



MERC Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2021

9am Zoom

- Welcome and introduction of new members. 32 members in attendance.
- Introduction of new full time staff, Keri Wright.
 - Keri's background is in Mental Health and Communication
- Agenda was modified due to Laura Schumacher's needing to exit the call.
- Mark Sanders presentation: **Equity and Diversity in Treatment**
 - Manager, Mental Health Pro II at University of Wisconsin-Madison
 - Project Manager, Position In State -II at Prevention Technology Transfer Center
 - Board Member at Illinois Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association – IAODAPCA
 - Board Member at Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare
 - Board Member at U.S. Journal Training
- Sonja Vauters presented a Wellness Moment on the topic of personal wellness.

Announcements and Events:

September is Recovery Month

Libraries- Keri and Laura will begin setting up at Belleville, O'Fallon, Dupo, Edwardsville, Troy and Alton libraries on Aug. 30th 31st, and September 1st. The tables will have giveaways, pamphlets, brochures, and resources.

Faith Community- A letter has been created to send to faith communities to bring awareness to the meaning and purpose of Recovery Month. The letter request prayer for those in recovery, actively using, and loved ones of those struggling with Substance Use Disorder.

Facebook Live event with Mark Sanders, Toni Randall, and Ty Bechel- This live event is scheduled for 9/23/21 from 7p.m. – 8p.m. Panel members will discuss different perspectives of Substance Use Disorder and recovery.

Bond County's Overdose Awareness Day event on 8/31/21, from 6-8pm at Bond County Courthouse, Greenville IL.

Clinton County's Overdose Awareness Day event on 9/1/21, from 6-8pm at the Northside Park in Breese, IL.

Rockin' For Recovery- Ty Bechel

This, free, in person event is scheduled for 9/11/21 from 4-10pm at Bethalto Central Park. Volunteers are needed, contact Ty if you are interested. Featuring: Bad Finger, The Fargone Brothers, Shaun and Mike Duo, food trucks and a Kid Zone with a bounce house and face painting from 4-8pm. VIP passes are \$10.

Next meeting: September 16, 2021 from 9:00-10:00 via Zoom. Link will be e-mailed the day before.