

# Illinois Alliance on Reducing Youth Substance Use

June 6, 2024

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 AGENDA

2:30-2:35 Samantha Alonis, Deputy Director, IDHS Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery

- Provided opening remarks.
- Discussed experience at SAMHSA and meeting with other National Prevention Network coordinators, and highlighted the need for those in the prevention field to tell the story of prevention.
  - Samantha is seeking input on this and would like to hear how others can add to the story by highlighting key talking points, findings, successes to be championed at the national level, or other ideas. Please email her if you would like to contribute: [samantha.alonis@illinois.gov](mailto:samantha.alonis@illinois.gov)
- New funding expansion for FY25 using ARPA funds for youth whose caregivers use substances. Additionally, SUPR acknowledges the need for a holistic approach to youth and prevention. They are working on increasing communication between departments to serve their audience better.

2:35-2:40 Jody Heavilin, APRC Administrator, Prevention First

- Provided brief introductions and an overview of the meeting agenda.

2:40-2:50 Annabelle Escamilla, Assistant Director, Illinois Higher Education Center Eastern Illinois University, Illinois Substance Use Prevention Conference

- In April, hosted statewide conference in Springfield with approximately 80 participants. Attendees included higher education staff as well as community providers.
  - The conference provided an opportunity to learn from nationally known experts including Dr. Jason Kilmer, networking with other professionals, and building relationships with the presenters and attendees alike. Relationships were a key takeaway.
  - In addition to funding for the conference, IHEC also received funds for a communication campaign and was able to promote and provide materials at the conference.

2:50-3:10 Emily Taylor, teenyBIG, CPRC Municipal Needs Assessment Project Update

- Each year, the CPRC chooses an audience to complete a needs assessment with to help build relevant training, materials, and resources. To accomplish this with municipalities, they have partnered with Emily Taylor from teenyBIG. Emily has been conducting interviews with municipalities across the state and will utilize a survey as the next step in the process.
  - The research is in progress, but preliminary challenges identified were:
    - Acknowledging the functions and both the separation and overlap of municipalities and police regarding education, shared knowledge, enforcement, zoning, etc.
    - Concern over the ever-changing cannabis derivatives
    - Youth vaping
    - Dispensaries – weighing both the economic and public health impacts on communities.
    - Education on cannabis, its effects, and rules/regulations.
  - The project will continue, and Emily is looking for additional connections. If interested in helping, email [emily@teenybig.com](mailto:emily@teenybig.com)

3:10-3:20 Jacob Levinson, CPRC Administrator, Prevention First, Federal Rescheduling and Hemp updates

- Provided an update on the Federal Rescheduling of Cannabis and The Farm Bill as it related to hemp and cannabis derivatives.
  - The Department of Justice (DOJ) is proposing that cannabis be rescheduled from its current position as Schedule I to a Schedule III substance. The DOJ is using an 8-factor test to examine the current state of knowledge as well as its abuse potential.
  - Public comments will be collected until July 22, 2024 through the federal portal at regulations.gov. Reference “Docket No. DEA-1362” on correspondence.
  - State-level bills regarding hemp have stalled, as have changes to the federal Farm Bill.
  - There is still movement and concern regarding cannabis derivatives at the local/municipal level.

3:20-3:25 Marni Basic, Survey Research Outreach Coordinator, CPRD  
IYS Updates

- The 2024 IYS survey has been completed and the CPRD is working on creating the report. The IYS aims to provide local data to schools and provide a relative sample of schools across the state regionally. Approximately 650 schools participated this year, which is higher than in recent years but lower than pre-COVID numbers. Most participation is from 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders, while 12<sup>th</sup> grade responses still pose a challenge.
- Schools report barriers to the IYS being completed are that they can get the data in other ways, are participating in other surveys, or are too busy during the spring season with testing, spring break, and end-of-year activities. IYS data is different and captures prevention factors, too.
- Current results are pending and will be revealed in the upcoming months.

3:25-3:35 Bryant Laiche, YPRC Administrator, Prevention First  
YPRC YAB, Connections in Prevention Conference

- The YPRC has created two brand-new resources:
  - ACEs explore the intersection of adverse childhood experiences and risk factors for youth. The resource can be accessed here:  
<https://www.prevention.org/Resources/4e887540-bed9-4d55-8493-45790172e806/Adverse%20Childhood%20Experiences.pdf>
  - The Year-Round Planning Guide was designed to help people who work with youth create a roadmap for their prevention programming, set SMART goals, and build authentic youth engagement. The resource can be accessed here:  
<https://www.prevention.org/resources/84456604-b32a-49cd-a9c2-eb05f1e3f480/year-round%20planning%20guide.pdf?trackid=year-round%20planning%20guide.pdf>
- 14 youth have been selected for the YPRC Youth Advisory Board. The group is diverse demographically and has varying levels of experience. The Youth Advisory Board will start its year at a kick-off retreat in Chicago, where they will undergo training and begin planning for the year.
- The YPRC is partnering with the Mental Health Resource Center to provide a QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Training with an emphasis on LGBT youth suicide prevention on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Register here:  
<https://www.prevention.org/training/EventDetails?i=3041&t=1034>
- Prevention First will host the Connections in Prevention Conference on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at the Chicago Marriott Naperville.
  - Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from experts and each other on trends, equity, and practices. The event is for all professionals across the continuum of care.
  - Youth track is available for 40 youth, they will learn about what it means to be a change agent and substance use prevention.
  - Early Bird registration through July 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Currently seeking organizations who would like to exhibit, contact Bryant for more info: [bryant.laiche@prevention.org](mailto:bryant.laiche@prevention.org)
  - Registration for the conference is found here:  
<https://www.prevention.org/2024Conference>

3:35-3:50 Jody Heavilin, APRC Administrator, Prevention First  
AP20 Conference Updates, Requests & Report to Congress, and CADCA Mid-Year workshop with ILCC

- High in Plain Sight training with Jermaine Galloway is upcoming on June 12<sup>th</sup> in Naperville.
- Jody Heavilin and Kenny Williams will be presenting at CADCA Mid-Year on preventing alcohol access and why it's important and vital to partner with law enforcement. The workshop will be on Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-10AM.
  - Conduct Alcohol Compliance Checks—If you know of law enforcement that needs training, contact Jody. She and Kenny travel across the state to conduct training. They are an important part of prevention and also a contributor to the state report and Report to Congress.

- Attended the AP20 Conference in Arlington, VA and networked with leaders in the research and alcohol prevention field.
  - Spoke with Robert Vincent, Associate Administrator for Alcohol Prevention and Treatment Policy, SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, who recommended that all read the STOP Act Report to Congress as it contains valuable information. It is important to put your data forward and tell the stories of your community. The report can be accessed here: <https://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/about-iccpud/data/national-reports/report-to-congress/default.aspx#:~:text=of%20Underage%20Drinking-.The%202023%20Report%20to%20Congress%20on%20the%20Prevention%20and%20Reduction,National%20Media%20Campaign%20%E2%80%93%20%E2%80%9CTalk.>
  - Continue to promote the Report to Congress, evidence-based strategies, and the latest research from SAMSHA, CDC, NIH, NIAAA, Boston University, PIRE, and NIDA.
- The APRC Newsletter has a wide reach, it is sent to over 7,000 people worldwide, if you have prevention work or events you'd like to highlight, please send to Jody at [jody.heavlin@prevention.org](mailto:jody.heavlin@prevention.org)

3:50-4:00 Samantha Alonis, Substance Use Prevention Program State Administrator, IDHS Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery  
Closing remarks

- Encourages attendance at the National Prevention Network Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, in mid-August.
- Reminded all of the Screens for Success tool that was developed by SAMSHA as part of the "Talk. They Hear You." Campaign. They are working on a tool for use with adults that would allow for screening of mental health and substance use concerns.
- Everyone was thanked for their hard work, and the meeting was adjourned.

**SFY 25 Meeting Schedule - TBD**