



## DuPage County Prevention Leadership Team Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

9:00am-10:30am

Linda A. Kurzawa Community Center

### 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 Government
<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 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 type="checkbox"/> Katie Gallagher	Robert Crown	Youth-Serving
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samantha Gannon	AAIM	Other Organization
<input type="checkbox"/> Concha Garza	Addison NRC	Youth
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jazmin Garza	Carol Stream PD	Law Enforcement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sherilyn Hebel	KidsMatter	Other Org.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Hess	Juvenile Justice Council	Youth-Serving
<input type="checkbox"/> Brenda Huber	Bloomingtondale 708 Board	Other Org.
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geri Kerger	NAMI DuPage	Other Org.
<input type="checkbox"/> Alan Knudson	DUMEG	Law Enforcement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anthony Kozi	Nat'l Guard	Law Enforcement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristin Kramer	IL PTA	Parent
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Becky McFarland	DCHD	Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> Nina Menis	KidsMatter	Other Organization
<input type="checkbox"/> Felicia Miceli	Serenity House	Other Organization
<input type="checkbox"/> Crystal Milliner	DCHD	Local Gov't
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angela Molloy	Rogers Behavioral Health	Healthcare
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Murray	Bloomington Mental Health Auxiliary	Civic
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Murphy	DCHD	Local Gov't.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emily Murskyj	DCHD	Local Gov't.
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Nora Ortinou	DCHD	Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> Karin Podolski	Northwestern Medicine	Healthcare
<input type="checkbox"/> Alex Pulaski	DCHD	Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> Eric Pulia	Nat'l Guard	Local Government
<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	Bloomington Church	Faith-based
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gilda Ross	Glenbard High Schools	School
<input type="checkbox"/> Tricia Rossi	Hanover Park PD	Law Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/> Angelika Rupp	St. Francis	School
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annette Villarea	Serenity House	Healthcare Prof.
<input type="checkbox"/> Krista Webb	DCHD	Healthcare
<input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Wahlskog	DCHD	Healthcare
<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-Organization

#### **Guests/New Members:**

Danielle Heffernan, Serenity House

Shannon Hartnett, NEDFYS

Rick Gieser, DuPage County Forest Preserve

Mike DeSmedt, DCHD

Mike Tivolacci, Modern Me Psychology

Heather O'Donnell, DCHD

Carrie Kilpatrick, AAIM

Jocelyn Zavala, National Guard

#### **I. Welcome/Introductions – Jordan Esser, Project Director (9:00am-9:10am)**

- The meeting began at 9:04am. Jorie welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves.

#### **II. Forces of Change Assessment – Becky McFarland, Impact DuPage, DuPage County Health Department (9:10am-10:20am)**

- Becky presented an overview of the Impact DuPage Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA) and its role within the county's community needs assessment process.
- The FOCA is designed to help participants identify trends, factors, and events over the next several years that may influence community health.
- A reference point for this work is the [2022 FOCA Report](#) from the previous cycle.
- This month's meeting was dedicated to PLT members participating in the 2025 FOCA.
- Following a broad discussion of contributing factors, members voted on the five most significant issues expected to affect DuPage County's health in the coming years.
- The **"Top 5 Factors"** identified by PLT are listed below as the group's contribution to the *2025 Forces of Change Assessment*:
  - Cost of living is increasing, which results in more food insecurity, more housing instability, and people having to prioritize their needs.
  - Funding cuts and limiting eligibility criteria at the Federal level are affecting social service agencies' ability to provide enough high-quality services resulting in negative health outcomes for people trying to seek services.
  - Youth having unlimited and unmonitored access to social media and AI can lead to more negative mental health outcomes and increase feelings of social isolation.
  - Mental health needs of adolescents are increasing, and schools are often expected to address these needs without proper supports in place to do so.
  - Widespread misinformation can lead to distrust of science and agencies that were historically a trusted source of information.

- Next, Impact DuPage will create a Top 5 List of Concerns that were mentioned most across all 11 stakeholder groups that also participated in the FOCA process. These results will be included in the final community health assessment, which will be completed in early 2026.
- If you have any questions about Impact DuPage's county-wide health assessment process, you can contact Becky directly at [Rebecca.McFarland@dupagehealth.org](mailto:Rebecca.McFarland@dupagehealth.org)

### III. **Updates/Upcoming Events – Jordan Esser, Project Director (10:20am-10:30am)**

- **GPS Parent Series is Celebrating 30 Years!**
  - The GPS Parent Series returns this fall with a lineup of engaging, free programs designed to support parents, caregivers, and community members.
  - Upcoming events in September:
    - Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12PM and 7PM – Dr. Martha Beck – Beyond Anxiety: A Creative Path to Fill Your Life with Joy and Calm
    - *IN PERSON EVENT @ Glenbard West High School*: Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, 7PM – Bill Cartwright – Rules for Living Life at the Center
    - Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, 12PM and 7PM – Hunter Clarke Fields – End Reactive Parenting Habits and Find Peace at Home
    - Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 12PM and 7PM – Susan Cain – Quiet Power: The Secret Strengths of Introverted Kids and Adults
    - Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 12PM and 7PM – Jessica Lahey – Engaged, Competent, and Sober: Raising Addiction-Resistant Kids in a Culture of Dependence
    - Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 12PM and 7PM – Dr. Ross Greene – Explosive Child: Understanding Frustrated and Inflexible Children
- **NAMI Run for the Mind/Color Run on September 27th**
  - 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/>.
- **Reality and Teen Ambassador Updates**
  - Reality starts again on September 2nd at the Glenbard District Office. All high school teens in DuPage County are welcome to join!
  - Applications for the Teen Ambassadors, the executive board for Reality, are now open, and interviews have begun! To be considered, teens must be active in Reality. We've already received over 30 applications and will be selecting a board of 10–12 leaders representing different schools.
  - For more information on these opportunities, visit the PLT website.

**The next PLT meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> on ZOOM.**