



Lodi Community Action Team (LCAT)

Vision: Community where all youth are empowered to make healthy choices

LCAT Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Kelly McComb (Kinship Mentoring of Columbia County), Doug Richmond (Lodi Rotary Club and Columbia County Board Member), Patti Herman (Ice Age Trail), Dave Gilles (Reach Out Lodi), Chief Wayne Smith (Lodi Police Department), Keri Bahr (Lodi Elementary/OSC), Eric Scheunemann (Lodi Elementary/OSC), Melissa Card (Associated Bank), Jill Gade (American Family Insurance), Hunter Newton (Lake Wisconsin Evangelical Free Church), Dr. Vince Breunig (School District of Lodi), Adria Schroeder (School District of Lodi), Zoe Nieting (First Presbyterian Church of Lodi), Dietrich Gruen (First Presbyterian Church of Lodi), Diana Karls (CREW), Terry Haag (School Board Member), Sara McChesney (LCAT Program Coordinator), and Bryan Bilse (LCAT Director)

Welcome and introductions:

See attendance above.

Instagram Update:

LCAT has an Instagram account. The hope is to reach a younger audience, including youth and younger parents. LCAT shared our first post, inviting people to attend the meeting. Currently, we have 3 followers! Please follow LCAT @lodicommunityactionteam.

National Night Out Planning Updates:

There are three potential sites where National Night Out 2026 could be held. It was recommended by the coalition to visit each location and create a map. Bryan and Sara met with Brittanie Dempsey at Lewi-Byrns Park in Harmony Grove to look over logistics for hosting the event there. They also visited the Lodi Agricultural Fair Grounds and the Lodi Middle School. At the November meeting, we will review the maps and go over the pros and cons of each location.

Focus Group Overview:

LCAT utilized focus groups to collect students' experiences, perspectives, and input about their community. Students emphasized the importance of adults making eye contact, smiling, and asking questions about them in community and business settings. Students also recognized situations where adults make them feel unwelcome, for example, when adults gossip about other students and their families and exclude other families. When discussing local businesses, students shared that they appreciate local businesses that support them through sponsorships and recognized the importance of supporting those businesses in return. They also emphasized the value of working at a local business and enjoying their roles as employees, noting that other students were employed there as well. The group discussed the focus group results. LCAT will work on organizing the information into a campaign with community partners.



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Presentation and Discussion:

LCAT is excited to share a new partnership with Kinship Mentoring of Columbia County. Kinship Mentoring of Columbia County is similar to Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Kelly reviewed the two mentoring programs they offer: Community mentoring and Lunch Buddies. Community mentoring is when the mentor and mentee explore the community together. Lunch Buddies is a school-based program where mentors meet with students over their lunch hour. **They are launching a lunch buddy program at the Lodi Elementary/OSC beginning October 1, 2025. Lunch Buddies is held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month during the child's lunch hour. To become a lunch buddy, the potential mentor must complete a background check and training.** If you are interested, please contact Kelly at director@kinshipcc.org by phone 608-697-3260 or sign up on their website kinshipcc.org. See the attached flyer for additional information.

Next Meeting:

November 19, 2025, 9 am-10 am at the School District of Lodi Board Room

November is National Veterans Month, and Rebekka Cary from the Columbia County Veterans Service Office will be attending to share about their resources. Come and learn about what they offer! Also, we will review the maps of the potential National Night Out locations and discuss the pros and cons.