

Illinois Alliance on Reducing Youth Substance Use
December 11, 2025
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

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 – 2:35 Shantel High, Substance Use Prevention Program State Administrator
Division of Behavioral Health & Recovery, IDHS**

- Shantel provide opening remarks and a welcome to the group. She shared that Samantha Alonis is expected to return the second week of January.

2:35 – 2:55 Cole Forbes, MPH, CDC CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow, Division of Emerging Health Issues | Office of Health Promotion, Illinois Department of Public Health

[Alcohol Use in Illinois Report](#)

- Cole shared updates from the alcohol epidemiology work he has been undertaking with Drs. Lesley Wise and Indira Giri at IDPH to extend the state alcohol surveillance system.
- Next steps include an Alcohol dashboard on IDPH website, a comprehensive, statewide surveillance report, working on evaluation and refinement, including data quality and expanding statewide agency collaboration.
- One goal is to establish an alcohol epidemiologist role at IDPH – other states have full time roles.
- Questions: Angela noticed that girls tend to have higher rates of alcohol use now, whereas that was reversed in the past. Jody shared that a contributing factor may be reasons for drinking – while girls tend to drink more due to stressors, boys may drink more when celebrating. So stress levels may have increased in girls and celebrations decreased in boys.

2:55 – 3:10 Kenneth Williams, Liquor Control Supervisor, Central Region, Division of Enforcement, ILCC

- Status of mobile ID. Noted that he does not represent SoS, only ILCC. The initial roll-out will credential physical ID into Apple wallet only. Android availability is in the works. Audience: TSA, Concert and event venues, intended to speed age verification process. Free, no requirements. The application will only compare and give YES/NO 21+: doesn't give the business date of birth, license number, address, etc. No storage on business-side verification device, only the originator has a log. Not transmitted, not maintained by SoS.
- There will be a separate law enforcement rollout for devices/tools, but that would provide the information not provided in the current business-focused tool. Would auto-roll into any citation forms and log. Full implementation still requires you to have a physical ID on your person and presented to LE upon request, so can still be cited for not having it. FAQ on ILCC website (for licensees). NOT a mandate. No businesses required to accept. Only the provisioning provided by the App is accepted. Does not allow for a picture of ID, etc. Stored on your phone to work for that.
- SB0618
Sent to Governor, has not signed but expected to. Makes cocktails-to-go permanent. Changed the manufacturer's original container as part of the definition. Home delivery is a separate ruleset, so a determination must be made to know which ruleset to apply. Cocktails to go CANNOT be delivered by 3rd party. Deliverer must obtain signature of someone 21+ upon delivery. Whether retailers will be required to maintain signature logs is in discussion.

Cocktails to go can be sold by either on or off premise retailers as long as they have a retailers license. Consumer loyalty programs were also addressed (mug, loyalty, rewards programs). Created a new license type, Class 3 craft distiller – may manufacture, have limited self-distribution, and full retail privileges.

- Angela – question re: why did Apple receive the ability to store the IDs? Kenny stated a question for SoS – law gave them permission but did not specify details.

3:10 – 3:20 Jody Heavilin, APRC Administrator, Prevention First

- Tuesday, December 16th from 10-11
 - Social Media: Catalyst for College Drinking or Change Agent? Dr. Mai-Ly Steers, Duquesne University
- 5 Alcohol & Tobacco Compliance Check training opportunities in Quarter 3
 - 1/14/26 Tri-River/Romeoville Police Department

- 1/27/26 NEMRT/Crestwood Civic Center, Crestwood
 - 2/11/26 NEMRT HQ/Naperville
 - 2/17/26 MTU 8/Normal/Heartland Community College
 - 3/4/26 MTU IV/Macomb Police Department
- ~550 officers trained so far. Done through the MTUs – count towards the mandated training hours. Statute requires that the supervisor overseeing checks have gone through the training. Only LE can conduct compliance checks (others can “Audit”)
- 2 one-day Alcohol & Cannabis Prevention Policy Summits
 - 4/13/26 Harper College/Palatine
 - 4/14/26 ILEAS Training Center/Urbana
 - The Summit will cover topics around alcohol/cannabis and suicide, retail availability of high ABV and hemp-based beverages, alcohol & cannabis marketing, enforcement strategies & coalition collaboration, Compliance Checks, and the prevention of impaired driving. Keynote speakers will be:
 - Dr. Matt Rossheim
 - Amy Miles
- USAPA – National Alcohol Strategy/Guideline
- The US Dietary Guidelines are set to be released soon. There's no safe or healthy level of alcohol use. There is growing concern that the 2025-2030 DGAs may overlook or downplay this evidence. To ensure the American public has access to clear, science-based recommendations, the [U.S. Alcohol Policy Alliance \(USAPA\) has developed these guidelines.](#)

3:20 – 3:30 Jake Levinson, CPRC Senior Administrator, Prevention First

- The CPRC will be hosting two Policy Power Hours in January to discuss the recent federal hemp legislative changes and their potential impacts on Illinois state and local policy.
 - [January 20, 12pm](#)
 - [January 29, 2pm](#)
- The webinar with Dr. Julia Dilley will be rescheduled in February in order to account for the federal updates.
- CPRC resources that cover or reference hemp rules will be updated as needed throughout the year.

3:30 – 3:35 Marly Arbaiza, YPRC Administrator, Prevention First

- New to the role – YPRC provides resources and collaboration opportunities between adults and youth related to prevention.
- Shared a resource – Winter break survival guide – for youth-serving adults: address isolation and loneliness, money worries, loss/grief, academic pressures, among others.

**3:35 – 3:40 Shantel High, Substance Use Prevention Program State Administrator
Division of Behavioral Health & Recovery, IDHS**

- *Closing remarks*

**SFY 26 Meeting Schedule
Thursday, March 12, 2026
Thursday, May 28, 2026**