



DuPage County Prevention Leadership Team Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, October 29, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Cassity	360 Youth Services	Youth Serving
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samantha Gannon	AAIM	Other Org.
<input type="checkbox"/> Concha Garza	Addison NRC	Youth-Serving
<input checked="" 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	Bloomingtondale 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 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	DUMEG	Law Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/> Kristin Kramer	IL PTA	Parent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elisa Lara	VNA Healthcare	Healthcare
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> James McGreal	Downers Grove PD	Law Enforcement
<input checked="" 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	Bloomingtondale 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alison Ramirez	GEPD	Law Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Riemenschneider	Bloomingtondale 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elise Schram	360 Youth Services	Youth-Serving
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Simmons	Northwestern Med.	Healthcare
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Soemo	Tri-Town YMCA	Other-org.
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karli Wilson	Teen Parent Connection	Other-Org.

Guests/New Members:

Alex DiTomasso, Get on Track Health and Wellness

Alex Pulaski, DCHD

Amanda McMillen, Alive Center

Harrison Angoff, Epiphany Community Services

Jamie Horner, Naperville PD

Tanya Macko, Glendale Heights PD

Zandra Washington, Naperville PD

I. Welcome/Introductions – Katie Gallagher, Co-Chair (9:00am-9:10am)

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

II. Adult Logic Model Review & Year in Review – Epiphany Community Services (9:10am-9:40am)

- Epiphany has facilitated several workshops to create an adult logic model for the PLT. This logic model will help the coalition with creating its action plan for now until 2028.
- The adult logic model focuses on three problem areas: mental health, binge drinking, and marijuana use.
- During the meeting, PLT members voted on the following adult priorities, indicating that these are the strategies they would like to see the coalition focus on in the future:
 - *Mental health*
 - Remove personal barriers to accessing treatment (including lack of transportation, other obligations such as being unable to take time off work, and not having childcare)
 - Remove barriers to navigating systems of care (including a lack of knowledge, inability to navigate in preferred language)
 - Implement strategies to address how mental health services are perceived
 - Work to reduce fear within certain cultural groups to access services
 - *Binge drinking*
 - Implement strategies to reduce alcohol at community celebrations/events
 - Implement strategies to reduce advertising to specific age groups (i.e., younger adults)
 - Implement strategies to reduce favorable attitudes towards use (used around celebrations, social events, and as a relief from stress)
 - *Marijuana use*

- Implement strategies to reduce the number of NEW dispensaries/reduce density
 - Implement strategies to reduce the potency of products offered
 - Work to create common policies across municipalities
 - Implement strategies to improve understanding of products and dosage
- This year, the PLT began tracking its grant deliverables in a new reporting software, Reach.
- Using the software, Harrison provided high-level overview of the work coalition has done over the past year:
 - 173 verified coalition actions (outputs) reported
 - 406,883 media impressions generated through marketing efforts
 - 57 services reported, reaching 1,810 individuals
 - 774 volunteer hours contributed, valued at \$26,199.25
 - Total investment (cash, in-kind, and volunteer contributions): \$401,733.01
 - 22 capacity-building and organizational improvement efforts completed
 - Primary focus areas: General ATOD prevention and mental health promotion

III. Get On Track – Alex DiTommaso, GOT Health and Wellness (9:40am-9:55am)

- Alex provided an overview of Get on Track (GOT) Health and Wellness, which motivates technology-addicted youth and adolescents to disconnect from electronic devices and embrace a healthier lifestyle.
- GOT offers fitness/wellness classes as an alternative to using technology and sponsors technology-free events in the community.
- For more information about Get on Track Health and Wellness or to collaborate on an event, email info@getontrackillinois.org.

IV. Teen Survey Report – Hannah Ewoldt, NEDFYS (9:55am-10:10am)

- Hannah provided an overview of teen surveys she recently collected from four different middle schools in Northern DuPage.
- Over 900 students (27-41% of the student body) participated in the survey, that was conducted during NEDFY's monthly wellness pop-ups that are hosted during lunch hours.
- The survey asked general demographic questions and questions similar to what is asked on the Illinois Youth Survey about school environment, mental health, and social lifestyle.
- Below are a few key trends that were identified:
 - 41% of participants who stated they struggle currently with stress or anxiety also seek professional help
 - For participants who report currently struggling with stress and anxiety, between 65% and 75% indicated that they know where to go for help, have a trusted adult, and feel supported by the front office.
 - This suggests that, while challenges remain, there is a foundational level of trust and knowledge of available resources among these students, providing a promising base for further support and intervention.
 - 7% of total participants identified the trifecta of no trusted adult, don't know where to go to for support, and do not feel like they have support from the office at school
 - Of the 183 participants who reported feeling below positive, 37% indicated that they seek professional help, and 59% reported currently struggling with anxiety and stress.

- This suggests that those who are experiencing the most stress or negative feelings may not be fully accessing available support or resources, highlighting a potential gap between the support systems in place and the individuals who need them most.
- The survey was not initially translated into Spanish, although Spanish-speaking students had their friends translate so they could still participate, so those changes will be made in time for the next data collection period in Spring.

V. Teen Ambassadors & Reality – Lisa Lerner, DuPage County Health Department (10:00am-10:15am)

- This year, Teen Ambassador applicants participated in virtual interviews. Following the interviews, 14 teens representing 7 different high schools were selected to serve as the Executive Board for Reality.
- Reality kicked off the year with strong community involvement by volunteering at the NAMI Walks/Color Run event on a Saturday.
 - 13 teens helped with event setup, guided runners along the trail, monitored the KidZone, and threw color during the color run portion of the event.
- This week marks Red Ribbon Week! Teen Ambassadors voted to participate by decorating doors for schoolwide contests at their high schools. PLT members were shown several photos highlighting the teens’ creativity and hard work.
- A special recognition was given to the Metea Valley Teen Ambassadors, who went above and beyond by:
 - Creating educational slides displayed during lunch hours
 - Organizing a “Wear Red” day
 - Hosting lunch stations where students could write encouraging and substance-free messages
- Lisa reviewed several upcoming Teen Ambassador and Reality activities:
 - Gratitude Week (November): Next week, Teen Ambassadors will vote on how they would like to show their support for this observance.
 - Food Drive (November–December): In response to recent SNAP benefit reductions, Teen Ambassadors and Reality teens will collect non-perishable food items at upcoming meetings. Donations will go to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, with a focus on items that can be used to make meals.
 - Upcoming Reality Meetings:
 - Nov. 11 – Art Making for Self-Awareness & Fun @ Glenbard District Office
 - Dec. 2 – Beginning Yoga for Stress Reduction @ Lisle Library District
 - Jan. 6 – Improv for Better Communication @ Helen Plum Library

VI. Updates/Upcoming Events – Amber Quirk, Co-Chair (10:15am-10:30am)

- This week is Red Ribbon Week!
 - The PLT has created a social media toolkit and display screens to use during Red Ribbon Week, which can be downloaded from our website [here](#).
 - Red Ribbon Week ends on Friday, October 31st.
- Cocktails To-Go Ordinance
 - The Senate recently passed a permanent Cocktails to Go amendment for Illinois, which means it’s heading to the House THIS week.

- This amendment would allow bars and restaurants to continue selling cocktails and mixed drinks for delivery and curbside pickup.
- This is concerning because, according to the most recent Illinois Youth Survey, 10% of 8th graders in Illinois are accessing alcohol by home delivery and there was a 62.5% increase in retail access by 8th graders overall.
- Originally Cocktails to Go was set to sunset on August 1, 2028. This amendment is part of SB618.
- A news story about the issue can be found [here](#).
- Please email Jorie if you are interested in obtaining a sample email of talking points to send to your state representatives.
- District 204 Mental Health and Wellness Symposium
 - Indian Prairie School District 204 will be hosting a Mental Health and Wellness Symposium at Metea Valley High School on Saturday, March 8, 2025 from 8:30am to 2:00pm.
 - This free community event welcomes parents, educators, teens, and tweens to explore topics related to mental health and wellness through engaging breakout sessions, a keynote speaker, and a community resource fair.
 - Presentation applications are due at the end of the week, so if you are interested in presenting, please email Amber at aquirk@dupageroe.org ASAP.
- November PLT Meeting – Nov. 12 – GPS Parent Series Event
 - Due to the Thanksgiving holiday occurring during the week of our normal monthly meeting, the PLT will instead be encouraged to attend the GPS Parent Series event in person at the College of DuPage on November 12th.
- The nomination period for Changemaker Awards has been extended!
 - Nominations can be submitted through this [online form](#) now through Monday, February 2nd. The award winners will be recognized at our February PLT meeting/GPS Parent Series event on February 24th at Glenbard West High School.
 - Learn more about eligibility requirements [here](#). This is a great way to recognize a young person, adult, organization, or community who is dedicated to prevention and the health and well-being of DuPage County residents.
 - Want to see past winners? Check them out [here](#).
- 2026 Illinois Youth Survey Registration
 - Registration opened in September.
 - The current list of registered schools will be included with the minutes.
 - If there is a school that you do NOT see on the list that you would be willing to reach out to, please email Lisa Lerner at Lisa.Lerner@dupagehealth.org. Lisa will share talking points and any other information you may need.
- Work-Based Learning and Career Opportunities for Students
 - The ROE is in need of more organizations in the county to connect with high schools for student internship opportunities. The ROE has taken interns from this program in the past and has only had positive experiences.
 - If your organization is interested in participating, please email Amber at aquirk@dupageroe.org.
- Upcoming Holiday Toy Drive
 - The ROE's Truancy Department is hosting a toy drive for students who seek truancy support services. This is a great opportunity to give back to students who may not have the luxury of celebrating the holidays.

- If you are interested in donating or promoting this fundraiser, please email Amber at aquirk@dupageroe.org.

The next PLT meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12th at College of DuPage – Silverleaf Room in the Culinary and Hospitality Center.