

# Substance Abuse Prevention | MINUTES

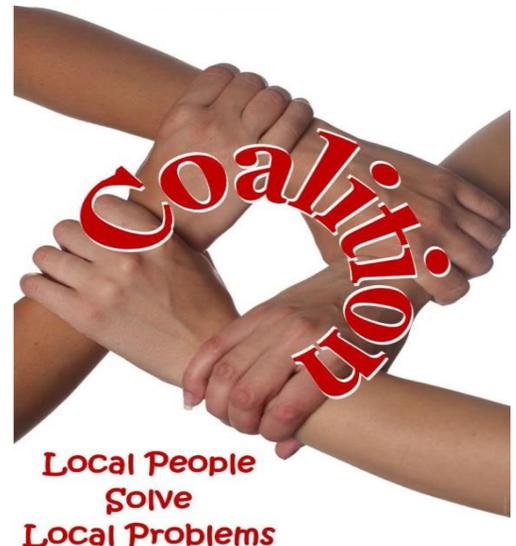
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3-15-2018 | time 1130am-1pm | Meeting location *The Bridge Community Church*

Meeting called by	Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
Type of meeting	Quarterly meeting
Facilitator	Rick Hollering
Note taker	Nikki Malott

Rick Hollering, Nikki Malott, Lindsey Rozzi, Aaron Gross, Veronica Osborn, Mike Osborn, Reynalda Martinez, Laci Hensel, Rebecca McVay, Craig Boyles, Mike Boyles, Amelissa James

All of CCRN panel and participants



## Including: CCRN- Cass County Resource Network participants today

CCRN believes that we are stronger together and the more we network and collaborate together, the better our community will be.

Our goals are:

- To help individuals and agencies meet and interact with one another,
- To foster an environment that promotes connection and partnership for the best possible future.
- To better understand what is already occurring so we do not duplicate services and programs,
- To open up renewed ways of communication, to champion what is already happening throughout Logansport and Cass County.

## Introduction:

Rick opened with the introduction of what this month's meeting would be addressing. He explained how Youth Services Alliance has really pushed their environmental strategies this month and have try to hit Substance Abuse Prevention hard all month. The IYI Café was March 6th on Youth Substance Abuse and now we were going to talk about Drugs/Addiction/Substance Abuse at the CCRN meeting. He had invited his Coalition members to join him at the CCRN meeting this month so that they could listen to the panel and discussion.

## Panel Discussion:

Lindsey Rozzi– School nurse; Introduced herself as a lifelong community member. She has children in elementary, middle, and high schools in Logansport. She sent out an email to other counselors and school nurses asking what they would like to bring to the communities attention. The schools would like to see more information on what are signs and symptoms of substance use, they want more information how to talk to the kids and how to continue the talk with the kids. They would like to encourage the “see something, say something” initiative. It is upsetting how nonchalant kids are about drugs today. It is something they see and live with on a daily, they don't see why it is a “big deal”. Junior High students are now vaping and thinking it does no harm, or it's not a big deal. Parents need to talk to their kids on what a drug is and what it looks like. Kids don't think Marijuana is drug and they don't think it's addicting. We need to educate parents on the slang terms for drugs, because some are not aware of what they are. Suggested laminated cards on signs and symptoms in all schools so that teachers, counselors, nurses, etc. could be on the lookout. We need hotline numbers to get help for those that need it. Suggested additional support for those children who have parents incarcerated. When parents go to jail they are sometimes just “watched” by other family members and aren't really talked to about what is going on. We need to help those kids and reinforce positivity in their lives. There are many things we need to do to help our students deal with today's substance use.

## Panel Discussion cont'd...

Steve Snyder– counselor and involved in court program; he has worked as a counselor and with families for four decades. Substance use has a lot to do with family history, he has treated people in each generation. He has seen the families that end up going through the court systems. He gets assessments for these people who are struggling with substance abuse and can refer them to treatment and counseling. He has seen the younger generations abusing marijuana the most, some are starting as early as 10-12 years old because they are not seeing marijuana as a drug. He is seeing alcohol use starting at 15-16 years of age. Since October the number of referrals into Snyder Counseling has doubled or tripled. There are more felonies being reported and about 50 drug and alcohol offenses a month are being seen. There has also been an increase in harder drugs being used.

Craig Boyles– businessman from Small Parts and MPI; Drugs and alcohol is effecting businesses everywhere. Employers are struggling finding employees. He believes in helping each employee flourish. He has worked in HR for 35 years and had seen substance abuse effect employees of all kinds in his years there. We need to educate the kids to educate the parents, that is why prevention is important. We have to encourage those using to recognize their problems and ask for help. If someone comes to them they will not fire them they will help them. They will put them on leave until they can get into treatment, but they will not lose their job over it. The problem lies with the lack of resources out there. It may take them too long to get into treatment. We have to help them when they recognize their problem. Sometimes people may get the help they need, but then they are unable to return to where they were because of the negative influences. There is so much of an issue finding employees because of this problem they often have to go to other cities around us to promote jobs which in bringing in people from other areas costs our city money because we aren't employing residents who will be here spending money, but outside people who will be returning to their cities to spend the money. So it will effect all business in Cass.

Aaron Gross– pastor; People seem to fill their “spiritual hole” with drugs and alcohol. Celebrate Recovery is a 12 step program with spiritual teachings. They have worked with people in work release, they have men's, women and family programs at the church. There is a support groups for parents of addicts also. There are many great opportunities at the church. They can receive people from referrals or voluntary participants. They have seen a lot of success over the years. He believes they are helping upstream because they can help both users and non-users with their programs.

Mike Boyles– parent of overdose victim, founder of Austin's Hope; Lost his child to a drug overdose. When he lost him he knew it was his calling to reach out and help those who have lost someone or reach out to those who are struggling with addictions. Austin's Hope was born, at first it was just his wife and daughter who helped form it and then his church started to help. There are now 25 people who are helping with the organization. He believes in addressing the stigma that surrounds addiction and substance use. This could happen to anyone, he didn't believe it would happen to them, but it did. He was married, went to church, spent time as a family and it still happened to them. People don't understand Heroin is not Heroin anymore, it is laced with fentanyl and fentanyl is deadly. It can be made anywhere. Meth can be made anywhere. Fentanyl is being mixed into everything now, and it makes the drugs more addictive. He wants to be a part of something larger. He wants to share his story in every capacity. He wants to teach others that the family is the one who will struggle and suffer, it is something they will have to live with the rest of their lives. Mentioned Justine Phillips came and trained a group to use Narcan. Because of Austin's Law you can now purchase Narcan over the counter at CVS and Walgreens, but you need to be able to afford it to have it. He is also part of the Miami County SOC. He helped make it so that the Health Department can dispense and train people with Narcan. Austin had went to Salvation Army treatment and a common misconception of treatment is when you leave you are “cured”, but you are not and you do need after care.

### Panel Discussion cont'd...

Jamie Brown– DCS director Fulton County; with DCS for 13 years, director for one year. DCS deals with more adult substance use. Parents have a short timeline to complete required tasks to get their kids back. Once again the problem is resources because of this timeline. Many parents are still on drugs when the kids are taken, they can't function. There is usually a wait time before they start the process, takes anywhere from 3-6 months to engage them and another month to get started with services. This is all going towards the 15 months they have to complete everything. Then there is a chance of relapse which does not look good to the judges. During this time kids will bounce from place to place because of behaviors which causes more trauma. DCS presence alone is traumatic for any family. DCS offers preventive services, trying to keep families together without removal, but the family has to accept it. There are lack of treatment options as far as inpatient treatment, most won't take children too. And most programs you wait 6-9 months. We need treatment locally and a support system to see them succeed. There are too little foster families out there. This is most definitely a generational issue, most the time DCS can't place with grandparents because of that. Prevention is important. The biggest drugs they see at DCS are heroin and meth.

Rick Hollering– Youth Services Alliance; He has worked in 26 schools over 20 years and worked with around 6,000 kids in those schools. We need to go upstream and educate. Can't measure prevention, it is harder to talk about outcomes of prevention. Everyone is prevention though and we can do it if we work together. It is a generational issue. Printed SAMHSA's 42 page book for the community to use. It shows how to talk to your kids, shows signs and symptoms, among many other things. We need to change the children's perspective to change the outcome. We need to build protective factors. If you have interest in helping, join Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. We have grant money and resources to help our community. We have environmental strategies like Talk They Hear You and Parents Who Host. Alcohol and marijuana are the gateway drugs, no one starts with heroin or meth. The children's perception of harm is low and therefore they do not think some of those gateway drugs will effect them. Marijuana is now 26 times stronger then it was when he was a teenager. Marijuana is harmful, it is mixed with many other things now. We have to stop playing whack a mole with the drugs and reach out and educate our children. We have to unify our messages and the more unified we are the better chance we have in overcoming this problem.

### Discussion...

Mike Osburn– Sees people involved in recovery program, but they need more and cannot get into treatment. They have no help.

J.B.– stated unfortunately they would have to start over with DCS if they have a set back. DCS is not preventive.

Laci Hensel– We need something for kids of users. Children of addicts need support, how can we help them.

A.G.– They have a program they are starting to implement while parents are in their support groups which helps the children deal with the damage that has been done because of addiction.

R.H.– Youth Connections is a great program for at risk youth. He will pay for it to be implemented. It is a targeted evidence based curriculum for at risk youth and anyone with interest should contact YSA.

A.G.– Youth Connections also has a faith based and non-faith based version available.

J.B.– Maybe try play therapy, trauma informed care, MDR therapy helps kids with trauma depending on the age of the child.

Someone mentioned High School students struggling with asking for help. They don't like to identify they have problems. Don't have trust in adults. Suggestion for that?

## Discussion...

L.R.– mentioned to talk to counselor?

J.B.– online tools can help. Un-Cope website.

Someone suggested having a mentor help them.

Question for Craig, will Small Parts hire felons? Many places won't.

C.B.– Yes they can hire felons, they are hiring the person not the felony. Most issues they come across with drug related felons is they can't stay clean. There is only so much we can do, they try to help people overcome their issues though.

R.H.– Families should support families. Be passionate. Everyone can help.

Health Coverage information shared: many HIP insurance recipients can get outpatient or inpatient services no through their insurance. Prevention and treatment could possibly be covered.

R.H.– closing statement; this is just the beginning and we are not going to stop the fight.

## In Conclusion:

**If you need anything for your Substance Abuse Prevention efforts or if you have  
Any questions please email Nikki Malott at [nikki@ysainc.org](mailto:nikki@ysainc.org)**