



DuPage County Prevention Leadership Team Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, December 3, 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Concha Garza	Addison NRC	Youth-Serving
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jazmin Garza	Carol Stream PD	Law Enforcement
<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anthony Kozi	DUMEG	Law Enforcement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristin Kramer	IL PTA	Parent
<input 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 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 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 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	Bloomingtondale 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 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:

Deacon Dzierzawski, Epiphany Community Services

Nancy Martin, IL Tobacco Quitline, American Lung Association

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

- The meeting began at 9:01am. Katie welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves.

II. Illinois Tobacco Quitline Free Services Available – Nancy Martin, IL Tobacco Quitline, American Lung Association (9:10am-9:30am)

- Nancy provided an overview of free services provided by the IL Tobacco Quitline.
- The free tobacco services for adults include nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) for those who are eligible and a motivational text message program. Adults can enroll by calling 1-866-QUIT-YES (784-8937) or visiting www.QuitYes.org.
- These services can be offered in more than 250 languages, in addition to having a line for those who are deaf/hard of hearing.
 - To order free promotional materials, complete the form at the bottom of this webpage: <https://quityes.org/partners/>.
- For more information about the Illinois Tobacco Quitline, visit their website at [Your Call, Your Quit | Illinois Tobacco Quitline](#).
 - To refer a provider or patient/client to the IL Tobacco Quitline, complete the form that has been attached with the minutes or complete the following form on their webpage: <https://quitline.bridgegatehealth.com/refer/ITQLagencyenrollment/>.
- For information about the My Life, My Quit Program (for ages 13 to 17 years old), visit their website <https://il.mylifemyquit.org/>. This program is free, confidential and text based.
 - Free promotional materials can be ordered by completing the following form: <https://form.jotform.com/213496221133044>.
- The presentation has been sent out with the minutes. For any other questions, email Nancy Martin at Nancy.Martin@lung.org.

III. Local Tobacco Prevention Efforts – Leia Der and Rabia Mukhtar, DuPage County Health Department (9:30am-9:40am)

- Rabia and Leia provided an overview of current tobacco prevention initiatives taking place at the local level.

- The DuPage County Forest Preserve confirmed that no local ordinance currently prohibits smoking or tobacco use on their properties. As a result, advocacy efforts are underway to promote a tobacco-free parks policy, which would help reduce exposure to secondhand smoke and minimize tobacco-related litter (e.g., cigarette butts, chewing tobacco pouches).
- In support of these efforts, Reality teens conducted a cleanup along the Prairie Path in Glen Ellyn in October and collected various types of litter, including cigarette butts and a vape cartridge.
- As a next step, the teens are distributing a survey to individuals who use DuPage County trails and forest preserves to gather feedback on their experiences with secondhand smoke and tobacco waste, as well as assess support for a tobacco-free parks policy.
- **If you or someone you know uses DuPage County trails or forest preserves, please complete the following survey: <https://forms.office.com/g/VWVBX5irTcz>.** The survey will remain open until December 31st.

IV. Logic Model Review and Action Planning – Deacon Dzierzawski, Epiphany Community Services (9:40am-10:20am)

- Over the past year, the PLT has provided feedback to develop both adult and youth logic models that will guide the coalition's work over the next several years. These models address mental health, alcohol use, and marijuana use.
- During the meeting, PLT members participated in breakout groups to further review the logic models and begin drafting an action plan to guide efforts through 2028.
- Deacon will collaborate with Jorie and Lisa to finalize the action plan using the feedback gathered.
- **Members who wish to provide additional input are encouraged to complete the following worksheets:**
 - Adult: <https://forms.office.com/g/MYakDEHrfQ>
 - Youth: <https://forms.office.com/g/5V5Cvz0c6p>

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

- County-Wide Institute Day – February 27, 2026
 - The PLT will be conducting a session about understanding, preventing, and addressing student substance use during Institute Day on Friday, February 27th.
 - The session will take place from 8:30am – 2:45pm at the College of DuPage in the Student Resource Center (SRC) Room 2000.
 - The target audience will be school social workers, counselors, Health/PE and general education teachers, and school administrators.
 - Attendees will receive 5 CE/CEUs from the DuPage ROE.
 - The flyer with the QR code to register will be included with the minutes. Please share with your networks.
- 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](#).
- Upcoming GPS Events
 - Tues. Dec 16 – Dr. Christopher Willard – Mental Health 101: Supporting Your Teen’s Mental Health Journey in High School, College, and Beyond
 - Thurs. Jan 8 – Gretchen Rubin in conversation with Dr. Laurie Santos – Secrets of Adulthood: Simple Truths for Greater Happiness
 - Tues. Jan 13 – Ken Ginsburg – Lighthouse Parenting: Guiding Teens to Develop Independence and Coping Skills to Navigate Their Own Journey
 - Wed. Jan 21 – Kirsten Jones – Empowered Athletes: Fostering Confidence for Peak Performance
 - Tues. Jan 27 – Jenny Anderson and Dr. Rebecca Winthrop – Checked-Out/Stressed out: Moving Kids From Disengagement to Drive
- Reality & Teen Ambassador Updates
 - Last night, 9 teens gathered at Lisle Library District for a Reality meeting in which they practiced yoga and mindfulness before finals. Thank you to the Lisle Township 708 Mental Health Board for helping us secure the space!
 - Teen Ambassadors from Lisle and Hinsdale Central High Schools are being recruited to help get their schools registered for IYS before Christmas Break. The hope is that hearing from the students will motivate administrators to register.
 - The Teen Ambassadors submitted an abstract to present at District 204’s Mental Health and Wellness Symposium in March but are still waiting to hear back whether it has been accepted.
 - Upcoming Reality Meetings:
 - Jan. 6 – Improv for Better Communication @ Helen Plum Library
 - Feb. 16 – Live Life Well Week Kick-Off Event @ Ackerman Park District
- 2026 Illinois Youth Survey Registration Update
 - Registration opened in September.
 - The current list of registered schools will be included with the minutes. Our goal is 50% of each type of school registered!
 - 35% of high schools have registered
 - 16% of middle schools have registered
 - 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.
 - Registration typically drops drastically after winter break, so we are hoping to do a big promotional push over the next few weeks.

The next PLT meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 28th from 9:00 – 10:30am via ZOOM.