

# Mason/Logan Counties ROSC Council Meeting

*February 16, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.*

## **Attendees:**

Nadia Klekamp (Chestnut Health Systems), Kari Knapp (Chestnut), Chestnut Health Systems (Anonymous), Jeanette Harris (Logan-Mason ROSC), Lyn Pedigo, Kim Turner (Logan County Probation), Grace Irvin, Tyler Wegner (Chestnut Prevention), Randi Derrig (Chestnut), Kourtney Renfro, Fran Ingram, Angela Stoltenburg, Leann Courson (Bridgeway)

Guest Speaker: Rachael Oney, Salvation Army

## **Meeting Recording:**

You can [watch a YouTube video](#) recording of today's meeting if you were unable to attend or want to find out more.

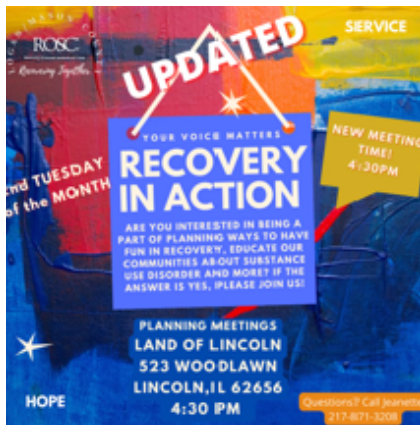
## **Discussion/Salvation Army:**

- The meeting opened with remarks from Jeanette and a PowerPoint presentation to accompany her updates. Jeanette emphasized that “coordination” is at the center of much of what we do with the ROSC. “Coming together is beginning; staying together is progress, and working together is success”. – Henry Ford
- Jeanette introduced Rachael Oney from Salvation Army (S.A.), who provided a 30-minute presentation of their core service offerings, new and existing programs, the need for volunteers and benefactors, and more.
  - 316 Life Center; Salvation Army has been around for over 100 years and since the 1970s in Logan County. Rachael provided a little of history about how the Salvation Army was born from wartime needs. She then went into a presentation of current services being
  - Open Tues and Thursdays for walk-in by the public. Mondays and Wednesday are available by appointment only, due to limited staff. If you are okay with answering the phones as a volunteer, then it would help enable the doors being open and phones being answered longer. The more volunteers that Salvation Army has available, the more services they can provide the community and to more expansive areas. Jeanette highlighted the hope that Logan-Mason ROSC can also help with facilitating collaboration, events, volunteers, and more.
  - Services Cover eight different counties: Cass, Christian, Logan, Mason, Menard, Moultrie, Schuyler, and Shelby. The Salvation Army is able to serve these counties to varying degrees. Volume of services offered is highest in Logan is probably lowest in Moultrie. One goal is to distribute more parity of services across all eight counties.
  - **Mobile Food Pantry Van:** Food pantry services are available monthly to all clients; weekly to Pathway to Hope clients. Salvation Army is preparing a ‘mobile food cantina’ soon, whereby a dedicated van will travel to more rural areas of the counties and offer free food. *The volume of service and areas reached will also be dependent on the number of volunteers!*

- **Pathway of Hope** is one of the primary programs spotlighted today (i.e. work with clientele on a variety of personal goals). It is not court-mandated so the program is person-centered and strength-based, and each person “is the expert of their own crisis”. “We all have our own problems—our own strengths and weaknesses and there’s always a way to help” – Rachael.
  - Wraparound services provide Assistance with basic life needs, such as GED certification, obtaining licenses and IDs (in order to obtain employment), housing, birth certificate, homeless verification, clothing vouchers, fuel cards, budget planning, journals, and more.
  - Veterans are screened for access to Central IL Veterans union (an example of matching peoples’ experiences with services that are available).
  - Economic self-sufficiency: Resume building, job interviewing, budgeting and basic independent living skills, etc.
  - Landlord listings, relapse prevention and recovery, housing applications, SNAP and medical applications, etc.
  - Veterans Housing Support: Bridge Transitional Housing, case management, assistance with VA benefits, applying for benefits, and referrals to supportive services for vets and family.
- Economic self-sufficiency; Food Pantry (open once a month for clients and staff; no income guidelines – services all eight counties). Pathway of Hope clients can go with their Case Managers to obtain free food as well.
- School Supplies: Available to same clientele as Food Pantry.
- Music Academy:
- **General Emergency Support:** Water and utilities assistance, past due rent, Warm Neighbor Cool Friends (Ameren), hotel stays 2 nights or more (if eligible; see below).
- **Emergency Disaster Services:** For victims of tornados, floods, storm damage – hotel stays, petty cash for food and bills, food and hygiene, spiritual/personal advisement/support.
- **Christmas Angel Tree:** Help ensure children in our counties received gifts and alleviate financial constraints around the holidays for our local parents by saving them money from free gift assistance.
- Rachael thanked any “Bell Ringers” in the group and emphasized how important these donors are towards keeping the Salvation Army sustained. Rachael emphasized these volunteers are stretched, particularly around holidays, and we’re always looking for people to help volunteer and recruit bell ringers themselves. The goal would be to get Bell Ringers for every county. Jeanette mentioned only 50% of requested volunteers and funds were obtained in a recent campaign. If we could get all those positions and phone callers staffed, it is feasible that \$50,000 could be raised.
- **Hotel Vouchers Program:** Vouchers for free hotel stays are also available to assist with housing of eligible clients. There is a screening process and Rachael shared some of the questions, many of which are required by the State of Illinois (e.g. employment status? How long homeless? Last time had a Lease in your name?).
- The voucher program started with only being able to help three people, but with additional funding around the holidays, they were able to more than trip that capacity.

People in this program are encouraged to save at least 30% of their overall income to ensure longer-term housing arrangements are maintained and worked towards. This also is used for utility bills, first month's rent in future apartment, furnishing the place, and so on. "When starting over, every penny counts".

- Must be 18 years old
- Currently employed part or full-time
- A resident of Cass, Logan, Mason or Menard county
- **Salvation Army Mobile Van:** First Tuesday of every month is Mt. Pulaski and Elkhart; other rural towns like Atlanta will also be receiving monthly visits to provide food pantry items to these citizens. We want to make sure that driving distance is not a factor precluding people from getting groceries. Once again, S.A. will need volunteers from Mason County so the mobile van can service additional counties beyond Logan.
- **Life Skills Class:** Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to help teach about basic life skills, which could be video-recorded or done in person. Examples of a skill to teach include cooking a meal, changing a tire, mowing a lawn, checking car oil, etc. "We want to help empower people." **Please contact Rachael if you have a skill you would like to share with members of the program.** Rachael reminded attendees that everyone has a special skill(s) of some kind that maybe they learned the hard way...or, looking back, they wish there was someone to teach *them* that very skill, and so on.
- **Volunteers, Collaboration, Volunteers, Communication, Volunteers, Events Flyers, Volunteers. Volunteers Needed.** Please contact Rachael Oney (Salvation Army) or Jeanette Harris (L-M ROSC).
- **Recovery in Action** meets second Tuesday of the month (March 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30, 523 Woodlawn in Lincoln, IL). Please pass it on. Jeanette has flyers as well if needed.



- **Social Media:** We are focusing more in this area and have recently obtained some support for regular updates. Hopefully 'friends' of the sites can also "Like" and "share" items proactively to help propel our momentum.

#### Meetings/Support Group Updates:

- **Flyers and Cards:** Jeanette shared a new business-card that contains information and QR codes for support groups in the area. She shared that our meetings are struggling as far as lack of support (low attendees). We want to get these cards and flyers out to as many people as

possible—police officers, probation officers, meeting locales, churches, laundromats, etc. The purpose of these cards is to spread the word among our community about these exciting new meetings and to help garner support.



- **New Narcotics Anonymous Meeting Wednesdays at Noon** at Unity Place – Tazwood (1231 Keokuk & Route 10; Lincoln, IL). Jeanette attended the first one and said 17 people turned out. This is an excellent turnout for a first meeting.
- And Don't Forget about... **“Let's Talk” Real Life Recovery meetings**: Tuesdays at 10:30am until 12pm at the Salvation Army (307 Kickapoo Road in Lincoln, IL)
- Upcoming Free ROSC Events...**Family Bowling: February 25<sup>th</sup> 11:30am to 1:30pm at Logan Lanes; YMCA Golf Outing** (contact Jeanette).
- Recovery meetings have started in Logan County Jail. There have been a couple meetings so far. Jeanette shared the sentiment from inmates was “Thank you for not forgetting about us”. We are looking for help to bring the meetings into the jails. Please contact Jeanette if interested in this rewarding service opportunity.

#### **Other Misc. Updates:**

- Kim provided an update regarding the Housing Coalition. She shared they were only one of five requestors from all over the country (Hawaii, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania) to receive a collaboration grant. The grantors were impressed by how far along in the process they were and some of the plans in the grant request. and Kickoff event coming in March (stay tuned), and additional. Kim stated they are also getting an Oxford House.
- Kim also shared that preliminary discussions have occurred re: potential implementation of Drug Court and Recovery Court in (Logan County?).
- Nadia shared there is a “Hidden in Plain Sight” event at Havana High School on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Next L-M ROSC Council Meeting:**

- Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.
- Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://zoom.us/j/93561727220?pwd=TDVsWHRJdldYWnRnb2dnVFJTaTBByQT09>

Meeting ID: 935 6172 7220 / Passcode: 395255