the JJC is a member of the WACC and that the chamber is encouraging members to go into schools and help in 1st-5th grade classrooms in the Watseka School District (a WACC member as well). The JJC was partnered with Mrs. Bohlmann's fifth grade class at Glenn Raymond School. McTaggart shared that she and Pree had gone into the fifth grade classroom last Friday afternoon with booklets for each student explaining who the JJC is and how everyone in our coalition works together to prevent underage substance use. Also included in the booklet was a story about a raindrop who dreamed of becoming a snowflake and turning the landscape white. Working alone, the raindrop turned snowflake was unsuccessful in accomplishing this feat, as he always quickly melted. When he finally joined a large cloud of many raindrops working together, they were able to cooperate and achieve his dream. We discussed with the class how they themselves work together with others at home, in their classroom, at school, and in their neighborhood. We ended by making 3-D snowflakes with the students. Although everyone followed the same instructions, each snowflake looked unique. Everyone's snowflakes put together will help to decorate the classroom and "turn the landscape white". Like the newly made snowflakes, JJC members each bring their own unique expertise, contacts, etc. to the group so that we can accomplish great things together. McTaggart noted that we will return to the classroom in a few months in order to do another project with the class.

**F. Blue Ribbon Coalition Accreditation**

King shared how she, McTaggart, and Pree had participated in a multi-week coalition training put on by the National Coalition Academy (NCA). At the end of the training, we submitted several documents that illustrated that the JJC had created a strong foundation for their work by updating and utilizing their coalition products. As a result, the JJC is one of 15 coalitions across the United States who are being recognized as CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) Blue Ribbon Coalitions. King continued by saying that this accreditation would not have happened without the hard work and dedication of all of the JJC's members. King passed out Certificates of Appreciation to those in attendance and stated that we will be taking a JJC group photo at the end of the meeting. Certificates of partners not in attendance will be distributed at a future date.

### **III. YOUTH PREVENTION EDUCATION UPDATES**

#### **A. Life Education Center (LEC) Visits**

McTaggart said that through a partnership between the JJC, Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education (I-KAN ROE) and Pledge for Life (PFL), she continues to be busy teaching Life Education Center lessons to Iroquois County K-6th grade students in the classroom. She stated that she will be visiting both St. John's and St. Paul's parochial schools in January, Glenn Raymond School in February, Wanda Kendall School and Watseka Junior High School in March, and Donovan Elementary and Junior High Schools in April. Pree stated that McTaggart is continuing to pass out both our tri-fold brochure that explains the JJC and its purpose and initiatives as well as an insert that promotes the safe handling of medicines and the locations of Rx Drop Box locations in Iroquois County.

#### **B. Too Good for Drugs**

Pree stated that 7th, 8th, and High School teachers throughout the county have all received the Too Good for Drugs curriculum supplied by the JJC. These schools include:  
7th Grade: Cissna Park, Crescent City, Donovan, Milford, St. John's, and St. Paul's  
8th Grade: Cissna Park, Crescent City, Donovan, and Milford  
High School: Cissna Park, Donovan, Milford, and Christ Lutheran  
She noted that the larger three schools in the county (Central, IW, and Watseka) receive their Too Good for Drugs materials from I-KAN's SUPS grant. Pree pointed out that several teachers have already finished implementing the programs for the current school year.

#### **C. Winter Toilet Times Draft**

Pree passed around a draft of the Toilet Times that will be published this month and distributed to all junior and senior high schools, area youth centers, Iroquois County Courthouse, etc. She said that the first draft had already been emailed to the JJC's communication campaign committee in order to receive valuable feedback. It was decided to save some of the brain-related content for the Spring Toilet Times in order to keep the print from being too small to read. She stated that the topics this season center on the teen brain and include brain facts, a brain riddle, and TIPs for how to care for the teen brain. She asked all to proofread and provide feedback and possible edits. The document will go to print this week in order to be distributed in early January.

### **IV. COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

Pree stated that since our last meeting in September, much has taken place with our communication campaign. She provided a quick recap.

**A. Local Celebrity Facebook TIPs and PSA's on WGFA and WIBK** - To date, we have featured approximately 80 local celebrities on Facebook. We honor someone for their work in Iroquois County and they provide helpful advice for families. These celebrity TIPs are also added to our TIPtheScale.org website. Celebrities have also been asked to record themselves reading a radio PSA pulled from the advice they provided. To date, we have had 59 celebrities record their TIP for a PSA. These recordings are put into a rotation on WGFA and WIBK radio stations. Pree asked for suggestions for future celebrities we could ask who are doing good things in our area. Names shared included: Mariah Vail (United Way), Jim Rowe (Kankakee County State's Attorney), Miles Maiden

(Kankakee County State's Attorney Office), Kim Rabideau (IMHC), Brenna LaVoie (IMHC), Lena Lade (IMHC), and Katie Wages (Banyan).

- B. Silverware Packet Disbursement** - Pree noted that as of yesterday, we have given out over 14,000 silverware packets with a prevention message sticker to area school, church, 4-H, fair, Legion, Lions, Kiwanis, etc. fundraisers. This initiative has enabled the JJC to reach many families throughout the county and organizations are thrilled to receive our free silverware for use at their fundraisers. We will soon be finished with this initiative, as we have only a small number of silverware sets still available. Pree noted that the Iroquois County Probation Department and their public service workers had been invaluable in stickering all of these packets for distribution. We are sincerely thankful for their efforts and hard work. King also stated that we are appreciative of Gibson Health for partnering with us to give out these packets at the county fair.
- C. I-KAN's SUPs Grant** - Pree shared that the JJC's partnership with the Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education is continuing throughout the current school year. I-KAN's SUPs grant funds the purchase/distribution of the state-created (*KEEP SHOWING UP. They're still growing up.*) campaign posters, Facebook posts, newsletters, and postcards throughout the county. These campaign materials include the JJC and TIP logos and focus on preventing underage drinking.
- D. Onarga Theater Ad** - The Onarga Theater is the only operational theater in Iroquois County. An updated ad, including our new owl mascot, has been created. Although the theater has opened again, they are not showing movies every weekend. Instead, they are only opening to show movies that will appeal to local audiences. Our advertising contract is being adjusted to meet this change.
- E. Winter Sports Program Ads** - We have created ads featuring our owl mascot that are running in local winter sports programs. Central HS, Iroquois West HS, and Watseka HS are the only schools in the county with such programs. We are currently running ads in the Watseka HS and Iroquois West HS winter programs and will again in their spring programs. We had reached out to the Central HS Athletic Club, but due to their unforeseen circumstances, were not able to get in their winter program. We will start with them next spring and continue into their winter program next year.
- F. Website** - Daily updates are being made to our website. Recent additions include:
  - JJC News
  - JJC Meeting Announcements/Minutes
  - New Campaign Posters
  - New Celebrity TIPs
  - Recovery Resource Page linked with the Recovery Resource Card
  - Red Ribbon Week Page with Background and Idea/Activity Links

## V. YOUTH GROUPS/ACTIVITIES

- A. No Vape November Program** - The JJC was asked by Donovan High School's SADD sponsor Kristin Lundquist to put together an activity for their students in November. McTaggart and Pree brought a handout detailing "The Scary Truths about Vaping...", an informative bulletin board display, and a giant wheel with questions relating to vape. We set up outside the lunchroom and students who stopped by received the handout, spun

the wheel, and answered a vape-related question in order to win a piece of candy. This activity started some excellent conversations with the students.

- B. Creation of *Harmful Toxins in Vape Video*** - McTaggart shared that we are working with Donovan High School's SADD students to create a video detailing the harmful toxins that are present in vape. Some of these toxins include: formaldehyde, diethylene glycol, propylene glycol, nicotine, diacetyl, arsenic, cadmium, fluorine, aluminum, lithium, rubidium, and lead. This video will be shared on social media and used as a clue in our vape escape room kits. We are currently working with Craig Massey to create t-shirts for the students to wear while taping this video. It will include the owl mascot, JJC logo, and the term Student Ambassador.

## VI: OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- A. Red Ribbon Week Coloring Contest** - McTaggart stated that the JJC partnered with I-KAN and the Pledge for Life Partnership to offer a coloring contest featuring the Life Education Center's mascot Harold the Giraffe during Red Ribbon Week. Entries could be turned in at certain libraries, schools, and the Kankakee Daily Journal. Only one winner has been announced so far, but we are being told that more will be announced soon.
- B. Best Practice Award** - Through the Life Education Center, educators are encouraged to develop a high quality lesson plan and enrichment activities that support the LEC's mission of piecing together a safer and healthier community. McTaggart shares the details of this contest with teachers when she visits and implements the LEC's lessons. Melissa Redeker from Cissna Park Elementary School was one of the teachers who was recognized as a recent Best Practice Award Winner. Congrats to her!
- C. Iroquois West Family Reading Night** - McTaggart stated that she represented the JJC at Iroquois West's Family Reading Night in November. Accompanied by a high school volunteer and also JJC member, Sherri Hendricks, wearing the mascot costumes of the LEC's Harold the Giraffe and the JJC's owl, she read the story *Giraffes Can't Dance*. She then led them in a discussion of what the giraffe learned in the story about resilience and diversity and how to find what works for you, don't try to be like everyone else. McTaggart and the mascots then led the students in a choreographed dance to prove that giraffes really can dance! McTaggart stated that numbers were astounding in their room!
- D. Christmas Tree Lane Entry at Old Courthouse Museum** - Pree shared that the JJC is once again represented at Christmas Tree Lane at the Old Courthouse Museum. Our owl-themed tree highlights all of our initiatives and recognizes our many partners. Our tree features our owl mascot holding a mirror that asks, "Whooo can prevent underage drug and alcohol use? You can!" A nest-like basket is located beneath the owl and holds leftover parade peppermints with a prevention message and QR code that links to TIP's website. Participation in this event helps to spread the word about the JJC and its campaign to prevent underage substance use. Members were encouraged to vote for their favorite tree and to visit the museum to catch the Christmas spirit.

- E. Health and Wellness Team at Milford High School** - Mary Kay Lavicka shared that the Milford School District received a grant that focuses on student mental and physical health and well-being. They are partnering with three agencies on this grant: Iroquois Memorial Hospital (IMH), Iroquois Mental Health Center (IMHC) who is providing counseling (Kim Rabideau) once a week for students to reduce the barriers that interfere with receiving counseling, and I-KAN who is providing SEL support and curriculum (Linda Jasmin). Mary Kay Lavicka is coordinating all of the pieces.

She shared the schedule of topics and activities that have already taken place and those that are planned in the near future:

**October 27th - Kickoff/Introduction of the Community Wellness Team:** Breast health/teach the girls the importance of self breast examination to tie in with Breast Cancer Awareness by IMH, Vaping Hazards by the JJC, and Consent by Clove Alliance.

Milford's grant purchased items for the JJC to distribute to each student participating in the Kick-off. One such item was a drawstring bag which one of Milford High School's classes had printed with the saying, "Milford High School has Vape Prevention in the Bag." Another item was the professionally printed handout focused on "The Scary Truths about Vaping" that was placed inside of each of the bags. Both of these items were passed around for members to see.

**November 29th:** Diabetes Awareness/Nutrition by IMH

**January 20th:** Body Image/healthy weight/safe dieting/fitness/posture/confidence by IMH and Robinson Chiropractic

**February 28th:** Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month/Healthy Relationships ALL STUDENT ASSEMBLY by Clove Alliance

**March date to be determined:** Vape Escape Rooms and possible Parent Night Activity by JJC

McTaggart shared that she is in the process of updating the JJC's Vape Escape Room Kits to include more anti-vaping information.

- F. CATCH My Breath Training** - McTaggart stated that she and Pree had attended CATCH My Breath Training at the Kankakee County Health Department. This youth e-cigarette prevention program can be found online and is free for all to use. We are hoping to incorporate this programming into what we are already doing in the classrooms.

## **VII. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Iroquois County Public Health Department - Hidden in Plain Sight (HIPS)** - The JJC partnered with the Iroquois County Public Health Department to get their Hidden in Plain Sight display up and running. They had asked us to help organize the display for use at the fair. Hidden in Plain Sight provides parents the chance to walk through a mock teen bedroom display and learn how to identify items that can indicate problems or risky

behavior, such as substance use. Some of these items are disguised as everyday items. Eric Ceci noted that ICPHD has all of the HIPS inventory and is willing to do presentations. He stated that there have been numerous staff changes at ICPHD. Dee Schippert is retiring and Ceci will serve as Interim Director for the time being until a permanent hire is made. During this time, Ceci will continue his role as Emergency Management Agency coordinator.

#### **B. Iroquois County Opioid Coalition**

Bence said that the Iroquois County Opioid Coalition is setting up a tour at Banyan to see how they are doing things. The committee's goal is to have Banyan save a bed for local Medicaid patients needing detox.

Bence also stated that the Opioid Coalition has been working on creating a logo. A subcommittee had met to put together several design ideas. The logo is now in the hands of Gibson's marketing department.

Bence also pointed out that she belongs to the Illinois Rural Partners. The White House had put together a rural network and the Iroquois County Opioid Coalition is included in the list.

The next Opioid Coalition meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18th at 10:00 a.m. The ESDA room will most likely be the location, as the setup works best for online attendees to hear.

#### **C. Iroquois County MAR Update**

Sheriff Clint Perzee gave a brief update on the Medication Assisted Recovery grant. He noted that it started last year. It helps to enable medical professionals to ask questions, complete assessments, and prescribe. The \$18,000 grant enabled them to purchase the Telehealth systems that have been used for both telehealth and court. With this technology, they were able to complete 40 out of the 50 medical visits in house. They are expecting a \$50,000 MAR grant increase this year. They are hoping to use some of these funds to employ a nurse to pass out medications. King thanked Perzee and Bence for helping Iroquois County to obtain this grant. She noted that Perzee hit the ground running with it when he took office as sheriff. Perzee noted that they have been passing out the Recovery Resource Cards to all inmates when they are released. Those in attendance discussed how important it is to help each person that you can even if you cannot help everyone. Bence questioned if we could possibly get a Peer Recovery grant and who would manage it.

Perzee stated that the county is expecting to receive a \$22,000 opioid settlement check. The county has been given a list of what resources they can spend this money on. A suggestion was made to possibly purchase more Recovery Resource Cards and a communication campaign with these funds.

#### **D. Members in Attendance Share**

1. **Parent** - Tracy Tolliver, a parent from the area who tragically lost her son to fentanyl poisoning, spoke to the two coalitions about the opioid epidemic. Members encouraged her to take an active role in the opioid coalition as it would



be a beneficial partnership for both. Bence took her contact information and shared resources with her.

Bence stated that Nar Anon is needed in this area. She noted that volunteers are needed to help run the group.

- 2. Kankakee County Health Department** - Julie Larsen reported that she would like the Kankakee County Health Department and its Narcan distribution to be included on TIP's Recovery Resource page.

McTaggart had put Larsen in contact with Darin Hartman who teaches the Too Good for Drugs program at Watseka Senior High School. He had reached out to the JJC for help in locating a speaker that could come into his classroom and talk about the local opioid epidemic and provide local stats. Larsen stated that she would like to get into all of the high schools and do similar presentations.

Larsen shared that on March 15, 2023 they are planning an evening program at BB to talk with kids and parents about what is happening in the area. She pointed out that kids want to know what happens to their bodies (both short and long term effects) with drug use. They are also planning a type of Hidden in Plain Sight presentation for parents.

- 3. Harbor House** - Taylor and Stephanie shared that Harbor House is opening a shelter in Iroquois County. They noted that they are also busy preparing for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in February. Some of the activities that they are planning include: a "Love is..." Wall (where students can share what a healthy relationship is), study groups, having a presence, and t-shirts. She noted that it is difficult to get into schools. They are planning movie nights/ice cream socials in gyms after school is out to discuss domestic violence. A suggestion was made that they contact Patty High at I-KAN about presenting to school counselors. Taylor and Stephanie noted that they plan to also focus on "Bullying Against Bullies" in February. Bence suggested that their presentations could focus on the religious/spiritual aspect of these subjects, as we are located in the Bible Belt.
- 4. Birth to Five Illinois** - Liz Gibson stated that she is the Regional Council Manager for the Iroquois and Kankakee Counties Region of the Birth to Five in Illinois program. This new initiative from the State of Illinois was created to develop and implement a community effort addressing early childhood needs within our region and ensure that ALL children have access to high-quality early childhood education and care. Gibson stated that early intervention is a preventative measure with drug and alcohol use. They are conducting regional scans to ensure that they are getting voices that speak to the data. They are still needing community involvement. She stated that they will be forming both Action Councils and Family Councils. She encouraged all to consider joining, as when families succeed, our community succeeds. Gibson will forward the information to Barb so that she can send it out to all members.

5. **Celebrate Recovery/Trinity Church** - Ryan Mustered shared that his wife Malinda's work ties into the two coalitions' efforts. He stated that Trinity Church has locations in Ashkum, Goodland, and Watseka. They also have a Spanish ministry now, too. Celebrate Recovery meets on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
6. **The Arc of Iroquois County** - Julie Sluis shared that the Arc is hosting Santa Claus on Sunday, December 18th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Admission is free and hot cocoa and cookies will be provided. All are invited to stop in for a photo session with Santa.
7. **WGFA/WIBK** - Stacey Smith shared that today's meeting had been very productive and the radio stations are proud to partner with the JJC to prevent substance use.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Barb King stated that the JJC plans to continue holding joint meetings with the Iroquois County Opioid Coalition. Future joint JJC/Opioid Coalition meetings will take place in **March and May of 2023**. The next Iroquois County Opioid Coalition meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18th at 10:00 a.m. King reminded members that both full JJC and committee meeting minutes will continue to be shared via email. Full JJC meeting minutes are also posted on the TIPtheScale.org website.

A group photo was taken to celebrate the JJC's Blue Ribbon Coalition Accreditation.

Meeting adjourned.