

Rhonda Wilson – NAMI

John Reith - Comwell

Mariah Bargman – Memorial Hospital of Chester

Sandra Prange – Comm Services Coordinator for Western Egyptian

Chris Blechle – Randolph County Housing Authority

Sharon Frederking – SISAA Prevention Consultant

Jennifer Barbour – Sparta Community Hospital

Mary Jo Renzagla Weir – Retired volunteer

1. Action on housing and homelessness

Old - No new developments with T2Hope in Perry County. The employment barrier reduction program is still available through Western Egyptian. Applicants must be working or looking for work. SNAP recipients qualify. If not already, they will be enrolled. Benefits include assistance with auto repair and insurance, uniforms, utilities, work tools.

New – Mary Jo apprised us of her initial research on recovery centers and found a few interesting models. One is called Good Samaritan and offers comprehensive help for people struggling with homelessness, mental health and/or alcohol/substance misuse. She is continuing to look for other models that may be inspiring. Several of our members attended a meeting Thursday 3/10 concerning the state response to homelessness.

2. Resource guide

Old – A bookmark sized card has been produced by Mariah that contains some immediate crisis information for kids in our local schools.

New – Work is nearly finished on the 2022 revised resource guide. No big changes but a number of small additions and corrections. Could be going off to print as soon as mid-March. Recent contact with FindHelpNow.org revealed that some of our submissions were added but we have many to go. They prefer single addition requests and I have a link to use for that. A single request is usually added within 48 hours. The link did include an excel sheet to submit multiple entries at once. Still trying to find a good flow for this. We could use a volunteer or two to work at this.

3. Recovery Capital

Meetings have been updated for new version. Additional meetings were added to the guide this year. Mariah has produced a page of local meeting information for sharing out to the community.

4. Recovery Home and resource center

Research continues for the establishment of a recovery home in Randolph County. Some difficulty has been had in finding useful modeling information. This is an area in which we could use an extra person or two to help with further research and discovery. Also see under #1 concerning Mary Jo's research to date.

5. PLE subgroups and recruiting

Old – We discussed working on our messaging to reflect the different audiences within our community. We want to appeal to those embracing their own recovery as well as to retired individuals and others in the community who may be interested and willing to join us. Actively networking with Celebrate Recovery and Life Recovery groups. Brandi Rasnick is interested in learning more about our work and will be presenting at the March SISAA meeting. We welcomed Pastor Paul and Mary Kurrelmeyer to our group.

New – We have had good returns on a Facebook volunteer request that was posted earlier in the month. 6 people have responded to that message. Three have been engaged (Dawn LaRose, Jeremy Donager, Hanna Piel) and two others are still showing interest. Ashlyn Armstrong was introduced to us through Recovery Navigator Shannon Glaser. John also met this month with Pastor Bonnie Wilkins of Sparta Presbyterian Church and her husband Thaddeus.

6. Training and Rehabilitation

Old - Rebekah H is working with Hoyleton Organization, (faith-based group) – Director Edda Berti 618-418-2565. They make books and have bi-lingual services available also. They are working locally to network with child care, go to court to translate, and other job services. They are based in Fairview Heights but will come to our area to provide gift cards, heaters, blankets and/or service people with recovery issues/needs. Paige Johnson is the new rep for Illinois WorkNet.

New – A meeting was held Friday March 11. We discussed hosting a resource fair and where may be the best place to do that. Steeleville and Percy were mainly discussed. There are people at Hoyleton who can translate documents pretty quickly. They may be helpful with full translation of resource guide as well. There are two new NAMI workshop series coming out this Spring for BIPOC and Latino individuals and families with the ability to train local leaders within groups to present these.

7. Randolph/Washington Co courts

Old – The Illinois Mental Health Task Force continues to meet monthly. Judge Jo Beth Weber from Jefferson County leads these meetings along with Scott Block. Take Action Today RCO is developing a curriculum for justice involved individuals.

New - The next meeting for the workshop and council series is Thurs 3/17 and will be discussing Intercept 3 which covers judicial involvement.

8. Identifying individuals in need

Focus is still the same: people leaving treatment centers, parolees, homeless.

9. Southern Illinois Recovery Network (SIRN)

The group is working on edits to its mission, vision and next steps. More to come in January 2022.

10. Reaching out to kids

Old: Developed a bookmark containing crisis numbers for kids to have access to and pass on to peers. SISAA has assembled a team to visit with each of our high schools in an effort to learn how we can be more helpful and supportive in these environments. We have visited with Chester so far and have positive initial feedback from that.

New business: