

May 18, 2023 ROSC Council Minutes:

Meeting was called to order by ROSC Coordinator Tia Schum at 3pm on May 18, 2023 at The Piatt County Mental Health Center.

Attendance was taken: Tia Schum (ROSC Coordinator); Hunter Carver (PLE); Michele Eliason (SUPR Prevention); Dan Koenigs (CADC – Center); Sean McMullen (PLE); Cristin McMullen (IMPACT PCMH); Ted Lowers (Dewitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department); Steve Keagle (Lodge Church of God); Jaime Porter (Piatt Co Mental Health – Clinical Director); David King (Carle Health) Tony Kirkman (Piatt Co Mental Health – ED). In addition the following participants joined via ZOOM: Andrea Kocher (Willow Tree Missions); Julie Pohlman (Statewide ROSC Region 4); Paul Spangler (First Presbyterian Church).

Introductions – General Introductions were given.

Communication Plan – Tia discussed the Suboxone Clinic at Kirby stating that things are going well. Tia shared that there have been two new patients join the Suboxone program who have also been referred for mental health services per their own request. Tia discussed the support group at the Piatt County Jail is going well. Tia has received feedback from Karla Bell, Director of the Jail as well as a few others that the inmates that participate in the group are getting something valuable out of the group. This shows the need to continue with this group. There have been questions from inmates in regards to services after they are released but none have followed up. Tia reports that there has not been any attendance at the Youth Support Group. Tia shared that the last meeting for the Youth Support Group was last Tuesday due to this being the final week of school for Bement students. Tia presented the question, “how to approach getting kids to attend” next school year. The Wednesday evening support group is going strong! The group has between 4 and 5 members who attend. Tia has contacted Oxford housing to get a tour and is working on a tour date reschedule. Tia discussed all sports day as well as the pool party for the Bement middle and Bement high school students! Tia stressed the importance of having volunteers to assist with both of these events. Tia also discussed the need to start collecting food donations for the upcoming fiscal year of events. Tia explained the main thing is meat. Cristin McMullen stated that her and her family have 10 lbs. of hamburger to be donated. Tia discussed that the sectors and subsectors are starting to fill up nicely and that there are 6 sub sectors left to fill. Tia then discussed the community NARCAN training being held at the libraries idea that Tony K presented. Tony also discussed the IPLAN and a few numbers that stood out to him, Piatt County being rated top 5 out of 102 counties for binge drinking as well as top 3 out of 102 counties for fatalities caused by alcohol consumption.

David King let folks now about the ICAHN Conference coming up on June 27th. Tia expressed interest and encouraged others to go. David also spoke about the MAR NOW program. David explained that this program is funded through SUPR and that it is an 800 phone number that is available for folks ready for recovery from opioids to call. After completing a telehealth appointment, the person calling then gets a prescription for only Buprenorphine (Suboxone) for 14 days. This allows the person time to be linked up with a local doctor who can continue with the addiction treatment.

Tony shared that on a board level, the next “rung” of harm reduction is being discussed. This next “rung” is fentanyl test strips. Tony went on to share other “rungs” of harm reduction including SSP (Safe Syringe Programs) or CNEP (Clean Needle Exchange Programs) or Safe Usage Sights. Tony explained that regardless of the personal hang ups someone might have about harm reduction as a whole or the different aspects, the scientific data shows the positive outweighs the negative.

This Month's Activities – Tia discussed Bement School districts first prevention week and shared some photos that went along with the week. Tia explained that due to the donations of gift cards from local businesses and the amount of participation, this will continue yearly in Bement with the hopes of getting other schools in Piatt County to have their own activities during prevention week. Tia also discussed the Murder Mystery event. Tia explained that the event raised \$332 to go back into the ROSC nest egg to assist with covering food and other items not covered by the grant.

Speaker – Hunter Carver, PLE, was invited to speak this evening on behalf of the Wednesday evening group held in Bement from 5 pm to 6 pm. Hunter explained that he has had clean time a few times but nothing really ever stuck. Hunter explained that the last time he used was over 5 years ago, about 5 and a half years ago. Hunter stated that prior to that, he had tried what they call “in Kentucky “Monkey Weed” but that Illinois folks know it has synthetic Marijuana”. Hunter stated that the last two years of his active addiction were “total hell”. Hunter attributes his sobriety to getting out of Kentucky and the birth of his grandson. Hunter stated that the first month of recovery he felt like he was going to die. Hunter went on to talk about the Wednesday evening support group and how it has helped him. Hunter stated that he has friends that he can lean on if and when times get tough and that when he has missed a meeting, he can fill it. Hunter explained that he didn't start coming right away but instead watched for a moment and then decided to give it a try. Sean M asked Hunter if he had a history of addiction before trying the synthetic marijuana. Hunter stated that when he was a truck driver, to get the load delivered in a timely manner when not given enough time he would take stimulants, pills, to assist in staying away for days just to get the drive done. Hunter explained that he never struggled with “putting something down” until he tried synthetic marijuana.

ROSC Deliverables – The ROSC deliverables are constantly looked at to ensure the Piatt County ROSC Committee is staying the course.

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:

Bement All Sports Day – June 10

Bement End of the Year Pool Party – June 24

ICAHN Conference – June 27

DEC (Drug Endangered Children) training – 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 June 15 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 pm

Recorded by ROSC Coordinator, Tia Schum