

SI SUPRT
Hamilton/White County
September 17th, 2025
12:00 via Zoom

In Attendance

Katie Unthank, EHD
Danielle Camp, EHD
Kimberly Scott-Pilkington, EHD
Michelle Buckley, Oxford House
Haley Smith, EHD
Drew Donelson, EHD
Jerrie Baxley-Brown, EHD
Matt Shaffer, EHD
Bev Holland, Region 5
Rachel Chruszyk, Prevent Child Abuse
Hamilton County Circuit Clerk

- As this was the first meeting for the Hamilton/White council, there were no previous meeting minutes to approve.*

New and Standing Coalition:

- Katie Unthank (EHD) lead the meeting in Chris Dennis' absence. She encouraged the council to voice their opinions on the focus and goals of this new collaboration. Specifically the needs and gaps in Hamilton and White County. It was suggested that we would benefit from getting youth, local groups, churches, social workers, counselors and perhaps school resource officers involved. The growth of this council will be an ongoing process and continued discussions will be had in the future.
- Additionally, Katie added that there will be a free laundry event taking place in Carmi on October 21st and shared a flyer for the event.
- Michelle Buckley (Oxford House) informed the council that there will be a new Oxford House opening soon in Mt. Vernon. She added that, recently, there have been investors purchasing local real estate and allowing the homes to be rented out to those in recovery and their families. It is critical that these homes be close to businesses that hire those in recovery, as well as individuals with a criminal background. She added that places like Wal-Mart and Chilli's are offering employment to those who are typically denied.

- Katie Unthank and Jerrie Baxley-Brown (EHD) discussed the distribution of the Opiates Settlement Funds being used in White County. It was noted that some of the funds were used to acquire a new squad car, as well as the distribution on Naloxone. The council agreed that the funds should best serve the community and would be beneficial to have a community member join our council. To date, no funds have been spent in Hamilton County.
- The use of MAR in Hamilton/White County was discussed as well. It was agreed that Dr. Blain (CRH) may be a good source of information concerning this matter.
- Katie added that the Community Survey will be shared with the chat and that a Google survey will be made available on the SI SUPRT Facebook page, and that paper copies will be made available upon requests. It would be beneficial to the council if the survey is available during community events as well.
- Kimberly Scott-Pilkington (EHD) spoke briefly on the Illinois Tobacco Quit Line/ Courage to Quit. She will be sharing information in regards to treatment plans for patients and interested clients. She will also be sharing a flyer for the Diabetes Expo.
- Motion was made by Jerrie Baxley-Brown to adjourn the meeting, with Danielle Camp seconding the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting is set for October 15th at noon and will be held virtually.