

## **Illinois Alliance on Reducing Youth Substance Use**

**March 12, 2026**

**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**

#### **Shantel High, Substance Use Prevention Program State Administrator**

##### **Division of Behavioral Health & Recovery, IDHS**

- Shantel provided opening remarks and a welcome to the group.

#### **Colby Nixon, Catalyst**

- Working on a policy to increase the BAC limit for DUIs. HB4333.
- Utah saw alcohol purchases stay constant while finding safer ways to get home. Worldwide standard.
- In Springfield, talking about that as a compromise. .08 isn't medically notable, .05 matches more when we start to see the impairment level. .05 is 2-3 drinks for average person.
- 7x increase at .05. 25% involved in fatal crashes were in .01-0.07.
- There was a small impact on businesses - people find ways to get home more safely.
- In Utah, the first-year fatality went down 19.8% or any other organization.
- In the Judiciary committee, lots of opposition from the criminal justice and the business communities. Fewer arrests in Utah because people behaved differently.
- Has an NTSB endorsement along with Uber and IABH.
- Intended for adults but see that it has positive effects on youth – impaired driving is a big reason why youth are involved in crash injuries/deaths.
- At Springfield IPN advocacy day, 99 youth attended with 19 adults. Catalyst students led the research to collect data for the conversations.
- Discussed criminal justice concerns.
- Discussed who else may be good to involve: Chiefs of Police, IL Sheriff's Association. Jen Sifaldi, IL Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, Shannon Alderman at IDOT, impaired driving coordinator.

- colbnix@me.com

### **Kerri Viets, Tazewell County Health Department**

- Department had questions about kratom, similar substances
- Wanted to do an environmental scan, visit the retailers, do an analysis, what's located and what's being sold
- Focused on Kratom, hydroxymitragynine, delta8, whip its
- Used Prevention First and collaborated with sheriff deputies and SROs
- Visited 50 retailers throughout county. Sold in all communities, THC infused drinks and kratom were most prevalent. Not necessarily advertised but easily accessible. 33 selling
- 81% displayed right at counter
- Ordinances passed
  - East Peoria
  - Creve Coeur
  - Morton
  - Pekin
  - Tremont
  - Washington
- Epidemiologist put together data on ordinances
- Surprised – how easy it was
- Follow-ups indicated general compliance with ordinances

### **Jody Heavilin, APRC Administrator, Prevention First**

- Resources
  - The APRC has released its latest resource: Party Prevention and Controlled Party Dispersal [https://www.prevention.org/Resources/210bad5b-b201-4fa0-a74f-6552b5160f96/PP%20\\_%20CPD%20Resource%20final.pdf](https://www.prevention.org/Resources/210bad5b-b201-4fa0-a74f-6552b5160f96/PP%20_%20CPD%20Resource%20final.pdf)
  - PP and CPD is a law enforcement strategy that involves several measures to effectively prevent, identify, and safely disperse underage drinking parties. There are four necessary components to a successful party prevention and controlled party dispersal strategy.
    - Party Prevention
    - Party Identification
    - Party Containment
    - Party Dispersal
    - Law enforcement is involved in each component. Prevention coalitions can assist with Party Prevention, Party Identification, and Party Dispersal.

- If you missed the "Reducing Risks for Adolescent Substance Use: Practical Strategies to Help Parents and Guardians" webinar on February 24, you can access the recording on the APRC training page.  
<https://www.prevention.org/training/EventDetails?i=10884&t=1041>
- HB4333 – with the House Judiciary Committee
  - How to file a witness slip <https://www.iml.org/file.cfm?key=26981>
- I'm working on compiling research around alcohol consumption across generations. We will have a larger discussion about this at our May 28 meeting. If you have questions about that or have gathered any research, please be ready to share at the next meeting. We'd love to hear your input.
- Training opportunities
  - There are only a few seats left for the Alcohol & Cannabis Prevention Policy Summit in Urbana on April 14. The Palatine location on April 13 is full. Our goal with the Summit is to bring prevention and enforcement together so we can learn and appreciate all we have to offer each other. Many prevention strategies and policies require both prevention and enforcement to collaborate to achieve positive outcomes.  
<https://www.prevention.org/training/EventDetails?i=7785&t=1041>
  - Connections in Prevention Conference – Oct. 29 & 30 in Springfield
    - Call for presentations is now open. The deadline to submit a proposal is June 5, 2026.  
[https://www.prevention.org/2026\\_cip\\_conference/presenters/](https://www.prevention.org/2026_cip_conference/presenters/)
    - Exhibitor applications are also open:  
[https://www.prevention.org/2026\\_cip\\_conference/conference-exhibitors/](https://www.prevention.org/2026_cip_conference/conference-exhibitors/)
- Alcohol & Tobacco Compliance Check Training
  - March 24 – Lake Zurich Police Department - full
  - May 20 – Darien Police Department - full
  - June 25 – ILEAS Training Center, Urbana
  - Scheduling one in MTU 1/Sterling Rock Falls area
- Alcohol Policy 2026 Conference
  - The U.S. Alcohol Policy Alliance's Alcohol Policy 2026 Conference will be held September 29 - October 1 in Arlington, Virginia, with the theme: Moving Forward Together: Promoting Alcohol Policy in a Changing World.
  - <https://www.alcoholpolicyconference.org/>

**Jake Levinson, Director of Resource Centers, Prevention First**

- Our new CPRC Administrator, Melanie Crews, will start in April.
- The webinar with Dr. Julia Dilley has been scheduled for May 21st, "Cannabis Policy from a Public Health Perspective."
- CPRC resources that cover or reference hemp rules will be updated as language continues to be issued.

**Abbie Ulbricht, IDOT Introduction, Traffic Safety Grant Coordinator, Impaired Driving Prevention**

- The grant audience is school health, guidance, driver's education instructors (public and private)
- The goal is to reduce impaired driving among youth, awareness, partnerships, and education-based resources. Engage those staff and audiences to receive accurate, consistent, impactful information.

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

- *Closing remarks*

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