

TRAINING STORY

The Allen County Drug and Alcohol Consortium (DAC) had a very positive impact on the Fort Wayne Police Department in 2020. They routinely bring together members of all of the criminal justice entities to discuss issues affecting Allen County. These meetings are invaluable as they may be one of the few times that people with the Prosecutor's Office, Courts, Jail, Community Corrections, and Police get together as a group to connect and discuss current issues affecting the criminal justice system in a non-crisis setting. I would also like to mention that DAC regularly convenes meetings where people from the Treatment Community, Prevention Community and Criminal Justice communities discuss social justice issues and work on figuring out the best ways to address addiction issues facing Allen County.

DAC has also impacted the Fort Wayne Police Department by providing needed training for our officers. One example in which DAC has helped us is through providing funding for the IACP's Drug Evaluation and Classification Program. This has helped the FWPD Drug Recognition Experts maintain their certifications and has given them the current information to help keep impaired drivers off of Allen County's streets. Another example is DAC brought Peer Recovery Coach training to Allen County, which helped people interested in helping others with substance use disorder learn how to properly "walk alongside them" as they go down the road to recovery.

We are very fortunate that DAC has a progressive Executive Director in MaryClare Akers, who, in my opinion, has done an excellent job bringing these issues up for discussion and getting agencies at the table to work on them. DAC is truly a team that has helped Allen County become a better place through their dedicated service working toward social justice and addiction issues.

Captain Kevin Hunter
Fort Wayne Police Department

