



Meeting Minutes

Changing Communities, Transforming Lives.

merc@chestnut.org

Call to order

The Metro-East Recovery Council monthly meeting was held at **104 United Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234** on **November 14th, 2019** from 9:00 am to 10:30 am.

1. **Introductions, Announcements** – Introductions.
 - a. Karen Tilashalski: Ryan Hampton: Updated Resources Pamphlet. Contact ejbaker@chestnut.org if you would like one/some.
 - b. Jen Nagel: The Porchlight Collective Harm Reduction
<https://www.facebook.com/theporchlightcollective/>
2. **Sustainability Plan Discussion/ROSC Collaborative Update** – MERC goal is to be a 501c3 with a RCO. State's goal is to have every county covered by a ROSC. This means our funding will change, but we are unsure of when and how. There is room at the table for everyone who is passionate in helping to reduce stigma and help people in active addiction and recovery. Current task item: How do we engage more of the St. Clair recovery community?
3. **SAMHSA Financial Wellness** – Do you spend money on what you need or to fill a hole? Please be aware that the suicide rates are high during this time of year, and though money is important, being present with people might be what they need the most.
4. **Future Events/Holidays** – If you know of organizations helping people with food, warm clothing, and presents, please email information to ejbaker@chestnut.org or comment on Facebook posts concerning this: <https://www.facebook.com/MetroEastRecovery/>
5. **Stigma Campaign Discussion** – Focus Thoughts: Status quo/functioning level. Open-ended questions. Seven times before someone “gets it” (in regards to help/opioid reversals). Most people know someone who uses drugs. How do you define recovery? What does it mean to you?

Seeds are planted every time “it” is mentioned i.e. help for people. Addiction comes in different forms. Avoid gossip/spreading names. Most stigma seems to be in the middle/upper classes. Collect demographics. Use this as conversation starters.

6. **Celebrate Recovery presented by Bud Vickery** – See handouts attached to email
7. **Meth Discussion (& Housing)** – Meth is sometimes being laced with fentanyl. Oxford housing/housing resources: if presented as a need in the coming needs assessment, this can be worked into the strategic plan. Amare and Manifested Mercy has some scholarships. A housing advisory board is being formed.

Motion – Next MERC meeting: December 12th, 2019 from 9:00 am to 10:30 am at the Metro East Parks and Recreation Building (104 United Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234).

Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success. – Henry Ford