

## Illinois Alliance on Reducing Youth Substance Use

June 10, 2025

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

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### The Illinois Alliance on Reducing Youth Substance Use allows stakeholders to:

- Share current youth substance use prevention efforts being implemented in the State of Illinois.
- Share information on best practices to reduce youth substance use.
- Share data and research on efforts to reduce youth substance use.
- Review the Illinois STOP ACT report.
- Unify prevention efforts in the State of Illinois.

### MEETING MINUTES

2:30-2:40 Patrick Price, Prevention and Program Services Administrator, IDHS Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery  
Opening remarks

- *Patrick provided the opening remarks and welcomed all to the meeting. All attendees were instructed to state their name, role, and organization.*

2:40-2:50 Nate Steinfeld, Deputy Cannabis Regulatory Oversight Officer, Research and Data

- *Nate gave a brief overview of the CROO office, stating that it is a small team that works with the stakeholders regarding cannabis in Illinois and promotes cohesion among all involved. He highlighted 3 main updates at the state level. First, there was an initiative to improve and update the CRTA related to hemp regulation, but it did not make it through the spring session. However, it is still an issue they plan to work on. Second, a cannabis research institute has been established through IDHS and the University of Illinois system. This will allow high-quality research on cannabis to be conducted within the state and will establish Illinois as a research center, which is necessary as federal drug scheduling has limited research in the past. Third, the state is updating the IT system for seed-to-sale tracking. This will improve consumer experiences and provide searchable information on products being sold, including their THC content and manufacturer. This should be helpful for prevention efforts, and help teachers, medical professionals, etc., identify products more easily.*
  - *Nate provided his contact information in the chat for any additional follow-up questions: [nathaniel.steinfeld@illinois.gov](mailto:nathaniel.steinfeld@illinois.gov)*

2:50-3:05 Mike Marshall, CEO, US Alcohol Policy Alliance  
STOP Act Call to Action

- *Mike shared a request for action regarding the STOP Act. Despite alcohol killing more people each year than opioids and gun violence combined, the STOP Act, which is focused on preventing underage drinking, has been eliminated from the current budget proposed by the President. This has been a historically impactful*

*program with a budget of 20.5 million dollars, previously passed with bipartisan support. It was first voted into practice in 2006, and since then, data has demonstrated a reduction in alcohol use and binge drinking among underage persons. The US Alcohol Policy Alliance and CADCA have been working together to advocate for the STOP Act to make it back into the appropriations.*

- *Mike requested that the group join in advocacy efforts and meet with the staff members of their House and Senate members to build relationships and connections to accomplish the task of adding the STOP Act back into the budget. Mike provided a handout with a 5-step strategy on accomplishing this goal.*  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18lgo-AD359qjS9vkJpGYoyhDsKA5smnA/view?usp=sharing>

3:05-3:15 Jody Heavilin, APRC Administrator, Prevention First  
Federal Updates, New Resources, and Upcoming Webinar

- *Jody shared that according to IYS data, alcohol use by Illinois teens is double the national average, with 13.7% of Illinois students reporting drinking alcohol within the last 30 days compared to 6.9% of those across the country. She shared that the IYS also indicated that social access has decreased since 2018, but that retail access and home delivery methods have increased.*
  - *Kris commented that in her area, alcohol access from parents was still high, and that they recently had a letter go out into their community. There could be an opportunity for a communication campaign related to this topic. Cher offered to bring feedback to the communications team for FY27, and recommended that Kris add to their supplements for FY26.*
  - *Regarding retail access, Jody commented that they are still working with ILCC to train officers for Alcohol Compliance Checks, and that they just recently achieved training over 500 officers.*
- *The APRC has a new resource coming out soon on alcohol taxes. Addressing alcohol prevention through taxes is something that can be done in Illinois. The resource will be available on the Prevention First website at the beginning of the year and will include information on how to frame the conversation about alcohol and taxes.*
- *The next webinar hosted by the APRC will take place on August 6<sup>th</sup> from 10-11a and will cover the impact of alcohol home delivery practices on alcohol consumption trends and related consequences. The results are from a national survey of US adults and Google Trends. The presenters are Dr. Jimikay Courtney and McKenna Roudebush from the UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.*

3:15-3:20 Jake Levinson, CPRC Senior Administrator, Prevention First

- *Jake shared that there was no significant legislation related to cannabis in Illinois that made it past committees, but that there could still be movement on hemp-derived products during the fall veto session.*
- *The newest resource from the CPRC, Municipal Communications Guide, has been released and can be accessed on the CPRC website.*

<https://www.prevention.org/Resources/bab2027b-9ba1-4532-b54d-df832fdc7e69/Communicating%20about%20Cannabis%202025.pdf>

- Jake also shared that the CPRC, APRC, and Leadership Center created a new online training that will be going live soon and will be accessible on their respective websites titled: *Identifying and Interpreting Alcohol, Cannabis, and Opioid Research*.  
<https://www.prevention.org/training/training-cannabis-policy-resource-center/>
- The CPRC is currently collecting information for a coalition needs assessment. The survey can be accessed here:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WYZGWJ3>. Please reach out to Jake if you have any questions.

3:20-3:30 Shannon Alderman, Impaired Driving Program Coordinator, IDOT  
Federal Updates

- *No updates provided.*

3:30-3:45 Cher Hanson, SUP Training & Technical Assistance Manager, Prevention First  
Virtual Prevention Summit

- *Cher shared that Prevention First will be hosting an Illinois Prevention Summit on August 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 4:30 p.m. The summit will have four sessions, including applying equitable and trauma-informed prevention, leveraging IYS and other data for your prevention efforts presented by the CPRD, exploring Illinois prevention resources, and what works and what doesn't work in prevention presented by the Great Lakes PTTC. This learning opportunity is not just for SUPP providers, but for all in the substance use prevention field in Illinois. The summit will be held virtually with a live Q&A, and all the sessions will be recorded and hosted on the Prevention First website for later reference. Registration will be on the Prevention First website, and it will go live after July 1<sup>st</sup>. Email Cher with any questions: [cher.hanson@prevention.org](mailto:cher.hanson@prevention.org).*

3:45-3:55 Group Announcements

- *Kris shared that they are doing a second environmental scan in her area, focusing on derivatives. Their area has a majority of communities with local ordinances that have banned the substance. She encouraged members to advocate locally for derivative bans until the state can pass their policy. Jake added that CROO is collecting local ordinances, so please send any you are working on to [cprc@prevention.org](mailto:cprc@prevention.org).*
- *Jody shared that she and Jake will travel to the School Resource Officer conference to represent the APRC and CPRC and connect with law enforcement.*

3:55-4:00 Patrick Price, Prevention and Program Services Administrator, IDHS Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery

Closing remarks

- *Jody shared that IDHS will be sending out the dates for FY26 Illinois Alliance meetings in the near future.*

**SFY 26 Meeting Schedule**  
**TBD**