



Welcome and Introductions

- In attendance:

Angella Holloway	Beverly Holland
Kristine Gamm-Smith	Kelly Jefferson
Violette Book	Cora Hughes
Toni Randall	Kent Tarro
Catherine McLaughlin	Julie Pohlman
Elizabeth McQuaid	Emily Won
Joann Guthrie	Melissa Monte
Patrick Miller	Ty White
Samuel Stearns	

MERC Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2022

6:00 – 7:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/91256087981?pwd=Q3FMVDJoYWQ5VHZUQjQ1NUliKzdQUTo9>

Old Business

- **Community Assessment/Key Informant Interviews:** Responses are in and reviewed. A summary of the findings has been drafted and will be presented to the Executive Committee.

New Business

- **Community Partner Updates**
 - SMART Recovery in Belleville group meets every Thursday at 12:30, in the Belleville Public Library on West Main Street.
- **Faith-based Initiative Presentation,** Patrick Miller, Chestnut Center for Community Engagement presented an overview of the new project that he is heading. The project is anticipated to be ready for launch in April, 2023, and will provide toolkits for growing Faith-based programming, including: how to form a support group; anti-stigma campaigns; the language of recovery; and resilience. Toolkits will be rolled out over the course of the year. An initial meeting will take place in February 2023 (date TBD). Those interested partnering can contact Patrick at pmmiller@chestnut.org.
- **Southwestern Illinois Deflection Initiative,** this project started in late 2022 and targets participation from Calhoun, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Greene, St. Clair, Montgomery, and Monroe Counties. The purpose is to develop a pre-arrest diversion and deflection action plan, with input from

stakeholders (law enforcement, community, health programs) from the above-mentioned counties. Those who are interested in participating are encouraged to contact Koren Vanderweele at kvanderweele@tasc.org.

Announcements and upcoming events

- Staffing changes to MERC

Wellness Moment: Kristine Gamm-Smith, NAMI SWI

Upcoming MERC Meeting:

Thursday, January 19, 2023

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

ZOOM

Metro East Recovery Council (MERC) Vision:

A community system that nurtures and supports individuals and families seeking or maintaining recovery for themselves or a loved one.

Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) Mission:

Collaborating to build and empower communities of recovery.