

LINCOLN COUNTY YOUTH JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE

Friday, August 21, 2026 - 9:00 AM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am. 8 people were in attendance and included, Sarah Venroy, Sofia Widowski, Erica Madden, April Bayer, Amber DeRizzo, Arlo Flonner, Stephanie Chapa and Andrea Bennett.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved by Widowski and second by DeRizzo.

a. Youth Justice Minutes 6/19/2026

3. Continued discussion on goals:

This will be tabled until the next meeting due to low attendance.

a. ART County Specific Training

ART could possibly do a County-specific training through a grant. Jessi Rumsey may be able to look into this further but would need to know who would be interested. 20–25 participants would be ideal.

b. Advent E-Learning

Tabled until the next meeting due to low attendance.

4. AMC Scheduling

Widowski will reach out to the schools to schedule AMC during the 2026-2027 school year.

5. Partner Updates

The Public Defenders office volunteered for Backpack's for Kid's.

The Department of Social Services is discussing doing more ART and AMC.

Trinity put together a bed build through the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization. This nonprofit builds beds around the country for children 3–17 years old who do not have one. It also comes with a set of pillows and bedding.

North Central Health Care and TB Scott Library did not have any updates.

6. Next Meeting Date - October 16, 2026 at 9:00am

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40am.

LINCOLN COUNTY YOUTH JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE

Friday, June 19, 2026 - 9:00 AM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:03am. Those in attendance were Stefanie Kaminski, Sofia Widowski, Sarah Venrooy, Stacy Bolder, Arlo Flancry, Amber DeRizzo, Brittney Woebeking and virtually - Kristin Bath and Shari Woodall.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes approved by Widowski and second by DeRizzo. At the end of the meeting, there was a question asked about item 5 in the minutes by Shari. Tomahawk did not have an increase in habitual truancy. They did have students that were chronic absentees, but that is much different than habitual truancy.

a. April 17, 2026 Minutes

3. Updates from Stefanie & Sofia

Stefanie reached out to local churches and received one response from Trinity and she will try to attend the next meeting as she had a conflict with today's. She will also reach out to Park and Rec as it was realized she had not. Sofia spoke to Merrill Police Department, the DA's office and the Public Defender's Office. They will all try to attend if they have staff available.

4. Review the 2026-2028 goal and the next steps

The 2026-2028 goal: Increase awareness through education relating to youth substance abuse.

Do we want to branch into subgroups? No, the group is small enough already.

Sofia brought up Advent E-Learning, which is an online curriculum that can be offered to youth as a requirement to complete after a suspension. This would be more like a preventative measure to assist youth in what may have gotten them to suspension. There are many different courses available. The Opioid Task Force could possibly assist with funding as this cannot be an additional cost to families. Would this be supported by parents? Who would all have access to the program? Sofia will send out more information to the group.

Haven holds Al Anon classes for 18 and older who work with Haven every 4th Thursday. Agencies do need to call to make a referral.

Could we hold Youth Groups to support youth that have a substance abuse disorder? Is there a youth recovery coach in the area? Kinship would have space available to hold these.

Are there group therapies that can be offered to youth?

Could there be a resource packet handed to families at the time of suspension?

Could there be a drop-in room at the school that Sofia or Sarah could sit in one day a week and meet with youth as a check-in?

There would need to be a multiservice release of information signed prior to any referral being made, so all agencies can assist.

5. Upcoming Programming/Programming Updates

Stacy from Tomahawk schools looked into 5-Stones to present at their schools (middle and high school). 5-Stones is a Fox-Valley based non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness and preventing sex-trafficking in Wisconsin. The price is reasonable and is offered first to staff, then as a Community Night and then to students in the school. Amber will reach out to Merrill school district to see if there is any interest in holding this. There is a new counselor at both the elementary and high school. They did approve a social work position and are hoping to fill this. Poverty Simulation training for school staff is scheduled for August. They will need new ART trainers if this continues to be offered. AMC dates are also going to need to be scheduled for the 2026–2027 school year. Sofia will have this as an item for discussion on the next agenda.

Kinship will be holding a Behavioral Health Training from 8–12 on Wednesday, June 24th. They are

also offering individual tutoring through the summer. They partnered with Oneida County and are able to help families with food security in the community.

The Health Department is offering free carbon monoxide detectors to individuals in Lincoln County that do not have one and have a financial barrier to purchasing one. They are available while supplies last. They will also offer another Healthy Lifestyles Social Challenge in August.

Sofia and Sarah attended a Youth Justice Summit 6/18 and said it was very informative. They are both reading 'There Is No Such Thing as a Bad Kid' and will report back on it when they are finished. Stefanie will reach out to Laurie at TB Scott to get updates about Youth Activities being offered.

6. Next Meeting Date(s)

The next meeting date is Friday, August 21 at 9:00am. Stefanie will reserve the larger conference room.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15am.