



## DuPage County Prevention Leadership Team Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

9:00am-10:30am

ZOOM

### Meeting Minutes

#### Members Present

<input type="checkbox"/> Sheila Adamo	Your Story Counseling	Healthcare Prof.
<input type="checkbox"/> Aisha Achesah	Advocate Health	Healthcare Prof.
<input type="checkbox"/> Katie Anderson	Gateway Foundation	Healthcare Prof.
<input type="checkbox"/> Andrew Anselm	DuMEG	Law Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/> Jim Barber	DuCAP	Youth-Serving
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Betsy Boesch	DCHD	Local Gov't.
<input type="checkbox"/> Jarrett Burton	Serenity House	Healthcare Prof.
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Buschbacher	Serenity House	Healthcare Prof.
<input type="checkbox"/> Alicia Carlisle-Camacho	National Council for Mental Wellbeing	Youth-Serving
<input type="checkbox"/> Matt Cassity	360 Youth Services	Youth Serving
<input type="checkbox"/> Molly Beck Dean	WeGo Together for Kids	Youth-serving
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leia Der	DCHD	Local Gov't.
<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Dixon	DCHD	Local Gov't
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mimi Doll	DuPage Federation	Other Org.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deb Duvair	DuPage Community Foundation	Other Org
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domincia Dybas	DEA	Law Enforcement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hannah Ewoldt	NEDFYS	Youth-Serving
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Flint	Flint Architects	Business
<input type="checkbox"/> Donna Foyle	Serenity House	Other Org.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katie Gallagher	Robert Crown	Youth-Serving
<input type="checkbox"/> Samantha Gannon	AAIM	Other Org.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concha Garza	Addison NRC	Youth-Serving
<input type="checkbox"/> Jazmin Garza	Carol Stream PD	Law Enforcement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sherilyn Hebel	KidsMatter	Other Org.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Danielle Heffernan	Serenity House	Other Org.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Hess	Juvenile Justice Council	Youth-Serving
<input type="checkbox"/> Brenda Huber	Bloomingdale 708 Board	Other Org.
<input type="checkbox"/> Nicole Jordan	Family Shelter Service of MFS	Other Org.
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Dana Kalombo	Gentle Healer Acupuncture	Business

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Kaufmann	DCHD	Local Gov't.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Khadija Khan	Wheaton PD	Law Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/> Geri Kerger	NAMI DuPage	Other Org.
<input type="checkbox"/> Alan Knudson	DUMEG	Law Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/> Anthony Kozi	DUMEG	Law Enforcement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristin Kramer	IL PTA	Parent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elisa Lara	VNA Healthcare	Healthcare
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nikki Lay	Breaking Free	Youth-Serving
<input type="checkbox"/> Deb Lewin	Path to Recovery	Other Org.
<input type="checkbox"/> Joe Lindt	DuPage State's Attorney	Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> Jodi Macaluso	AMITA	Healthcare
<input type="checkbox"/> James McGreal	Downers Grove PD	Law Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/> Becky McFarland	DCHD	Local Gov't.
<input type="checkbox"/> Nina Menis	KidsMatter	Other Org.
<input type="checkbox"/> Felicia Miceli	Serenity House	Other Org.
<input type="checkbox"/> Crystal Milliner	DCHD	Local Gov't
<input type="checkbox"/> Angela Molloy	Rogers Behavioral Health	Healthcare
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Murray	Bloomingdale Mental Health Auxiliary	Civic
<input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Murphy	DCHD	Local Gov't.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emily Murskyj	DCHD	Local Gov't.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rabia Mukhtar	DCHD	Local Gov't.
<input type="checkbox"/> Patrick Nakamura	Teen Parent Connection	Other Org.
<input type="checkbox"/> Krystyna Olejnyik	Dayrise Wellness	Other Org.
<input type="checkbox"/> Patty O'Malley	HAS Cares	Youth-Serving
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nora Ortinau	DCHD	Local Gov't.
<input type="checkbox"/> Karin Podolski	Northwestern Medicine	Healthcare
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Colleen Powers	Probation & Court Services	Local Gov't.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alex Pulaski	DCHD	Local Gov't.
<input type="checkbox"/> Eric Pulia	Nat'l Guard	Local Gov't.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amber Quirk	DuPage ROE	School
<input type="checkbox"/> Xrystina Rahn	Stef's Corner	Parent
<input type="checkbox"/> Alison Ramirez	GEPD	Law Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Riemenschneider	Bloomingdale Church	Faith-based
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gilda Ross	Glenbard High Schools	School
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tricia Rossi	Hanover Park PD	Law Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/> Angelika Rupp	St. Francis	School
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Becky Sadler	Rosecrance	Healthcare Prof.
<input type="checkbox"/> Travis Satterlee	Heritage	Health Professional
<input type="checkbox"/> Lynn Schmidt	St. Francis	School
<input type="checkbox"/> Elise Schram	360 Youth Services	Youth-Serving
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Simmons	Northwestern Med.	Healthcare
<input type="checkbox"/> Mary Soemo	Tri-Town YMCA	Other-org.
<input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Solis	Community Engagement	Other-org.
<input type="checkbox"/> Danny Sourbis	ROSC	Other-org.
<input type="checkbox"/> Amit Thakker	Referral GPS	Other Org.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brittany Tyler	Your Story Counseling	Other Org.
<input type="checkbox"/> Valeri Varju	Birth to Five	Youth-Serving
<input type="checkbox"/> Sarita Velez	Healthcare Alternative Systems	Healthcare
<input type="checkbox"/> Annette Villarea	Serenity House	Healthcare Prof.
<input type="checkbox"/> Krista Webb	DCHD	Local Gov't.
<input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Wahlskog	Youth Outlook	Youth-Serving
<input type="checkbox"/> Ida Westlove	Streamwood Behavioral Health	Healthcare
<input type="checkbox"/> Erin White	B.R. Ryall YMCA	Youth-Serving
<input type="checkbox"/> Karli Wilson	Teen Parent Connection	Other-Org.

**Guests/New Members:**

Caitlyn Allen, Epiphany Community Services  
 Erin Darby, Epiphany Community Services  
 Deacon Dzierzawski, Epiphany Community Services  
 David Harbeck, Community Member  
 Stacy Jantz, Probation & Court Services  
 Brooklyn Schell, Teen Parent Connection  
 Liz Witman, Teen Parent Connection

**I. Welcome/Introductions – Amber Quirk, Co-Chair (9:00am-9:10am)**

- The meeting began at 9:02am. Amber welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves.

**II. Youth Logic Model Review & Action Planning – Epiphany Community Services (9:10am-9:30am)**

- Epiphany has been facilitating several workshops to create a youth logic model for the PLT. This logic model will help the coalition with creating its action plan for now until 2028.
- The youth logic model focuses on three problem areas: youth mental health, underage drinking, and youth marijuana use.
- During the meeting, PLT members voted on the following youth priorities, indicating that these are the strategies they would like to see the coalition focus on in the future:
  - *Mental health*
    - Implementing strategies to improve people's ability to navigate the system of care
    - Implement strategies to increase the number of adults who do not minimize youth concerns and understand warning signs
  - *Underage drinking*
    - Ensure all stores are checking identification
    - Implement strategies to reduce youth celebrations/events that have alcohol
  - *Marijuana use*
    - Implement strategies to reduce peer access, cheap and available, right at school or through friends, siblings
    - Implement strategies to reduce positive (youth oriented) advertising
- The PLT is similarly in the process of creating an adult logic model, which will be shared in an upcoming meeting.

III. **PLT Community Survey Results – Epiphany Community Services (9:30am-9:45am)**

- Over the last year, the PLT pushed out a survey to parents and caregivers in DuPage.
- The survey was pushed out in both English and Spanish, but only English responses were received.
- A summary of the data can be found below. **PLEASE NOTE – This data is preliminary and subject to change.**
  - Parents are having conversations with their children about substance use.
  - Parents need education about the effects of marijuana use on teens.
  - Almost half of parents who completed the survey are not aware of social host ordinances against providing alcohol to minors.
- This data will be finalized and shared again with the coalition in the future.

IV. **Justice Involved Volunteers – Mary Colleen Powers, Program Manager – Dept. of Probation and Court Services (9:45am-10:00am)**

- Stacy provided an overview of DuPage's Adult Redeploy Illinois program, which is a grant-funded program to reduce the number of individuals sentenced to prison who can be safely supervised in the community.
- The program can have up to 90-100 clients enrolled at one time.
- Anyone who is charged (in DuPage County) for a felony offense for which probation is an option or at risk of being sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections due to various factors is eligible for this program.
- Redeploy Illinois offers various different services including:
  - Weekly groups (problem solving, skill enhancement, trauma-focused learning) to teach and reinforce healthy skills and thinking.
  - Access to treatment and recovery coaches, housing, education, employment coaching, financial assistance, vital records support, and transportation.
  - Incentives and small rewards to reinforce the use of positive skills and acknowledge positive decisions and accomplishments. For example, formal recognition ceremonies that include family and other support systems.
- David, a Redeploy Illinois client, provided members with a life update after facing criminal charges related to alcohol use. Today, David celebrates almost 500 days sober!
- He has established a sober support network through Serenity House, regularly attends AA meetings to hold himself accountable, and is in the process of obtaining a restricted driving permit to reinstate some of his driving privileges and expand his career opportunities.
- Being involved in Redeploy Illinois has allowed him to self-reflect on how his actions while under the influence impacted himself and the people around him.
- Redeploy Illinois conducts a quarterly community service project with a non-profit organization that clients are invited to join to help give back to the community. If your organization is interested in participating, please contact Mary at [MC.Powers@dupagecounty.gov](mailto:MC.Powers@dupagecounty.gov).

V. **School Committee Updates – Lisa Lerner, Community Initiatives Coordinator, DuPage County Health Department (10:00am-10:15am)**

- The School Committee has been busy this summer!

- First, the School Committee put together a free guide for educators with resources related to substance use prevention and mental wellness. This was created in response to new fentanyl education mandates statewide.
- The free guide can be found on the PLT website at <https://dupageplt.org/304/Free-Educators-Guide-to-Substance-Use-Pr>. A flyer has been attached with the meeting minutes.
- Next, the School Committee has been gearing up for another Illinois Youth Survey year!
- To prepare, virtual save-the-dates were sent out to school administrators over the summer. Hard mailings of booklets about IYS were also sent out to over 200 schools in late August.
- Registration opened in early September, and CPRD typically updates its website regularly with who has registered. This has not been updated yet, so we are planning on reaching out directly over the next couple of weeks if that information is still unavailable.
- The PLT will be prioritizing the following groups for registration outreach:
  - Middle and high schools who have consistently participated (24)
  - Middle schools who have never participated (58)
- We will likely need assistance in reaching out to these schools from the full PLT and members who may have existing relationships or ties to a community.
- The School Committee will be finalizing talking points over the next few weeks and will share those with the full group if necessary.

## VI. **Updates/Upcoming Events – Katie Gallagher, Co-Chair (10:15am-10:30am)**

- **NAMI Run for the Mind – Sat. 9/27 @ St. James Farm**
  - Join NAMI and the PLT on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> for the Run for the Mind/Color Run at St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville! Activities start at 8AM.
  - NAMI is looking for sponsors, organizations interested in having resource tables, and, of course, attendees!
  - All proceeds will go directly toward supporting NAMI DuPage and Reality Illinois' programs and services.
  - For more information, visit <https://namidupage.org/run-for-the-mind/>.
- **CRC Update**
  - The Crisis Recovery Center officially opened on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Over 600 community partners toured the facility before it opened.
  - For more information and to help spread awareness, visit <https://dupagecrc.org/> or utilize this [communication toolkit](#).
- **GPS Parent Series – Thurs. 9/25 @ 12pm – Jessica Lahey**
  - The PLT is sponsoring 11 GPS programs this year and we have created a flyer to highlight them all that will be sent out with the meeting minutes.
  - The first PLT-sponsored GPS speaker is Jessica Lahey tomorrow, September 25<sup>th</sup> at noon and 7:00pm via Zoom.
  - Jessica Lahey will be speaking about raising addiction-resistant kids in a culture of dependence.
- **Funding Update**
  - The PLT recently received an official Notice of Award for its federal Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) grant from SAMHSA.
  - This funding stream, among many others, were at risk earlier this year and faced potential elimination at the federal level.
  - Thanks to advocacy efforts throughout the country, including our local efforts here in DuPage, the program was preserved.

- The grant provides multi-year support through 2028, giving the PLT the stability to plan and implement strategies with lasting impact.
- Our work will continue to focus on early intervention and primary prevention, building resilience among youth, and reducing risk factors for substance misuse.
- **Changemaker Award Nominations are now OPEN!**
  - Nominations can be submitted through this [online form](#) now through Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. The award winners will be recognized at our November meeting.
  - Learn more about eligibility requirements [here](#).
  - Want to see past winners? Check them out [here](#).

**The next PLT meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.**