

**Office of the  
State's Attorney  
Kendall County, Illinois**



**Eric C. Weis  
State's Attorney**

---

Kendall County Courthouse  
807 W John St.  
Yorkville, IL 60560

Main (630) 553-4157  
Fax (630) 553-4204

October 1, 2020

For more information contact:  
Eric Weis, State's Attorney  
Kendall County State's Attorney Office  
(630)553-4157

**Kendall County State's Attorney, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids,  
& Fox Valley United Way reach out to promote importance of  
Early Childhood Services**

Kendall County State's Attorney Eric Weis, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, and Fox Valley United Way held a virtual meeting yesterday to promote community awareness of Illinois Early Childhood Commission. Weis was joined by members of Kendall County law enforcement including Chief Jeff Burgner of the Oswego Police Department and Chief Jim Jensen of the Yorkville Police Department, as well as other participants who specialize in programs for early childhood development in Kane and Kendall Counties. Weis is a member of the Illinois Executive Board for Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Illinois.

Last December, the Governor appointed a bipartisan Early Childhood Funding Commission to look at the best ways to fund the various programs that work with or directly influence early childhood development. The Commission is scheduled to present their report to the Governor early next year. The report will contain recommendations on improvements to the funding mechanisms and system efficiencies of early childhood services in Illinois. The purpose of the meeting yesterday was to promote awareness of the Commission and allow stakeholders the opportunity to provide input to the Commission.

State's Attorney Weis noted that, with the current economic situation, many programs that provide early childhood services are seeing the demand for those services continue to increase. It is critical that programs with proven success continue to receive the necessary funding to address this additional need. Without these programs, young children will be denied services that may ultimately lead them on a path to the criminal justice system. Proper funding can help to ensure that children don't end up in the system.

The law enforcement leaders represented over 300 law enforcement leaders who are members of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Illinois, an anti-crime organization that advocates for evidence-based investments in programs for kids that are proven to cut crime and violence. Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Illinois advocates for programs such as Teen REACH, an after-school program, early childhood education, and Redeploy Illinois are effective tools to keep children from entering the criminal justice system. Fight Crime: Invest in Kids does not receive any funding from the State of Illinois for the programs they advocate for which help to prevent crime.

For more information, visit Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Illinois at <https://www.strongnation.org/fightcrime>