



ITAC General Coalition Meeting Minutes – DRAFT

DFC #SP 080803-1

October 10th 2023

5:30 pm at Iroquois Board Room 32

Sectors:

- 1 – Youth (person <= 18 years of age)
- 2 – Parent
- 3 – Business Community
- 4 – Media
- 5 – Schools
- 6 – Youth-serving Organizations
- 7 – Law Enforcement Agencies
- 8 – Religious or Fraternal Organizations
- 9 – Civic and Volunteer Groups
- 10 – Healthcare Professionals (Field of Substance Abuse (SA))
- 11 – State, Local, or Tribal Government Agencies (SA)
- 12 – Other Organizations involved in reducing (SA)
- 13 – Key Personnel

Call to Order Time: 5:33pm

Adjourn Time: 7:05pm

Recorder Name: Joanne Goellner

1. **Attendees:** Sarah Sterlace (13), Bette Dehr (2), Heather Jacobs (2/5), Joanne Goellner (2), Parker Cantie (1), Natalie Esslinger (1), Jackson Kwaizer (1), Lena Osinski (1). **Zoom Attendees:** Alli Pelletreau (13), Mark Sterlace (8), John Bennett (5), Frank Scarpinato (11).
2. **Hello & Welcome:** Each attendee introduced him/her/their self and shared where they were from and what sector they were representing. Bette asked if any of the members had any asks for ITAC. Of note:
 - a. John Bennett shared about YouUpLift. It is a positive social media platform that the Middle School utilized last year. Students/staff can share positive (uplifting) messages for others. The posts are anonymous and filtered by an admin (Linda Bonczyk/Student Support) and are viewable on TV screens during Homebase, lunches or wherever else TVs are in the school. They are asking ITAC to sponsor. Sponsoring would place ITAC's logo on every post. ITAC could share events and messages. The cost is \$400 for one year/\$800 for 3. Youth in attendance shared their thoughts on pros and cons of the platform and it was determined that the HS was not an appropriate place for this service. *After a unanimous vote, it was decided that the Steering Committee could move forward with sponsoring Uplift. Logistics, including the best price point, budget line and start date would be worked out among the Steering Committee.*
3. **Presentations:**
 - a. **MYTI Conference (July):** Parker & Natalie presented on their experience attending the MYTI Conference in Dallas where they got to interact with youth from coalitions from around the country. One of the things they learned was the Strategic Prevention Framework and how to apply it to our community/school. Discussion items to note:
 - i. Social media, local EMW area gas stations, school access (bathrooms/academic center) – areas/hotspots where drugs/alcohol are accessible to our students/youth.
 - ii. Law enforcement is not holding students accountable.
 - iii. Parents have different standards for youth at home vs public.
 - iv. Coaches are aware but not holding athletes accountable for drug/alcohol use.
 - v. Detention/Suspension is not an appropriate consequence for substance abuse.
 - vi. Speakers, especially youth are beneficial.
 - vii. Students might come forward to ask for help with addiction if there were no discipline consequences.

Students suggested presenting to 5/6th graders about the reality/dangers/consequences of vaping and having them sign a pledge to abstain from drugs/alcohol abuse. They also suggested continuing with calendar/magnets, sending snail mail, utilizing the school messaging system and having data walks to

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get parent involvement. Conversation regarding these topics will be continued either at the next youth coalition meeting or through TEAMS.

- b. **HS/MS Vape Sensors Update:** Chad was unable to attend. He will be added to the next meeting agenda.

4. **Previous Minutes** – A motion was made by Bette Dehr to accept the September 18th, meeting minutes as written. A second motion was made by Heather Jacobs. All in favor with none opposed.

5. **Program & Slice Committee Updates:**

- a. **Program Update** (complete report emailed prior to meeting/available on website)
- b. **Billboard** – Joanne Goellner shared that the first BB was submitted for a November installation. The theme is Skip the Tobacco/Live Smoke Free. The images are from a Chalk the Walk event sponsored by the Tobacco Free Organization at The Boys & Girls Club of EMW. The Tobacco Free Organization plans to celebrate the billboard with club youth in accordance with The Great American Smoke Out in November. The next billboard due date is December 4th. The Youth Coalition will come up with the idea/design concept for the next billboard.
- c. **Health & Wellness Fair** – To be held in Spring, possibly March. This will be the first Health & Wellness Fair since before COVID. A committee has been formed and the first meeting is on October 16th. Anyone is welcome to join or share ideas whether on the committee or not. Email Sarah if interested or for more details.
- d. **Spaghetti Dinner** - ITAC would like to hold this family/fundraising event during Winter, probably in January. A committee has been formed and help is needed. If the Youth Coalition wants to take this event on, it could be a fundraiser for them to cover the costs of conferences or speakers, etc.

6. **Budget**

- a. **Holland Account** – Dawn Stover (Treasurer) was not in attendance but Bette Dehr shared the account currently has a balance of \$15,526.88. The last transaction was for candy from Aldi. Sarah shared that she submitted a receipt for reimbursement for pizza. Bette stated that she filled out a requisition form to reimburse the Holland Account from the DFC Account for \$149.90 for Zoom.
- b. **DFC Account** – (complete report emailed prior to meeting/available on website) Alli Pelletreau shared that ITAC has just completed a financial year. (September 2022-September 2023 for year 5) and is starting on year 6, with a new budget line. ITAC did not spend entire budget from year 5 but also did not fulfill all action plan items. Bette asked about negative numbers in some of the columns of the budget worksheet and Alli explained that John Wolski has a different method of categorizing and accounting for rollover funds. Bette asked that the Steering Committee schedule a finance meeting to go over budgets, spending and rollover funds.

7. **Action Plan Activities**

- a. **EA Family Night** – 10/23 East Aurora School District Community Event at Parkdale Elementary regarding family safety. Topics will include suicide prevention, mental health, firearm safety and ITAC youth will share their Take it to the Box S3 grant presentation. Bette will also provide attendees with a link where they can sign up and receive a Poison Control lock box for safe keeping of drugs.
- b. **Forum – Essay Topics** – The Steering Committee is looking for essay topics to help select students if there are more youth interested in attending the January CADCA Conference, than is budgeted for.
- c. **Volunteers Trunk or Treat (Boys & Girls Club)** - October 21st 3-5pm. They are expecting about 900 kids to participate and still looking for volunteers to decorate cars. Heather Jacobs volunteered to represent

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ITAC. Sarah/Alli will assist with decoration and seeing she gets proper supplies/candy prior to the event. A call will be put out to social media for additional Trunk volunteers.

- d. **Volunteers Truck or Treat (Fire Stations)** – September 28th 1-4pm. Springbrook and Blossom Fire Stations still need an adult volunteer present. Iroquois LEAD will have student volunteers at each location. Bette said she would reach out to a connection who may be able to assist at Blossom.
- e. **Red Ribbon Week 2023, Oct 23-31** - Supplies purchased for ICS, EA and Immaculate Schools. Wed 26th is National Wear Red Day. Parker Cantie suggested the high school do chain links with red paper during lunch periods encouraging students to pledge to be drug free. The Middle School will be sharing facts daily.

8. Announcements

- a. **FOCUS Community Impact Conference** – 10/13, 11-1pm. ITAC will have a table. There will be a panel of speakers from the WNY area. It's a great opportunity to learn how to make an impact on the community and network. Anyone is welcome to attend.
- b. **CLYDE Survey 2023**- the CLYDE committee finalized the additional questions for the survey and submitted them to be added. They were district approved. As soon as the link is available, the school can decide when to administer the survey.
- c. **Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo** – ITAC is the recipient of a grant worth \$700 a year. This year ITAC will receive funds for both last year and this year.

9. From the Floor

Alli shared that the Prevention Council has named ITAC, coalition of the year. At their 75th Anniversary breakfast on 10/20, ITAC will be recognized.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm. **The next General Coalition Meeting:** 11/15/2023 at 9:00am.

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted October 11th, 2023 by Joanne Goellner.

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