

December 15, 2022 ROSC Council Minutes:

Meeting was called to order by ROSC Coordinator Tia Schum at 3pm on December 15, 2022 at The Piatt County Mental Health Center.

Attendance was taken: Tia Schum (ROSC Coordinator); Ted Lowers (Dewitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department); Tony Comtois (CU Church/PLE); Aaron Donaldson (PLE); Jenna Hays (Statewide ROSC); Cristin McMullen (IMPACT PCMH); Tony Kirkman (Piatt Co Mental Health – ED); Mark Vogelzang (Piatt County Sheriff); Dan Koenigs (PCMH CAD); Jaime Porter (Clinical Director Piatt Co Mental Health); In addition the following participants joined via ZOOM: Kari Sealander (IMPACT PCMH); Mary Vogt (Bement School District Superintendent); Tawanna Nickens (Parkland GED); Anna Crawford (Kirby – Wellness); Tess Miller (Shelby/Moultrie ROSC); Melissa Jankauski (Carle Outreach); Adam Clapp (Monticello School District Superintendent); Emily Weidner (Cerro Gordo School District Superintendent); Katie Schacht (Parkland Student Advisor); Hillary Stanifer (Blue Ridge School District Superintendent)

Introductions – General Introductions were given.

Communication Plan – Tia discussed the Suboxone Clinic at Kirby stating that things are going well and that she hasn't been to clinic in a week and won't return to clinic until the 21st of this month due to Doctor Mandhan being on vacation. Tia discussed the two support groups are going well, both in the Piatt County Jail and the open group held in Bement on Wednesday evenings. Tia stated that she needs to check the wording for the deliverable of having 5 attendees to the open support group. Depending on the wording, this deliverable could be met. The Wednesday evening support group will start offering a Zoom link for the group. Tia has contacted Oxford housing to get a tour and is awaiting a reply. Tia discussed that transportation that has been on the "honey do" list could possibly be completed within the next couple months if all plans fall into place! Tony reported that on November 29, he provided roughly 15 individuals NARCAN training. Tony shared the importance of having NARCAN on hand due to not knowing when it will be needed. Tony explained that after providing the training, an attendee approached him and shared a story of a person running the chain gang for the football team who had passed out after half time due to smoking marijuana that was laced with Fentanyl. Tia discussed the sectors and sub sectors that are left to fill, 9, and thanked the group for their involvement in getting these filled.

This Month's Activities – Tia discussed where she was at in regards to the leave behind bags that were discussed the past couple of meetings. Tia asked if there would be anyone who would be available the evening of January 31st to take the bags to the Emergency Staff Meeting in Hammond, IL. Cristin stated she would be available to do this. Tia shared how presenting the Youth Resource Group was going and is excited to have the first meeting January 13th! Tia and the council went over the billboards that were presented to her. The group narrowed it down to 2 and wondered about changing the language on one of them. The suggestion was to change the language from "You are more than your addiction" to "Don't let your addiction be more than you." Tia will present the last two billboards to the council for a vote and then turn the results into the billboard company. The council had a great

discussion on the language in regards to “substance/alcohol misuse vs addiction”. Tony C. stated that none of us feel like our addiction is more than us and also stated that referring to himself as an addict is not offensive. Sheriff Vogelzang asked the question “Who is the audience we are trying to reach?” The answer was unanimous with “The person who needs or wants assistance getting to a better version of themselves.” Sheriff Vogelzang then followed up with “We have PLE’s telling us what terminology to use NOT folks with the alphabet behind their name.” Tia discussed the idea that is being discussed of an expert discussion panel to be taken in front of the Monticello School District in hopes to pass on information to parents about education and resources on the current trends and dangers of substance use. The council agreed strongly that this was a great idea. Credit was given to Tony K. who passed that credit on to Cristin M. Tia will keep the council up to date as the information is figured out.

Speaker – Tony Comtois was the speaker this evening. Tony is a PLE who now provides transportation to those who are ready to go to treatment but have not way of getting there. Tony shared that he was a military kid with a tight nit family. He stated that he didn’t remember his parents ever drinking but that his dad would walk around all day with the same beer “just to fit in”. Tony stated that he began drinking so he could hang out with his older brother. At the age of 12, Tony admitted to spending 6 months in juvenile detention due to taking the blame for something he didn’t do. Tony explained the desire of wanting to fit in with the “in crowd” and that he would drink this and try that to be accepted. Tony stated that he chose to be homeless and lived on the streets. He stated that he wasn’t a violent drinker but that he stole from his family. Tony stated that he had the mindset of this is “our” stuff because it belonged to the family. Tony stated that it got so bad that his family would check his pockets after family gatherings before he would leave. On July 5, 2006, Tony grabbed a Walmart sack, threw his clothes in it and called his mom. Tony stated that he was “sick and tired of being sick and tired” and told his mom that he just needed to go somewhere where he could work on himself. Not treatment or anything like that, just some place he can go to work on himself. Tony moved into the Salvation Army but it closed the following day. Tony stated that he was able to move into Time Center in Champaign, IL to continue on his path of recovery. Tony stated that several things helped but most importantly the groups helped him a lot. Tony stated that he wishes there was some way to get employers to look past the criminal history and give someone who is in recovery a chance. Tony stated that getting employers to give someone a chance along with the opportunity to fix their appearance can make all the difference in the world.

ROSC Deliverables – The ROSC deliverables are constantly looked at to ensure the Piatt County ROSC Committee is staying the course. Tia discussed the leave behind bags and asked if someone could take the bags to the Piatt Co Fire Departments Meeting on January 31. Tia also distributed a list of activities for the past fiscal years (FY ’22 and FY ’23). Tia encouraged and challenged the ROSC committee to come up with ideas for future events

Who’s Missing? – Tia continued to remind group that IDHS has an expectation that 50% of the total council should be composed of PLEs.

Planning for future engagement opportunities:

Piatt County Fire Departments Meeting – January 31, 2023 – Distribute “Leave Behind Bags”

Piatt County Ministerial Alliance – January 5th

NARCAN Training

February 3, 2023 – Piatt County Court House

February 17, 2023 – Blue Ridge School District Faculty

Farmer City, IL - TBD

*Hopefully if COVID #s decrease, Council can resume past discussion regarding a possible County-wide collaborative effort to provide a NARCAN training for multiple communities with multiple agencies utilizing their communication channels.

Future Meetings – It was agreed that future ROSC Meetings will be held 3rd Thursday of the month @ 3pm with the next Piatt County ROSC meeting being held here at The Center on Thursday January 19 2023 @ 3pm. It was also discussed that it would be helpful to maintain a zoom option for guests.

Satisfaction Survey – A brief verbal satisfaction survey was conducted. Participants felt encouraged by number of those in attendance and the progress made at meeting. It was agreed that more PLEs would help move discussion along and the important thing is to have meetings that move forward the deliverables of the grant.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm

Recorded by ROSC Coordinator, Tia Schum