



SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION TASK GROUP JANUARY 13, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was held via Zoom videoconference. Dan Martin called the meeting to order at 1:32pm.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Substance Use Prevention Task Group Members in attendance were: Dan Martin / Village of New Lenox, Tim Ignowski / HERO, Sheree Stillwell / Facilitate Family Support Groups, Dr. Kathleen Burke / Will County Health Department, Marta Keane / Will County Government & Will County Green, Gloria Bloodsaw / Gateway Foundation, Marie Kress / The Mental Wellness Center of Manhattan, Allison Thomas / Rosecrance Health Network, Dominica Dybas / DEA Chicago Field Division, Patrice Martin / Lightways Hospice and Serious Illness Care, Paul Hempel / Recovery Centers of America, Amy Maher / New Lenox Community Park District, Cristyna Ramirez / Existential Counselors Society, Dana Fedenia / Indivior, Kylie Sanko / Geode Health, Ariel Ruttenberg / New Lenox Police Department, James Budrick / Will County Health Department, Ausra Tauginaite / Joliet Junior College, Jan Dombrowski / HERO, Kirsten Leininger / University of St. Francis, Michelle Knierim / Uniquely U Behavioral Health, Jen Vujosevic / Lincoln Way Community High School District #210, Neesha Stringfellow / HLM Recovery and “Jackie.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes from the November 11, 2024 Task Group Meeting, which had been disseminated via email to Task Group members, were discussed. Marie Kress made a motion to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by Kathleen Burke. After no further discussion, the motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Kratom – Continued Discussion Regarding This Substance

DEA Bulletin (Kratom included) <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOJDEA/bulletins/3c85df6>

Dr. Aaron Weiner’s Zoom presentation was placed in the chat box... https://dupagehealth-org.zoom.us/rec/play/Tx1jkVd7doWjItE_Q2lema5NBGe8rlf0Wyq51L0uzzQ2_b2yiKnPBa-V0sOYZyI1KorV_4yCHRjl3QSQ.s_8m0LVI2R0lejMq?canPlayFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&continueMode=true&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdupagehealth-org.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2FDK1U6-0oSGlSSeHVXK6c29ZsFWFe0TgHR7PYgEswWxUnv0dOwf2XpGypSr9ji5z.l5yfRe00B5sxQ0uu

It was noted that Dr. Weiner would be an excellent speaker at “*Your Light Still Shines*” on the topic of Kratom.

Allison thanked Jan and Tim for leading the discussion regarding Kratom. There are a couple nearby communities that have created ordinances “banning” Kratom. A discussion ensued regarding whether this is the correct course of action for this group.

A news article related to Kratom was posted in the chat box...

<https://www.orlandpark.org/Home/Components/News/News/505/65#:~:text=In%20response%2C%20the%20Approved%20Orland,novel%20synthetic%20and%20psychoactive%20drugs>

It was noted that this is a complex issue because in many instances the substances are not “illegal” per se, and they generate tax revenue for the municipality. There are “legitimate” uses for this substance, which has been widely published.

Dominica Dybas added that the Association that lobbies for Kratom stopped it from being banned some time ago.

The group spoke about taking an educational course of action, rather than a legislative (regulation) course of action. Again, this is a complex substance and a complex issue.

Kirsten Leininger, Dr. Burke and Paul Hempel added additional comments and suggestions. It was agreed that educating people about the dangers is probably the better route for this group to take.

Kirsten Leininger volunteered to do a presentation on Kratom as she’s done a couple year’s research on this topic. Everyone agreed that the presentation should be geared for adults. Dr. Burke added that “Kratom” could be a topic for the “*Your Light Still Shines*” event as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Reported Use of Most Drugs Among Adolescents Remained Low in 2024 – NIH Study

<https://nida.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/2024/12/reported-use-of-most-drugs-among-adolescents-remained-low-in-2024>

The NIH article was screen shared for everyone’s convenience, while Dr. Burke explained this study.

“Zyn and Nicotine Pouches: What Local Tobacco Officials Need to Know” - NACCHO Zoom Presentation

Dan spoke about this presentation and shared the link to it in the chat box.

https://naccho.zoom.us/rec/play/w4ohDghcsW00nds4paLYN3v_VH_LvcP_I2KV-EflU52Wn1Q4Y2psBIS_vxGBUPi9SXAYPHERkJOBS8zj.CF3zJxabFgggYhEL?canPlayFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&continueMode=true&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fnaccho.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2F7m5tqwRJEZKYBi8Xw53cWJBN_MSLqMNE0gbT9L4pvNo8zr_cRouhoijaSbcTd4_h.z_rwphKrBETf17fH

DEA Presentation – February 6, 2025 / 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the New Lenox Village Hall

Greg Czackowski from the DEA will be speaking about substance use disorder and will share what the DEA is doing to stop the opioid epidemic. Weather permitting, Greg will bring the Chicago Office’s new “*One Pill Can Kill*” vehicle (Chevrolet Camaro). In addition, K-9 Officer Candace Guidry, New Lenox Police Department, will also do a demonstration with her K-9 partner “Harlie.” Dominica Dybas, Diversion Program Specialist, DEA Chicago Field Division, will stand-up an informational table and will bring a “swag bag” as a giveaway. Jan Dombrowski, Executive Director, HERO, will stand-up an informational table and will have items from the “*Hidden in Plain Sight*” trailer on display.

“Teen Substance Use: What’s New and What’s Hidden in Plain Sight”

This presentation was held via Zoom on March 4, 2024 in collaboration with HERO. It included an overview of what substances are trending, legislative updates, fentanyl risks, overview of the HERO organization and new props / items that have been added to the “*Hidden in Plain Sight*” trailer.

A date for a similar presentation will be determined in the near future. It will likely be in mid-to-late March, 2025. A definitive date needs to be selected along with a selection of presentation topics.

Narcan Training

Several inquiries have been made regarding the next Narcan Training. It was agreed that Dan and Dr. Burke would meet immediately following the meeting to determine a date and time for the next Narcan training.

2025 “Your Light Still Shines” – Preliminary Discussion

A date, time and location will need to be selected for this year’s event. By the next task group meeting, a Planning Team will be formed to move this annual event forward.

GOOD OF THE ORDER/ ORGANIZATION UPDATES

Kirsten Leininger / University of St. Francis commented... “A huge driving factor in adolescents using substances has to do with lack of belonging and feeling like they are not part of a community. Prevention starts at birth, with inclusivity, unconditional acceptance of the person, (not the behavior), and compassion when our younger groups make mistakes.”

Jan Dombrowski / HERO spoke about a friend who lost his son to a drug overdose. In memory of his son and to raise awareness about substance use disorders, he’s started a boxing club. BBL Boxing Solutions will be geared toward people in recovery. They will teach them how to box and work out. Jan will send the flyer once it has been made available.

Neesha Stringfellow / HLM Recovery shared a survey link... <https://s.surveypal.com/lxx3bigb> Neesha asked everyone to fill out the survey. It’s for Will and Grundy County. Dan placed the link to the survey in the chat box.

Kirsten Leininger / University of St. Francis advised that the Illinois Certification Board (certifying body for CADCs) are planning their Spring Conference, which will be held on March 18th to March 21st. There will be an NBA star there, a comedian and other entertainment. Kirsten will send out information on how to register. The conference also provides CEUs.

Gloria Bloodsaw / Gateway Foundation added detox at the Lake Villa location and it’s for people with all forms of insurance (or no insurance).

NEXT COALITION MEETING

The next New Lenox Safe Community Coalition meeting will take place on **Wednesday, January 29, 2025 / 10:30am, via Zoom Videoconference.**

NEXT TASK GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the Substance Use Prevention Task Group will be on **Monday, March 10, 2025 / 1:30pm, via Zoom Videoconference.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:32pm.

Substance Use Prevention Task Group

“To reduce injuries and deaths associated with substance use, through the establishment of collaborative partnerships and the implementation of educational programs, strategies and initiatives.”