

Illinois Alliance
September 10, 2024
2:30 PM-4:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

- **Samantha Alonis, Deputy Director, IDHS Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery**
 - Provided welcome and opening remarks.
- **CGTI, Overview of Summer Conference**
 - Summer Conference
 - IABH celebrated its 50th anniversary and incorporated the milestone into every aspect of the Teen Institute. Illinois has the longest-standing Teen Institute in the country. The event showed increased participation, with 297 last year and 400 for this summer's conference. It was only 100 attendees away from pre-COVID numbers. Youth demographics included 56 different schools, 29 counties, 7 states outside of Illinois, and an international group from Ireland. Operation Snowball, the daughter program of CGTI, had 26 teams represented. Very pleased with the numbers, but also recognize areas of growth and are strategizing to engage central and southern Illinois more. They hosted 6 keynote speakers, 24 workshops, and had the opportunity to work on their local community action plans which had mental health and substance use issues in 90% of them.
 - Upcoming Event
 - CGTI is hosting a mid-year conference on January 18th and 19th, they are looking for new groups to attend. Please reach out if you are interested in giving a workshop.
- **Kate Reed and Victor Markowski, Chicago HIDTA, Overdose Response Strategy**
 - Goal & Purpose
 - The Overdose Response Strategy is a nationwide, federally funded program available for free to support communities in all 50 states. The program is a collaboration between public health, public safety, and those with lived experiences. The goal is to prevent overdose by using Public Health Analysts and Drug Intelligence Officers to connect partners, promote collaboration, share data, inform, and help local communities develop local solutions. They serve as a bridge between people, groups, and agencies, and they have 136 partner expansions in Illinois and collaborate with Illinois communication campaigns. They can engage entities to scan their current programs and evaluate harm reduction strategies. They also assisted Kendall County with opioid settlement funds.
 - Program Overviews & Updates
 - ODMAP is a free, web-based tool that provides near real-time updates. Spike alerts can be based on zip codes and can be utilized to inform about overdose events. The

map has 6 new layers, including one for social determinants of health, and can be an excellent data source for grant purposes.

- ORS Pilot Project uses a model of block captains, street outreach workers, and community navigators to implement trauma-informed, recovery-oriented, equity-based systems of care. The program aims to elevate persons with lived experience as community health workers to respond to mental health needs to help prevent overdoses.
- Substance Use Trends in Illinois
 - They are seeing the use of xylazine and medetomidine in combination with fentanyl and heroin. In regards to mortality, in 2023, Illinois had the 3rd highest rate for exclusively heroin-related deaths. They are encouraged to see a decrease in monthly rate of opioid and heroin overdoses in EDs, according to data from the IDPH Statewide Semi-Annual Report.
- Illinois Prevention Summit "Stronger Together" to be held on 11/25/2024 from 8:30am-4:30pm at Joliet Junior College, Will County Area. The purpose is to share system-wide prevention strategies addressing overdose, trauma, and mental health needs in Illinois.
- **Emily Taylor, teenyBIG, CPRC Municipal Needs Assessment Project Update**
 - Project Updates
 - The goal of the CPRC Municipal Needs Assessment Project was to learn the needs of municipalities in Illinois regarding the CPRC. The project was accomplished through surveys and interviews with municipalities across the state. The takeaways from the project for program development included building awareness of cannabis issues, using constituent language, and clarifying the CPRC's mission by addressing assumptions and using a positive approach and framing.
 - Ultimately, 12 interviews and 37 surveys were completed, with Regions 3, 4, and 5 having less representation in the project. The municipal person who interacted most with cannabis and was referred to the interview or survey was typically the mayor's office or law enforcement entity, but this often varied based on the size of the municipality.
 - The three primary challenges identified by the research included underage cannabis derivative use, difficulty communicating to residents about the range of effects, and educating other public officials about cannabis and cannabis policy.
 - Top interests of municipalities included understanding cannabis-derived products and safety, best practices and case studies, how to identify and enforce non-traditional sales to youth, how to interpret data about cannabis safety, and the latest research.
 - Valued topics included learning about cannabis derivatives, how to communicate about cannabis within the community, comparisons, and best practices, learning how cannabis affects people differently, and youth prevention through partnerships.

- The following steps for the project include increasing municipalities' awareness of CPRC, creating clear introductory communications, integrating more case studies, and creating and testing new program concepts at the IML conference.
- **Jacob Levinson, CPRC Administrator, Prevention First, Derivatives Update**
 - Upcoming Webinar
 - The CPRC is hosting Dr. Matthew Rossheim from the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth to present a cannabis derivatives webinar on October 16th. Interested individuals can register for the webinar online using the link below: <https://www.prevention.org/training/EventDetails?i=3369&t=1045>
 - Policy
 - CPRC has reached out to the Department of Agriculture regarding the updated July 2024 hemp policy.
- **Samantha Alonis, Deputy Director, IDHS Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery**
 - Funding Updates
 - IDHS is funding special programs, including an Illinois Family Resource Center to support care to youth who have lost a parent to overdose, a Youth and Caregiver Resource Center through Prevention First to focus on developing resources for youth to break generational cycles of trauma with a focus on youth with incarcerated family members.
 - Brainstorming Assignment:
 - Samantha would like to have a brainstorming session at the next Illinois Alliance meeting to hear ideas and strategies for meeting people where they are at, ahead of time frames where heavy drinking and substance use/experimentation tend to be higher. Also wants to explore ideas/strategies for addressing interconnected issues such as substance use and sexual violence.
- **Kenneth Williams, Liquor Control Supervisor, Central Region, Division of Enforcement, ILCC, Legislative Updates**
 - Alcohol Compliance Checks
 - The ILCC is looking to establish ways to assist local law enforcement in obtaining grant funding to increase alcohol compliance checks. They are also exploring how to increase the number of compliance checks, especially around college campuses.
 - This fall, they made a plan and implemented operation SAFE and conducted compliance checks in locations near or frequented by students of college campuses. Eleven details were completed through August 23 and September 4th at Bradley University, Eastern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Northern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, University of Illinois, and Illinois Wesleyan University. 181 licenses were checked, with 46 failures resulting in a 75% compliance rate. Prior failures comprised 38 of the checked licenses, and they had 8 fails, resulting in 84% compliance. On-premise had worse compliance rates compared to off-premise

locations. They are pleased with their results and are considering completing similar checks in the spring and/or fall.

- Legislative Update
 - The bill seeking to codify the current administrative rule regarding co-branded beverages and their placement in retailers was signed by the Governor in August and will go into effect in January. The bill also added a new category to include alcohol-infused products as well. In addition to not displaying co-branded alcoholic beverages immediately adjacent to soft drinks, fruit juices, bottled water, candy, or snack foods portraying cartoons or child-oriented images they are also unable to be placed adjacent to any product marketed towards children. The law primarily targets off-premise locations.
 - After January, if you witness a violation, it can be reported to:
Ilcc.enforcement@illinois.gov
- Jody Heavilin, APRC Administrator, Prevention First
 - New Resources & Newsletter
 - The new municipal resource on the local roles and responsibilities for the retail sale of alcohol was published in the APRC newsletter. Please send Jody your coalition's accomplishments so they can be highlighted in the newsletter; it has over 7,000 subscribers and can boost the visibility of your excellent work.
 - Upcoming Webinar
 - The APRC is hosting Dr. David Jernigan from the Boston University School of Public Health for a webinar on how alcohol taxes save lives. The webinar will cover how to modernize taxes to make an impact on alcohol use. The webinar will take place on January 9th from 10-11, and you can register on the Prevention First website.
 - Alcohol Compliance Check Investigation Training
 - They are continuing to partner with the ILCC to provide Alcohol Compliance Check Investigation training to law enforcement. There is still space to attend the Oswego, IL training. The Tazewell Teen Initiative will be sponsoring a training for their community law enforcement partners.
 - Connections in Prevention Conference
 - The Prevention First Connections in Prevention Conference will be held in 2 weeks on September 26th-27th. There is still time to register if you would like to attend.
- **Jody Heavilin, on behalf of Bryant Laiche, YPRC, Prevention First**
 - YPRC Updates
 - The YPRC is currently meeting with coalitions, agencies, and community groups around IL engaged in substance use prevention to determine how they can best support their efforts. This results from a successful marketing campaign the YPRC worked on with a consultant at the end of FY '24. The YPRC is working on identifying subject matter experts to contract with to bring webinars and training to these groups to help address some of the gaps in programming that they have identified.

- Their target webinar topics for Quarter 2 will be "Emerging Drug Trends" and "Successful Classroom Management Skills for Prevention Professionals"
- Last month, the YPRC provided an informational/educational presentation to the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization in Chicago about why prevention is essential to the community.
- The YPRC is in the design phase of the next series of the Intersections resources they are creating. The first was the ACEs resource, and this next installment will focus on the intersection of neurodivergence and substance use disorder.
- The Youth Advisory Board has started their work on the three projects they've identified that they want to work on during their year of service with them. One will be a resource guide around social hosting, one will be a resource around eating disorders, and one will be a resource around peer pressure related to underage substance misuse, internet safety, and academic burnout.
- **Samantha Alonis, Substance Use Prevention Program State Administrator, IDHS Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery**
 - Thanked all for their attendance and prevention work, reminded all to prepare for a brainstorming session at the next meeting, and provided closing remarks.
- **Next Meeting**
 - December 10th from 2:30 to 4