



**PLEDGE FOR LIFE, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes – October 29, 2015  
Kankakee County Probation Department**

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

President Grace Seggebruch called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

**II. ROLL CALL – Pledge for Life Board of Directors**

Board members present were:

Debra Baron	Vurnice Maloney	James Riordan
Marge Garay	Becky McBroom	Bonnie Schaafsma
Jackie Haas	Gregg Murphy	Grace Seggebruch
Barb King	James Phelps	Lupita Sorich
Chris Koerner		

Ex Officio members and I-KAN ROE staff members present were:

Carole Franke	Rhonda McKinstry
Jane Grosso	Brenda Wetzel
Roxanner Hooper	
Eileen Lacy	

Guests present:

Nick Allen, Kankakee County Treasurer  
Tiffany DeRocco, United Way  
Mike Frey, The Daily Journal  
Shalone Graves, The Daily Journal  
Jana Hacker, Olivet Nazarene University  
Tom Latham, Kankakee County Probation

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 27, 2015 PLEDGE FOR LIFE BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

Motion: To approve the minutes from the August 27, 2015 meeting.  
Sorich/Murphy Passed Unanimously

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

Debi told the board that Aaron Harsy had to resign as a PFL board member. He was recently promoted to Lieutenant and transferred to the Illinois State Police District 5 in Joliet. He will be missed. Sergeant Chris Koerner was appointed as the new KAMEG Director.

Motion: To accept the resignation of Aaron Harsy from the Pledge for Life Board  
Baron/Riordan Passed Unanimously

**V. TREASURER'S AND FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Gregg Murphy presented the financial reports and proposed budget for FY2016.

**PFL, Inc. Budget vs. Expenditure Reports – August 1 – September 30, 2015**

Motion: To approve the financial report for August 1 – September 30, 2015  
Baron/Riordan Passed Unanimously

**Pledge for Life, Inc. FY2016 Budget**

Motion: To approve the proposed PFL, Inc. FY2016 Budget  
Schaafsma/Sorich Passed Unanimously

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Drug Free Communities Support Program Application**

Gregg told the board and guests that the Pledge for Life Board did receive the FY 2015 Drug Free grant in the amount of \$125,000, and we have hired a Project Coordinator, Gabby Sorich. She has accepted the position and may start around November 9, 2015. Gabby will be attending her first training in Washington, D.C. in December. Gregg will also attend this training. Gregg spoke about the required National Coalition Academy training. This is three weeks of training and it teaches leaders what they need to know to establish or maintain a highly effective community-wide coalition. Please let Gregg know as soon as possible if any board members are interested in attending these trainings.

Eileen Lacy commented how excited she is that we received the grant. Gregg thanked her for her help to organize the coalition and her help with the grant writing.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Pledge for Life Partnership Annual Report – Brenda Wetzel**

The Annual Report is included in your packet. It highlights many wonderful things that have happened in the past year. We are very excited about the new grant and the opportunity to work with Gabby Sorich and look forward to collaborating. Please note the important date of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Fun-a-thon to benefit the Life Education Center programs. It will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2016 at Olivet Nazarene University. Brenda also wanted to congratulate and recognize Lupita Sorich who was the recipient of the 2014-15 Harold Award – given to someone in the community for “sticking their neck out for youth.”

**B. Nominating Committee Report – Grace Seggebruch**

Grace Seggebruch presented the Nominating Committee report.

• **Reappointment of the Members of the Board of Directors:**

Motion: To reappoint the following individuals to the Board of Directors:

Matt Adamson	Vurnice Maloney	Grace Seggebruch
Vincent Clark	Becky McBroom	Joyce Shoemaker
Marge Garay	Gregg Murphy	Lupita Sorich
Jackie Haas	Kay Pangle	Sarah Winkel
Chris Kidwell	Amber Residori	Ben Haas (Youth Rep)
Barb King	James Riordan	
Sandra Knight	Bonnie Schaafsma	

Murphy/Sorich

Passed Unanimously

• **Nomination of New Board Members:**

Motion: To nominate the following individuals as members of the Pledge for Life Partnership Board of Directors:

Sergeant Chris Koerner, KAMEG Director

Chief James Phelps, Chief of Police – Bourbonnais Police Department

Riordan/Murphy

Passed Unanimously

• **Presentation of Slate of Officers (term begins Oct. 29, 2015 – Oct. 2016 Annual Mtg.)**

Grace Seggebruch read the slate of recommended officers:

President:	Grace Seggebruch
Vice-President:	James Riordan
Secretary:	Jackie Haas
Treasurer:	Gregg Murphy

Grace told the board that Debi will not be serving as a board member because she will be hired as a consultant to assist with planning, data collection and analysis, and evaluation of the Drug-Free Communities Program. Jackie Haas has accepted the position of secretary of the PFL Board.

Motion: To elect the slate of officers presented to serve a term beginning October 29, 2015, and ending at the 2016 Annual Meeting:

Baron/Garay                      Passed Unanimously

**C. Signatory and Depository Resolutions – Debra Baron**

Debra Baron presented the signatory and depository resolutions for FY2016.

Motion: To authorize Grace Seggebruch as President, James Riordan as Vice-President, Gregg Murphy as Treasurer, and Jackie Haas as Secretary to sign contracts, maintain accounts on behalf of Pledge for Life, Inc. and to expend funds within approved budget limits.

Baron/Sorich                      Passed Unanimously

Motion: To maintain Pledge for Life, Inc. bank accounts at First American Bank, First Trust Bank, and State Bank of Herscher.

Baron/Riordan                      Passed Unanimously

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Life Education Center Programs – Brenda Wetzel**

Brenda Wetzel spoke about some of the highlights of the Life Education Center programs. Instruction was delivered to over 12,000 Kindergarten-eighth students in 47 schools in Kankakee and Iroquois counties working with 550 teachers last year.

Life Education Center programming is proud to begin our 26<sup>th</sup> year promoting healthy lifestyle choices and preventing youth substance abuse – including underage drinking, marijuana, and prescription drug misuse.

New this past spring was the award of a Strategic Prevention Framework grant that will address underage drinking among 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders in Iroquois County. Jenni McTaggart is working as the coordinator and will work together with Barb King and the Juvenile Justice Council to bring together community partners to address underage drinking. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow (October 30) to move ahead.

A successful year is underway. We are currently working in the Bourbonnais School District and the Central School District with our Life Education units. We hope you have had a chance to see Harold the giraffe “our mascot” participating in the scarecrow contests in Bourbonnais and Chebanse.

Brenda also wanted to let the board know that Kankakee School District 111 will participate in the LEC programs this school year.

Thank you to the Pledge for Life Partnership for providing pens and pencils for our students.

To reinforce instruction, the Best Practice Contest is offered to teachers for developing creative lessons to reinforce the Life Education Center curriculum. There were twenty Best Practice awards given. You may see a list of this year's winners on the back page of the PFL Annual Report. Thank you to the Pledge for Life Partnership and the Regional Office of Education for making this possible.

In addition, we have student contests that reinforce our lessons:

- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participate in a Public Service Announcement contest. They develop a PSA to deter kids from underage drinking. The students and teacher produce their PSA. Thank you to Milner Broadcasting for producing the winning PSA. This year's winners: John Nash Middle School and Ms. Tonya Lemenager, the students' teacher. The title of the PSA is "Beerbusters" and it was aired during October. More information can be found on page three of the annual report.
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students participate in our billboard contest with assistance from Key Outdoor. Students design an ad promoting "Wise Highs...Choices You Can Live With." On November 3 the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will cast their vote to choose this year's winner. Brenda mentioned at each of the tables today there is a ballot with the top four entries. Please take a moment to vote and place it in the basket on the display table.
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are also encouraged to enter a ReThink Your Drink Contest. We have partnered with Live Healthy Kankakee County to encourage students to make healthy beverage choices (students submit a 30 second video). We look forward to this and you will hear more about our community partners who help to make these contests possible a little later in the meeting.
  - Students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades in Kankakee and Iroquois County will participate in the Illinois Youth Survey in the spring of 2016. We will continue to work closely with our schools getting registration underway, notifying parents, distributing and then collecting the completed surveys, to assist in gathering the data on a variety of issues – drugs, bullying, school climate, nutrition – then this data can help the schools make decisions – giving them the information they need.
- Another way we try to reinforce our message is through community events. We are preparing for our 20<sup>th</sup> annual Family Fun-a-thon. There will be many family activities planned. Save the date – it will be Sunday, February 7, 2016 at Olivet Nazarene University (please see handout in board packet). We are hopeful you may want to volunteer for the event.

#### **B. KAN-I HELP – Roxanne Hooper**

Roxanne spoke about the website. The website had 26, 864 visitors in fiscal year 2015 who viewed 64,789 pages. This past year, the database of 761 agencies and 1,392 services was shared with the United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois counties and its 2-1-1

provider agency, PATH. On February 11, 2015, information and referral services for residents of Kankakee and Iroquois counties became available by calling 2-1-1, a free confidential phone number and website which is available 24/7. There are two articles included in your packet – October is National Substance Abuse Prevention Month and an article for parents if you think your child is using drugs or alcohol.

### **C. Substance Abuse Awareness – Deb Baron**

- The Partnership for a Healthy Community Behavioral Health Action Team which is chaired by Jackie Haas will now focus on mental health and substance abuse together. There are two goals to be addressed: To increase education and awareness activities and to increase access to care. Jackie then told the committee there will be a meeting on Monday. We want to expand on these goals and very excited to have PFL on board.
- Marge Garay spoke about an upcoming Riverside Behavioral Services fall workshop – Substance Abuse in the Mentally Ill. It will be held Friday, November 13 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Riverside Medical Center – Johnson Lecture Hall. Marge is one of the presenters. To register contact Amy Roberts at 815-592-8473 or [amy-roberts@riversidehealthcare.net](mailto:amy-roberts@riversidehealthcare.net).
- Debi told the board that Laura Sztuba from the Kankakee County Health Department has prepared the final flyer listing the locations and hours for disposing unwanted prescription drugs at area police departments. Jane will email this to the board members.
- Related to our effort to get prescription drugs disposed of properly, KAMEG (Aaron Harsy/Chris Koerner) and the Bourbonnais, Bradley, and Kankakee police departments partnered with the Drug Enforcement Administration in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on September 26, 2015. Approximately 1,175 pounds of drugs were disposed of in Kankakee County.
- Chris Koerner (KAMEG) told the committee the 1,175 pounds was a dramatic increase from the previous year. All of these drugs are then properly disposed of. Also Chris mentioned they do not have the manpower to inventory every drug.
- Debi also reported that she has been trying very hard to meet with representatives of Cresco Labs, the organization that was given the contract to be a cannabis grower in Kankakee County. They will also have plants in two other counties. They distributed a flyer to 45,000 runners at the Chicago marathon (she was not able to get a copy of this flyer). Debi has extended an invitation to have someone from Cresco to come and speak to the PFL Board. So far nothing definite has happened with this. When we do decide to have them come and speak to the board, Debi will ask Mayor Epstein to contact Cresco to extend an invitation to have them speak to us.

### **IX. Program – Celebrating 30 Years of Community Partnerships**

Debi, along with Brenda, recognized our outstanding community partners for their efforts to address youth substance abuse. As the Partnership readies to expand its outreach to engage more members of the community in its efforts to address substance abuse, we thought this would be a good time to thank our long-standing partners for their on-going contributions. In our meetings with other community coalitions across the state, we have

become acutely aware of how fortunate we are to have such good relationships across so many sectors of the community. The following partners were recognized:

- Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education – Debi recognized Dr. Kay Pangle and Al Lemon of the Regional Office as an initial partner in forming the Pledge for Life Partnership. The Regional Office has provided office space, administrative support, internet services, and access to schools. Gregg Murphy accepted the plaque and thanked everyone for the honor. Gregg could not say enough with the leadership of Dr. Kay Pangle, and how she has been the force at the Regional Office for many years. He is very excited to see what the future brings as we grow and expand.
- Kankakee County Health Department – Another key partner in forming the Pledge for Life Partnership. Polly Dally, who preceded Bonnie Schaafsma, was one of the lead people in the community in bringing together collaborators. They have led joint planning efforts, and they have been one of the consistent, strong supporters of the KAN-I Help network, as well as our access to health care professionals. Bonnie Schaafsma accepted the award and is very happy to work with and be a part of the Pledge for Life Partnership. Collaboration is very important because there is not enough funding to go around and it is so good to have a group to work with and decide who is the best agency to work with on programs and avoid duplication.
- Justice System – Another long-time partner in the Pledge for Life Partnership is Juvenile Probation, providing ongoing leadership and access to law enforcement and court officials.
  - Kankakee County Juvenile Probation – Grace Seggebruch accepted the award; Grace has provided so much leadership as President of the PFL Board, she has always stepped up when needed, whether it is meetings or helping at the Fun-a-thon.
  - Iroquois County Juvenile Probation – Barb King accepted the award; She was recognized for her willingness to travel from Iroquois County and her leadership with the Juvenile Justice Council with the SPF grant.
- Media Partners – On-going coverage to increase awareness of our issues and events, involvement in our media campaigns, and support of our education efforts.
  - The Daily Journal – Mike Frey accepted the award; Debi also recognized Mrs. Jean Alice Small and Phil Angelo as supporters of the Pledge for Life Partnership. Mike told the board that community advocacy is so important. The Daily Journal places ads for our annual coloring contest for the Family Fun-a-thon.
  - Milner Broadcasting – Tim Milner could not attend the meeting today; they have always been supporters of the PFL (PSA Contest).
  - Key Outdoor Inc. – Jim Prentkowski could not attend the meeting – another major part of our media efforts (Billboard Contest).
- United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties – Early planning laid the groundwork for PFL (Susie Brown – past director); PFL has maintained a very close

relationship with the United Way; KAN-I Help network efforts and is now 2-1-1; Volunteer Recognition Luncheon with the Community Foundation. Both Nick Allen and Tiffany DeRocco attended the meeting and both accepted the recognition. Tiffany, as the new United Way Director, looks forward to strengthening the partnership. Nick appreciates the recognition and he enjoyed his time with the United Way.

- Olivet Nazarene University – Debi mentioned how valuable ONU is – offering their facilities for gathering the community; Family Fun-a-thon and numerous workshops and summits; Children’s Mental Health, Juvenile courts celebration and Charter for Children launch; Jana Hacker accepted the award and she has been our contact at ONU for fourteen years. ONU truly enjoys being a community partner with the Pledge for Life Partnership.

**X. New Collaboration Opportunities/Community Updates/Announcements**

Vurnice Maloney – reminded everyone to save the date of November 21 – Garden of Prayer will be celebrating a 20 year anniversary. The event will be held at the Majestic Theatre at 6:00 p.m.

Gregg Murphy – Workforce Development – Steve Magruder contacted him and there is an event on November 2 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at the Rec Center helping young people and adults navigate the application process for apprenticeships.

Bonnie Schaafsma – With regards to the Partnership for Healthy Communities, the planning process has been completed for 2015 and the following work groups have been established: Access to Care, Chronic Disease, Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Teen Pregnancy, Infant Mortality & STDs, and Violence Prevention & Safety. The Coalition for Hope and Excellence in Education (CHEE) will assume the functions of the former Education/Employment Committee. Anyone interested in serving on any of the committees should contact Bonnie.

Carole Franke - Save the date for April 12 – “Hoarding and Self-Neglect Training” at Kankakee Community College

Lupita Sorich – The Mexican Consulate is visiting Kankakee County at the Lisieux Center through Sunday to provide services to our community.

**XI. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is to be held on Thursday, January 28, 2016, with lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Location: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Kankakee County Administration Building  
189 East Court Street, Kankakee, IL

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn annual meeting

Murphy/Sorich                      Passed Unanimously

Minutes prepared by: Jane Grosso