

Gratiot County SSA Meeting
May 11, 2021
Minutes

- I. Call to Order: 9:02 am via zoom
- II. Attendance: Traci Gavenda (Ashley Schools), Jennifer McKittrick (St. Louis Schools), Dan Morden (911/Central Dispatch), Steven Netzley (Ithaca Schools), Danielle Payne (GIRESD), Richard Ramereiz (St. Louis PD), Kelli Sigafoose (GIRESD), Wade Slavik (Breckenridge Schools), Michael Soltis (Gratiot County EM), Jeff Yonker (MSP-Homeland Security), Steve Schutter (MSP), Andy Fias (MSP), Leann Barton (GIRESD), Heather Therrien (Child Advocacy), Emily Rayburn (Child Advocacy), Mark Williams (Alma Public Safety), Steve Sopocy (Gratiot Co. Sherriff's Dept.)
- III. New Business
 - a. Special Presentation, Nicole Showers, Child Advocacy Center
 - i. Presentation sent out via email
 - b. Set dates for the 2020-2021 year to accommodate those that have multiple meetings. Meetings will be the second Wednesday of every other month.
 - i. September 15
 - ii. November 19
 - iii. January 12
 - iv. March 16
 - v. May 11
- IV. Gratiot-Isabella RESD
 - a. Homeland Security Conference is cancelled.
 - b. Suicide Prevention HB5482. Student ID cards for grades 6-12 must include a 24/7 suicide prevention hotline. This can include the national prevention hotline, state hotline, or GIHN crisis hotline.
 - i. Child Advocacy has materials that have the hotline information available for distribution.
- V. Emergency Management
 - a. Emergency Manager is working on getting set up in Munetrix for schools that use that system. All schools are in compliance for drills this year.
- VI. Sherriff's Department/City Department
 - a. Sherriff's Department- Thank you Nicole for presenting today. The Sherriff's Department has been working on learning more about trafficking in Gratiot County as well.
 - b. St. Louis PD-Vaping continues to be an issue in the schools. They received a grant to install cameras in Clapp Park to help reduce incidents at the park. Don't forget to sign your school up for Smart911 for business and organizations. If you need assistance doing this contact Kelli or Dan Morden.
 - c. Alma Public Safety-The department is going through renovations.

- d. MSP-Homeland Security-Homeland Security Conference cancelled. Hoping to host in 2022.
- e. MSP-There have been an increase in breaking and entering in Kent County and Montcalm County. Don't anticipate it spreading to Gratiot County, but just to be aware.

VII. Local Districts

- a. St. Louis- finishing up the school year and have started planning safety drills and training for next year.
- b. GIRESD-GIRESD, Ithaca Schools, and Sherriff's Department have been working together to put procedures in place to provide special education services for inmates that need them. Odyssey school is providing diploma services to those that qualify.
 - i. Inquired about Meth in Gratiot County. Law enforcement indicated that they have been seeing an increase in Meth cases and are finding it on stops at least weekly. It was stated that the cases are not as high as Isabella County and that users are becoming more violent.
- c. Ashley-finishing up the school year and planning for summer school
- d. Ithaca-finishing up drills. Ithaca will be hosting a vaccine clinic from 3-6pm for anyone 16 and older in partnership with Sparrow.
- e. Breckenridge-finishing up school year. Will be hosting all end of the year outdoors. Elementary will be starting bond work on June 14.

VIII. Roundtable

- a. Child Advocacy-
 - i. The Child Advocacy Center numbers are double what they were last year. Also, the number of children exposed to meth have tripled. The CAC is now a food bank distributor.
 - ii. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) has lost funding. They will be raising money and awareness for CASA for the month of May. There is more information on Child Advocacy's facebook page.
 - iii. The Above the Influence Program students have indicated they are sad and/or depressed. Drug use has increased because there is not much else to do.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 10:14 am