



MERC Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2023

9:00 a.m. via Zoom

Welcome and Introductions

- Brief introduction of members and agency representing- Members in attendance (29 in attendance): Genna Ginsburg (SIUE), Catherin McLaughlin (Call For Help Living Room), Michelle Brooks (Madison County Health Board), Deborah Humphrey (Madison County 708 Mental Health Board), Ty White, Cora Hughes (Midwest Career Source), Stephanie Everhart (Chestnut Supportive Employment), Mariah Johnson (WIOA Youth Program), Greg Norkus (St. Clair County Probation), Melissa Monte (Aviary Recovery Center), Patika Hackleman (DHS), Violette Book (Chestnut OEND), Angella Holloway (Chestnut Madison/St. Clair ROSC), Dan Hutchison (Chestnut ROSC) Alicia Moesner (Chestnut RCORP), Jamie Armstrong (Amare), Toni Randall (Chestnut Bond County ROSC), Tisha Lancaster (DHS), Jean Schram (Amare), Kaylynn Davis (Chestnut Recovery Coach), Dawn Steward (Gateway Regional), Patrick Small (HSHS Highland), Julie Herr (Chestnut Community Service Cahokia Heights), Tawana Howard (St. Clair County), Theresa Cornelius (HSHS St. Joseph's), Emily Won (MCHD), Burdett Rice (St. Clair County), Dion Buffalo (Centerpointe Hospital)
- If this is your first meeting, please introduce yourself, organization, role, and how learned about MERC

New Business

- MERC welcomes Catherine McLaughlin, Call for Help as our guest speaker, introducing a new program "Developing Recovery Capital"
 - Program works to grow the total resources available for individuals to find and maintain recovery. Consist of peer led groups that cover resources such as personal, community, family/social, and cultural. These meetings are held on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30-2:30 pm at 9400 Lebanon Rd. in East St. Louis. For more info you can reach out to Catherine at cmclaughlin@callforhelpinc.org or call her at 618-397-0968 ext. 271 or view the slides here: https://callforhelpinc707-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/cmclaughlin_callforhelpinc_org/EcpGzmmddlUNGr8lfJwzid-gB6TAIj4l2dFk8f5yQ-Ih_Nw?rttime=X8BF5e4Q2og
- Update on upcoming goals based on Needs Assessment Questionnaires that were submitted by coalition members (Dan Hutchison)
 - Several of you previously submitted information via the Needs Assessment Questionnaires. The MERC Executive Committee

will be meeting on 3/7 to review, discuss, and begin making recommendations for goals to work on for FY24.

- Volunteers to share program information or updates to services and/or special projects during upcoming meetings?

Announcements and upcoming events

- The Latino Roundtable will be hosting the Hispanic Health Fair Festival on May 6, 2023, more information to follow
- Family Support Network has transitioned to Dialpad through Amare. DialPad has the capabilities of recording voice messages and capturing phone numbers so return calls can be made.
- **SMART** Recovery meetings are held in-person Thursdays, 12:30pm at Belleville Library- West Branch (point of contact: Nick at nmiller@callforhelpinc.org). Additional links for virtual SMART meetings have also been emailed along with these meeting minutes (point of contact Kaylynn Davis krdavis@chestnut.org).
- Recovery Support Group open to all that will be held at the Community Hope Center in Cottage Hills (1202 Hope Center Lane) on Thursdays from 2-3pm. (point of contact: Kaylynn Davis krdavis@chestnut.org)
- Amare: Drop In Center open every Saturday from 2-10pm at Amare's Wood River location (144 E. Ferguson Ave)
- Any new announcements of upcoming events?
- 3/16 Challenging the Stigma of MH (in Richmond Heights, MO) hosted by CenterPoint
- HSHS in the process of planning Drug Take Back event in April, more info to come (Patrick)
- Deborah Humphrey provided an update on the Opioid Settlement funds that have been distributed in IL. The Madison County 708 Mental Health Board will be reviewing applications, approving, and allocating funds from the settlement dollars. Applications can be accessed and submitted between now and March 17, 2023. Applications are found on the Madison County Mental Health Boards website: [Welcome to Madison County, IL \(madisoncountyil.gov\)](https://www.madisoncountyil.gov/)

Wellness Moment

- Opportunity to share moments of wellness you participated in and/or client success stories since our last meeting

Next MERC Meeting (via Zoom)

Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

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.