SI SUPRT Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2026 noon-1:00 pm via Zoom
Gallatin/Saline County

In Attendance:

Chris Dennis, EHD
Danielle Camp, EHD
Theresa Oxford, EHD
Sharron Orrick, EHD
Kindra York, EHD
Kiesha Fromm, EHD
Misty Smith, EHD
Holly Kotner, EHD
Kat Southard, Timberview Wellness Center
Madison Reed, TImberview Wellness Center
Amber Mulkins, TImberview Wellness Center
Kristen Beers, Timberview Wellness Center
Katie Unthank, EHD
Bev Holland, Region 5
Michelle Buckley, Oxford House
Stacey Miller, EHD
Haley Smith, EHD

Standing Coalition Business:

- Minutes from the August meeting were approved unanimously with a motion made by Kindra York. Kiesha Fromm seconded the motion.

New and Standing Coalition Reports:

- New members to the council introduced themselves from Timberview Wellness Center. The council welcomed Kat Southard, Madison Reed, Kristen Beers, and Amber Mulkins.

- Chris Dennis (EHD) spoke on the upcoming State Fair to be held in DuQuoin. Staff from EHD will be in attendance to distribute Naloxone. This event is well-attended and will be a good opportunity to get Naloxone into the community.

- Katie Unthank(EHD) and Sharron Orrick (EHD) presented a slide show presentation for the Illinois Youth Survey.

- The IYS is a self-report adolescent survey administered in Illinois schools, funded entirely by the Illinois Department of Human Services. This survey has been conducted since 1993 and is available to all public and private schools in Illinois. IYS is designed to gather information from youth about a variety of health and social indicators, including:
    - Substance use (ATOD)
    - Violence and bullying
    - Perceptions of school climate
    - Depression
    - Nutrition and fitness

The survey is given to students in 8th, 10th, and 12th grades. It is administered in the spring of every other school year during even numbered years. The school chooses a date between January and May to administer the survey. It takes approximately one class period (40-45 minutes). There is no cost to participate or receive results.

IYS is available in English or Spanish. Schools receive everything they need for the survey about 30 days before they intend to administer. Schools must send parent notification at least 2 weeks before the survey.

IYS produces valid results when administered according to survey directions. Questions are carefully designed and tested. Individual surveys are assessed for completeness, and procedures are followed for reporting missing data and inconsistent responses. Studies of similar surveys comparing self-report to actual use have shown substantial validity. Patterns of use are revealed by the IYS are consistent with other measures.

IYS provides data to school about what their students are doing and thinking in regard to emotional and health-related issues. Research shows that cost-effective youth prevention strategies should be based on local, up-to-date data from youth. Data gathered through the IYS can be used to guide planning for effective prevention strategies to ultimately increase academic performance and healthy behaviors.

Adolescent substance use, bullying, and other emotional and health issues are related to negative school outcomes:

-absenteeism
-academic difficulties
-lack of motivation
-interpersonal violence

Each participating school receives a school report in about 6 weeks.

-the school report covers all the survey items and includes state comparisons for selected items.

-schools that participate in every administration can measure progress over time.

Local data can be useful for a variety of school and community planning efforts. It can be useful for grant reporting purposes and to help leverage additional funding.

Participation is anonymous, the identity of the youth who participate is not collected or revealed. IYS produces reports at several levels, and distribution rules ensure confidentiality.

For the price of one class period every 2 years, schools and their community partners can receive essential information to:

-compete for grands that infuse needed resources
-reduce barriers to academic success
-track changes in health behaviors
-guide local community coalition efforts

Katie opened up the floor to council discussion and a "question and answer" time space.

- Chris Dennis spoke on the Community Survey. This survey is used to gauge community attitudes on recovery, and consists of 21 questions. The survey has been amended from previous years in hopes to gain a clearer assessment. The council had an open discussion in regards to the most efficient way to distribute the survey. Chris added that approximately 200 surveys were completed last year, and would like to see that number grow substantially this year.

- Chris also spoke on the recently held "Overdose Awareness Event" that was held at the Egyptian Health Department iHub. He reported a large turn out, and the possibility of seeking a larger venue to host next years event. Awards were given to those with outstanding involvement in the recovery community. Many attendees expressed that they had never attended this event previously, but plan to return next year.

- Danielle Camp (EHD) gave the following report for the month of August.
    - 835 people trained in the use of Naloxone
    - 2, 597 Naloxone kits were distributed

- Many from the council spoke on upcoming events. Dates and information were given and will be shared on our Facebook page.

- Michelle Buckley (Oxford House) spoke on the application process to receive placement in Illinois. Every home accepts re-entry. Once qualifications are met, resources are made available. She added that they will soon be opening a recovery home in Carbondale for women, exclusively.

- Motion was made by Holly Kotner to adjourn this meeting, with Kindra York seconding the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting is set for Wednesday, October 7th at noon via Zoom.