

Meeting Minutes: Strategic Planning Work Group

April 14th, 2026
10:30am – 12pm

Note Taker: Alyssa Cline Spencer

****Note Taker for next meeting May 12th: Kenlea Avello****

****Send notes to Taylor Birch by end of week after the meeting to be sent out****

Goals of Strategic Planning Work Group:

1. Plan & implement mission driven activities throughout 2026
2. Explore potential benefits of a data sub-committee and establish it by June and collect data by December
3. Explore how to increase longevity of active and engaged members

For Next time: Finalize Agenda and create objectives for Goal #3.

April Partnership Meeting: Tuesday April 28th 10am-11am

- **Prevent Child Abuse speaker** – Karen to send Taylor information
- Discuss intersectionality between addiction, recovery, and child abuse
- Discuss resources that are needed: Safe Families, respite care, additional support, childcare, reducing stigma attached to having kids and struggling with addiction
- The role of drug court and mental health court
 - **Give a few Highlights for resources that support the community:** Safe Families, other resources? Do breakout rooms to discuss those resources and come back and share in the big group.
 - Assign someone from strategic planning to each group to help facilitate those discussions
 - Kenlea Avello, Karen Tilashalski, Ashley Ramos, Greg, Andrea McManus, Carson Conn
 - **Prompts:**
 - What is the Partnerships role in intervening in this cycle?
 - What are the preventative services available that overlaps with recovery and child abuse?

Future Meeting Plans:

- **May Partnership Meeting: Tuesday May 26th (via zoom)**

- **Kratom: What is it?** – Alyssa to provide overview presentation
- **Google searches of Kratom/Community findings:** Share photos of Kratom in local areas – show photos during meeting to have them guess where they think it is
 - Taylor Birch will put together the slides of photos – send photos to Partnership email: partnershipdrugfreecommunities@gmail.com
- Discuss the legalities and what counties and regions have already banned it through County/City ordinances
- Many insurance companies will not cover Kratom treatment, but it being banned in certain areas can help with this
- **Have a Panel discussion**
 - Greg to reach out to a Peer/person in recovery to speak
 - Carlinville Police Department – Chris to reach out to Chief Graham
 - Monroe County – reach out to members to see if someone will participate in the Panel discussion
 - Jackson County – Taylor to reach out
 - Stacy Seitz? – Taylor to ask
 - Identify others/make connections as appropriate – business owners, community members, treatment providers
 - **Panel Questions:**
 - What is the overall impact of Kratom on the community?
 - What things have you found to be most effective in managing, treating, and preventing Kratom use?
 - What have you seen both positive and negative since the ban/restriction took place?
 - What steps did each panelist take in their journey to get Kratom restricted?
 - What can the Partnership do to be proactive to get it restricted in more regions?
- **June Partnership Meeting:**
 - **Mental Health & Drug Court** – understanding their role
 - Ask counselor for Drug Court from Chestnut
 - Ask counselor for Mental Health Court from Centerstone
 - Taylor to connect with Bill to discuss court system & mental health & substance use

- **July Partnership Meeting:**
- **August Partnership Meeting:** Legislative updates – Kenlea reaching out to legislators and looking at updates
- **September Partnership Meeting:**
- **October Partnership Meeting:** Youth Services (pushed it to October, due to school staff likely being off and potentially not attending summer meetings)
- **December Partnership Meeting**
 - Meet & Greet, looking at Edwardsville YMCA as a potential larger meeting space (Greg checking on space)