

Illinois Alliance on Reducing Underage Drinking

October 5, 2021

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

The Illinois Alliance on Reducing Underage Drinking allows stakeholders to:

- Share current underage drinking prevention efforts being implemented in the State of Illinois.
- Share information on best practices to reduce underage drinking.
- Share data and research on efforts to reduce underage drinking.
- Review the Illinois STOP ACT report.
- Provide a unified front for underage drinking prevention efforts in the State of Illinois.

MEETING MINUTES

Rafael Rivera and Shantel High – Illinois Dept. of Human Services
Opening remarks, review of the purpose of the Illinois Alliance & synopsis of June 25th meeting.

Jody Heavilin - Alcohol Policy Resource Center (APRC)

Welcome, review of report outs and introduction of discussion questions to be presented at this meeting.

Kathy Murphy - Traffic Safety Resource Center

Kathy discussed the start of the statewide Traffic Safety Resource Center funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Kathy is working on developing a peer-to-peer teen program – stay tuned! Teen Driver Safety week is starts October 17th.

Jody Heavilin – APRC

Jody shared that the APRC exhibited at the Illinois Sheriff's Association conferences, as well as the Illinois Municipal League. The Sheriffs reported many offices are not fully staffed, and this is an issue amongst law enforcement agencies throughout Illinois. At the IML conference there was a lot of interest in outlet density information and accessing research that helps explain why ordinances are a good idea.

New resources from the APRC:

- [Alcohol Policy if a Win-Win for Communities](#)
- [Safe and Successful Events](#)
- [Reduce Alcohol Access to Reduce Violence](#)
- [6 Essential Elements of Social Host Ordinances](#)

Robyn Block & Randyl Wilkens – Youth Prevention Resource Center (YPRC)

Robyn reported that the YPRC held Detour 2021-Youth Traffic Summit. Speakers and presenters were from the following: IDOT, National Transportation Safety Board, National Safety Council, National Road Safety Foundation, the IL High School and College Driver Education Association, Impact Teen Drivers, and several Student Advisory Board members.

As of October 1st, the YPRC will no longer be associated with SADD National, opening up new possibilities and opportunities to serve the youth of Illinois with no fees associated.

Randyl reported that the Student Advisory Board reported that members would be interested in attending Illinois Alliance meetings but would need the meetings to be after 4:00 PM to allow them to be in attendance without missing school. Additionally, when discussing alcohol-related issues important to Student Advisory Board members, they reported concerns around:

- Fake ID's
- Older people buying alcohol for underage people
- Delivery services not getting age verification and delivering to young people
- Young people are intellectually aware of the dangers of underage drinking, but struggle to realize negative consequences can happen to them
- Drunk driving

Catherine Spencer – Community the Anti-Drug

Catherine shared local youth data and reported students were surveyed during the pandemic and alcohol and marijuana use decreased by half. Now that students are back in schools, the data shows alcohol use is going back up.

Jim Schreiner – Pledge for Life Coalition

Jim shared with the group that they will be presenting a Parent Talk Program, which is a webinar series for Red Ribbon Week. Jim also noted they are creating more movie trailers for the local theater to provide help to parents on how to talk with kids about alcohol and other substances. Lastly,

Jim noted the Courthouse in Kankakee would be illuminated in red for Red Ribbon Week awareness.

Lina Xie – Midwest Asian Health Association (MAHA)

Lina shared that Midwest Asian Health Association (MAHA) in celebration of Red Ribbon Week (Oct 23-31st) is hosting a virtual Communities Talk Underage Drinking Town Hall event on October 26th from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Red Ribbon Week raises awareness of drug use and the problems related to drugs facing our community, and encourages parents, educators, business owners, and other community organizations to promote drug-free lifestyles. The town hall will cover topics from scientific research on youth brain development to strategies and resources available for parents and youths. This event is free and everyone is welcome to attend. Join using the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89051350172?pwd=WW1veS9kZmZmN2xlbVBBSUdHend3UT09>

Anita Bedell, Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems (ILCAAP)

Anita shared that the Springfield City Council would be meeting that night to discuss eliminating 3:00 AM liquor licenses. Current holders of the 3:00 AM licenses would be allowed to continue, but no new licenses would be issued for that late hour if the aldermen approve. Anita also provided the link to an October 12th webinar at 11:00 AM about the [Dangerous Truth about Today's Marijuana](#). This webinar will feature Laura Stack as the speaker.

Rachael Stewart – Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM)

Rachael reports that on October 22nd AAIM will host a virtual benefit at 7 PM. The funds raised during the benefit assists the victims AAIM serves. Rachael also shared that AAIM has created a program that discusses alcohol and drug impaired driving, speeding, drowsy driving, and distracted driving. The program features a drunk driving victim and offender statement, and discusses Scott's law to debunk some misconceptions teens may have on alcohol and cannabis use. The program also features a short video from the local DEA agent about marijuana. This program can be provided as a virtual webinar or in-person.

Kelly O'Connor – Oak Park Township

Kelly shared Oak Park is planning a mini-health fair in tandem with National Rx Take Back Day on October 23rd. Oak Park also has a pop-up prevention

bike (AKA Wellness on Wheels) that that has been used around the community to increase coalition branding and outreach.

Discussion Question 1: What do we need to prioritize as a group?

All comments included.

Rafael Rivera – Noted it seems like the perfect storm:

- Law enforcement issues with compliance checks
- We are already seeing the how alcohol harms are impacting IL residents
- Increase in use among women and youth

Kelly O'Connor – We need to get ahead of density issues. Door Dash and take-out is popular, causing an increase in liquor licenses – especially for non-traditional retailers. Also, an increase in events focused on promoting and consuming alcohol.

Anita Bedell – Many establishments are using liquor as a way to get gambling machines, and there is little monitoring going on. Legislature is considering allowing distilled spirits by mail.

Lina Xie – Would be interesting to find out more about how alcohol is or isn't being used for coping for mental health and trauma crisis that seems to be on the increase.

Liz Hamilton – Local law enforcement is short staffed, so alcohol compliance checks aren't being done. Not only is this a concern for compliance itself, compliance and responsible beverage service needs to go hand-in-hand. Noted the use of the BARS program to create baseline data that supports the need for compliance checks by law enforcement.

Randyl Wilkens – We need to prioritize bringing youth to the table.

Joanne Glancy – We've had discussions with law enforcement around fake ID's and loopholes. Alcohol-to-go is a concern – delivery services are not checking ID's.

Kerri Viets – Discussed with youth board and they are seeing their peers with issues around mental health and using alcohol and marijuana more

often. When asked where their peers get alcohol, many report from older peers. This is an issue that we all need to stay focused on.

Rafael Rivera – Noted that a state map with strategies being implemented would be valuable. The map could be categorized by region to provide a sense of what is going on statewide.

Discussion Question 2: Who else should we bring to the table?

All suggestions noted.

- ROSC Councils
- More agencies with youth groups
- Faith-based leaders
- Local government agencies
- Law enforcement at both the local and state level
- Local mental health agencies

Discussion Question 3: What do you envision as a productive meeting format?

Comments from the group.

- Format might depend on the priorities determined by the group.
- Appreciate the current format, with a focus on program sharing.
- Youth should be included at all levels.
- In-person does seem more productive.
- Prioritize issues and then focus on that prioritized list with group over time. Some possibility we will need monthly meetings.
- Might need committees.
- Different groups respond to different meeting formats. Encourage as many options as possible.
- SLACK may not be the best fit to create a collaborative learning environment, but are there other ways we can create this?

Rafael Rivera – IDHS

Rafael thanked meeting participants for their attendance and efforts. The goal is to find a meeting format that is effective for everyone in attendance and to the State.