



MERC Meeting Summary

March 16, 2023

9:00 a.m. via Zoom

Welcome and Introductions

- If this is your first meeting, please introduce yourself, organization and how learned about MERC.
- Members in attendance (apologies for any misspellings):
 - Angella Holloway- Chestnut
 - Dan Hutchison- Chestnut
 - Burdett Rice- St. Clair County Probation/Drug Court
 - Dana Rosensweig- St. Clair County MH Board
 - Dawn Steward- Gateway Regional Hospital
 - Joann Guthrie- MERS Goodwill
 - Karen Tilashalski- Chestnut
 - Patrick Hackleman- Counselor
 - Patrick Smalls- HSHS
 - Stephanie Everhart- Chestnut
 - Violette Book- Chestnut
 - Ty White- Independent Member
 - Michelle Brook- Madison County
 - Catherine McLaughlin- Call For Help Living Room
 - Cora Hughes- Midwest Career Sources
 - Julie Pohlman- Chestnut
 - Michael Wooten- Amare
 - Monique Brunious- Chestnut
 - Tawana Howard- St. Clair County Health Department
 - Toni Randall- Chestnut
 - Jamie Armstrong- Amare
 - Jenna Cooper- Call for Help Living Room intern
 - Tracey Love

New Business

- MERC welcomes Karen L. Tilashalski from Chestnut Health System speaking on current Coroner's Report for Madison and St Clair Counties

2022 overdose death summary data for St. Clair and Madison Counties:

1. Overdoses deaths went down in Madison County; in 2022 there were 111.
 2. Overdoses deaths went down in St. Clair County for the second year in a row; in 2022 there were 61.
 3. Fentanyl was involved in 85% of the opioid overdose deaths in Madison County.
 4. Fentanyl was involved in 100% of the opioid overdose deaths in St. Clair County.
 5. Xylazine was involved in 5 of the overdose deaths in Madison County; heroin was involved in 2.
 6. No xylazine or heroin was reported in St. Clair County.
 7. In Madison County, the age range of the deaths was 20-73; the mean average was 46.
 8. In St. Clair County, the age range of the deaths was 19-66; the mean average was 41.
- **MERC welcomes Jamie Armstrong from Amare presenting on the Amare Family Recovery Program.**
 - Amare's new Family Recovery Program provides evidence-based recovery support services to families that have loved ones that have been impacted by a substance use disorder or dependency. Learn more at <https://amarenfp.org> or reach out Jamie at jarmstrong@amarenfp.org
 - **MERC welcomes Daniel Hutchison to present current results of needs assessment and goals for remaining year and 2024**
 - The executive committee met on 3/7/23 to review the results of the Needs Assessment reports submitted by coalition members. Primary area of focus that are being prioritized are 1. Increasing Support for those leaving jails/prisons and 2. Increasing awareness of available services and stigma reduction. Members were asked to consider serving on sub-committees to focus on these areas.

Announcements and upcoming events

- **SMART Recovery meetings are no longer being held at Belleville Library- West Branch**
- 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)
- Volunteers are needed in Belleville to help clean up Mount Hope on March 18 from 9-11am at 9401 West Main
- The Latino Roundtable will be hosting the Hispanic Health Fair Festival on May 6, 2023, more information to follow
- Upcoming Drug Take Back Day events will be happening for sure at St. Joseph's in Highland (more info from Patrick Smalls/Teresa Cornelius/Alicia Moesner), and also at the O'Fallon Police Department.

MERC Upcoming Zoom Meeting

Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 9:00 A.M. via 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.