

SISAA Better Together Recovery Committee

Meeting notes for Wed 11/24/21 3 p.m.

Rhonda Wilson, John Reith, Rebekah Hillerman, Mariah Bargman, Sandy Prange, Chris Blechle, Michael Tyson, Chrystal Cantrell, Kelam Wilkes

Ongoing Business

1. Action on homelessness – Goal: To be aware of current and emerging patterns and associative community needs. Work on developing a short-term place to connect people in need with resources to benefit them. Some places offer overnight stay with or without negative drug test. What about people coming out of treatment who may be homeless? Places like laundromats, welcome centers, and convenience stores have special insights into our local homeless population. This is mostly a visible problem here with transients coming and going through Chester. For now, the protocol is to put people in need of shelter in touch with Western Egyptian. Rhonda suggested arranging a field trip to visit a Living Room concept model. Rebekah asked what about church basements that can be sectioned off for an emergency night locations? Mike asked if we have any kind of numbers on how many unsheltered are moving through.
2. Resource guide – Still waiting on word back from the ICAHN grant application for potential dollars to cover printing and promotion. Guide revision underway. Due to job circumstances, Sandy P will need to step back from the resource guide but will still be able to remain a part of Better Together by way of meeting participation. Still waiting to hear back from findhelpnow.org once they have processed and uploaded all of our resource guide contents into their system. Focus on developing cards with condensed information to distribute through school systems and the like. Work continues on resource guide verification in several areas through the update process. John to reach back to Aunt Bertha on progress.
3. Recovery Capital – Mariah is working on a weekly event calendar for those focusing on recovery. Waiting on some info back from John. How can we support our new Recovery Navigators. How to interweave, support, stay connected.
4. Recovery Home – Treatment facility coming in 1-2 years. How can we be ready? Identify areas lacking; transportation, communication internet/computer/phone, short-term place to sleep (in the works). Treatment facility may contain up to 16-32 beds. Possible 6MM building restoration project over 2 years. Meeting in February.

5. PLE subgroup – We need better direct Recovery messaging, looking to recruit more people.
6. Rehabilitation Training– Helping people with resumes, making resources available. Etc. Waiting to meet new IL Worknet connection. Tom Welge is eager to be a participant in local business leader in these discussions. No replacement yet as per Chris Martin. Rebekah can help with resumes and the like until we reconnect with WorkNet 11/18.
7. Randolph/Washington Co courts. Building peer coaching and diversion programs. 80%+ of Randolph County court cases are non-violent drug offenders. Help develop and interact with a potential future drug court. New redistricting may lead to new potential for Drug Court standards to be developed in order to deal with people more evenly between counties. Met with Judge Weber and group on more insight to future developments. Shannon G will start visiting the jail next week along with Lindsey Meeks. First deflection client this week.
8. Identifying individuals in need. Individuals leaving treatment centers, on parole, in the community, domestic violence situations, contact neighboring homeless centers. Had a meeting with T2Hope group in Perry County. The question was asked last meeting whether we should reach out to Scott Wunderlich, Parole Officer, to invite him to a meeting – has paroles who struggle and are looking for resources.
9. Regional Recovery Community Organization (RCO) Development. ComWell/SISAA are charter partners along with Egyptian Health Department and Take Action Today in a regional collaborative that SUPR has now lined up with and is supporting. We anticipated the southern-most 18 counties but region 5 includes 33 counties. Our region name is Southern Illinois Recovery Network (SIRN). The Better Together group needs to be more involved with this. Get proposal moving on Recovery Café/Living Room.
10. Reaching out to kids. Providing with hotlines, crisis lines, suicide, Mariah has good suggestions on this. Ideally 3 numbers and an inspirational quote on the reverse side.

New Business

1. Recap of recent activities and action items
 - a. John and Rhonda - Identify a Living Room model and Recovery Café model to visit.
 - b. Mariah – Student resource card design

- c. Weekly event calendar – Mariah, John, Rhonda. Mariah waiting on info back from John
- 2. Other agency accomplishments or news. Other things happening?

“Working better together we can affect the community impact of drug misuse by promoting a interactive recovery experience. “