



**Health  
Improvement  
Alliance**  
of St. Joseph County

Minutes: May 16, 2019 meeting  
Ivy Tech. (Breakfast, provided by United Way)

The group learned that **Jessica Brookshire** has become chair of the Alliance's Executive Committee. She succeeds **Waldo Mikels-Carrasco**. During his two years as executive committee chair Mikels-Carrasco instituted operating principles, a leadership structure, garnered funding and oversaw the launching of a website.

Brookshire introduced the new website. At [healthalliancechc.org](http://healthalliancechc.org), Alliance members now can find valuable data and best practices, a list of members as well as health-related events and upcoming alliance events. Members should review the membership list to determine if they want to be included. Contact Jim Baxter if you wish to opt out.

The meeting presented three views of **addiction services for young people**:

**Latorya Greene** identified next generation devices for nicotine addiction including hokkuhs, e-cigarettes and the emerging trend JUUL. All promote nicotine addiction and expose users to various toxins. E-cigarettes are an unregulated technology associated with spontaneous fires and lead leakage. JUUL appears more like technological device than a smoking device (it is charged on a computer) and uses flavored, highly potent liquid nicotine. E-cigarettes are the most used among Indiana teens.

**Lisa Dixon** described an Oaklawn program that has provided multiple systems of support to high school students, including drug and alcohol assistance programs, lifeline suicide prevention programming and curricular approaches to bullying, anger management, dating violence and self-esteem issues. Due to cuts in state funding, high school based services have been reduced to alcohol and drug prevention curriculum funded by the Alcohol and Addictions Resource Center.

**Diana Bernal** of Beacon Health Addition Prevention Services described the work of Overdose Lifeline, a non-profit engaged by Beacon that provides education about addiction at the high school level and education and distribution of Naloxone. Beacon has focused on educating high school students, with a program called "Not About Drugs." It expects to move into adult responses to opioid addiction in 2019 and to expand to Elkhart and Breman.

Other notes on addiction services:

Lisa Steward of the **Upper Room Recovery Center** noted the opening of a Recovery Hub in the former Stone Soup location of the First United Methodist Church, 333 N. Main, South Bend. Plans also are underway to open a 16-bed women's treatment center.

**525 Foundation** has seven additional pill drop boxes in Martin's Supermarkets. The pill collection project now is in South Bend, Granger, Elkhart, Goshen, Warsaw, Nappanee and Stevensville, per Becky Savage.

Upcoming:

The **Alzheimer's Association** is hosting a session from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, designed to educate about Alzheimer's, dementia and memory loss and to take input from community members about the need for services. Lori Stock ([lstock@alz.org](mailto:lstock@alz.org)) has more information.

Saint Joseph Health System is partnering with the **U.S. Senior Open** and is having a contest to distribute tickets. Participate by May 31 at [sjmed.com/USGAsweepstakes](http://sjmed.com/USGAsweepstakes).

The deadline for **CHEP grants** is May 28, with \$25,000 grants offered for ongoing partnerships, and \$5,000 grants offered to new partnerships. <hyperlink for grant program is <https://indianactsi.org/community/chep/trailblazer-award/>>

*Thanks to Gail Mancini for providing these notes. We sincerely appreciate her work!*