

Illinois Alliance on Reducing Underage Drinking
September 13, 2022
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

The Illinois Alliance on Reducing Underage Drinking allows stakeholders to:

- Share current underage drinking prevention efforts being implemented in the State of Illinois.
- Share information on best practices to reduce underage drinking.
- Share data and research on efforts to reduce underage drinking.
- Review the Illinois STOP ACT report.
- Provide a unified front for underage drinking prevention efforts in the State of Illinois.

MEETING MINUTES

Rafael Rivera, IDHS

Rafael opened the meeting by welcoming members to the Illinois Alliance meeting and overviewed the purpose of the meeting to share information and discuss how to address underage alcohol use in Illinois. Rafael encouraged members to think about what they hope to get out of meetings and what IDHS might be able to do to support the Illinois Alliance.

Rafael noted the STOP Act report was submitted to SAMHSA, and he will be able to share a link to the report at the next Illinois Alliance meeting. The STOP Act is a mandatory reporting requirement for the state and is completed each year.

Jody Heavilin, Prevention First Alcohol Policy Resource Center (APRC)

Jody reviewed the agenda for the meeting and proceeded to report on program updates for the APRC.

The APRC has a new resource available for download on the APRC webpage. The Special Events Toolkit includes content on special events and customizable templates and appendices. Hard copies are available upon request.

The APRC has hosted two Alcohol Compliance Check trainings already this year. One training in Carbondale and one in Hoffman Estates. There are three more Alcohol Compliance Check trainings on the calendar in September, November, and December.

The APRC launched the Illinois Prevention Coalition map after months of development last week. You can go to the APRC webpage and click “Illinois Prevention Coalition Map” to review the map. The map highlights the number of

coalitions by county. You can see the coalitions and service areas when you click on the county. The map allows teachers, community members, coalitions, law enforcement, and municipal leaders to find and connect with their local coalitions. A questionnaire was sent out to gather information about coalitions for the map. Only those who responded directly to the questionnaire or outreach were included in the map. Jody noted she was aware there are several coalitions not on the map yet. Jody is waiting for approval or further information before posting and uploading information. If you know of a coalition not listed, please have them contact Jody at jody.heavilin@prevention.org.

Jacob Levinson, Prevention First Cannabis Policy Resource Center (CPRC)

Jacob presented the proposal to expand the Alliance's focus to include cannabis. Pros and cons were discussed and included:

- Pros – increased ability to collaborate on both substances, which Prevention First has seen with its Advisory Councils. Combining the two substances addresses the most commonly co-used substances by youth. Alcohol and cannabis analogs are often found for sale together in retail spaces.
- Cons – could dilute the focus on alcohol unless dedicated time is set aside for each topic. There will be a need to distinguish the purpose of the Alliance versus the Illinois Prevention Network (the Alliance also focuses on convening state agencies, not just coalitions).

All IL Alliance members are asked to complete the linked survey to weigh in on the proposed expansion and express any additional comments or questions. Participation at the September 13 Illinois Alliance meeting is unnecessary to complete the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FTYT9D9> – The meeting link has been closed. The survey results will be shared in an email to members in October.

Scott Hays, Engaging Youth for Positive Change (EYPC) – University of Illinois Center for Prevention Research & Development

Scott provided an overview of the EYPC program and focused efforts on community policy work. Scott encouraged all those working with youth action councils/youth action boards/youth advisory boards to consider participating. EYPC can easily be integrated as part of high school civics courses and meets the needs of teachers looking for service learning opportunities. The curriculum provides 16 lessons focusing on helping youth know the steps to pass local ordinances. EYPC incorporates a youth leader focus and allows youth to see their

place in their community. EYPC trainings are held periodically, with a Zoom option. November 10 is the next EYPC facilitator training. For more information, please visit the EYPC website at www.eypcprogram.org or contact Scott at sphays@illinois.edu.

Kellie Henrichs, Prevention First

Kellie discussed with the Illinois Alliance membership the role of the Alliance moving forward. The discussion notes are included here for review.

What is the role of the Illinois Alliance moving forward & what are the next steps?

Members comments:

- I like the idea of the Alliance taking leadership. The Alliance could, as a group, pull together and sponsor activities like a statewide communication campaign. All members could chip in and provide funding for a message that is shared statewide to prevent underage drinking.
- I value the information I receive at the meetings and would like to continue to see the group generate ideas.
- I appreciate the ability to share information and receive guidance and education on policy.
- I wonder if the Alliance could recommend efforts that could be implemented statewide. The Alliance could prioritize an issue and have dialogue at the local level to support efforts and then take matters to the state level. Science could inform the process, and everyone works together.
- I appreciate the speakers at the meetings and hearing different perspectives from others.
- The Alliance could focus on some policy work as a group – that would also help separate the focus if information is shared about cannabis and alcohol.
- It would be helpful to see how we could tailor our EYPC program to meet the needs of the people out there doing the work.
- As the Alliance moves forward, it's important to remember that IDHS/SUPR will need an Alliance that discusses and advises what can be done about underage alcohol use for the STOP Act.
- I need to stay involved with the Alliance, as the topics discussed share protective and risk factors for our injury, violence, and suicide prevention projects. I appreciate staying connected and informed through these meetings.
- A reminder that it's critical to hear from youth and have the youth voice represented at Alliance meetings.

Robyn Block, Prevention First Youth Prevention Resource Center (YPRC)

Robyn introduced Student Advisory Board (SAB) member Adithya Sathyamurthy, a senior at Normal Community High School. Adithya shared an overview of current projects the SAB is working on, along with a project the Youth Action Board at Project OZ has completed. Adithya shared information about the Youth Action Board’s Chalk the Walk events throughout Bloomington-Normal and an overview of new resources the SAB would release through the fall of 2022. Pictures of Chalk the Walk are below for reference.



Jennifer Martin, Illinois Department of Public Health

Jennifer noted that IDPH is spending time on firearm safe storage education and many new projects. A new suicide prevention coordinator will start at IDPH in the next several weeks.

Rafael wrapped up the meeting by reiterating he hopes the IL Alliance is meeting the needs of members in attendance and noted the importance of hearing from youth at each meeting as their voice is critical in the work we are all doing.

The next Illinois Alliance meeting is December 6, 2022, 2:30 – 4:00 pm

Guiding questions Illinois Alliance members can think about ahead of our December 6th meeting includes:

- What do members need out of the Illinois Alliance meetings?
- How can the Illinois Alliance communicate in-between meetings?

Following meetings:

- March 7, 2023, 2:30 – 4:00 PM
- June 6, 2023, 2:30 – 4:00 PM