

## Effingham County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes 9.18.2023

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Date: September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Time: 1:00-2:00pm

Location: 104 Blohm Ave, Effingham IL & Zoom

Attendees:

**Zoom:** Margot Cepeda (VA Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator,) Brook Dunn (CRC in Vandalia, CPRS, CRSS,) Kevin McNally (SUD Counselor HHS,) Sam Weidner (Special Events Director Effingham & Clay County Health Department,) Deysi Gonzalez (Effingham Co Health Department Lingual Resource Specialist,) Kenneth Sterner (State Police, Drug force Analyst,) Rachel Tucker (Mental Health Liaison/Problem Solving Court,) Karen Cook (ROSC Supervisor) Jenee Westjohn (Effingham Probation)

**In person:** Kat O'Brien (Gateway Foundation Warm Hand Off Program,) Becky Rhodes (Family Life Center), Wallace Flaming (PLE,) Beth Wise (0-3 Home Visiting Program,) Melissa Monte (Marketing Associate at Aviary Recovery Center,) Cody Bushue (PLE,) Samantha Hicks (Effingham County ROSC Coordinator) Felicia Depoister (Effingham County ROSC Navigator)

Secretary: Samantha Hicks

### Minutes

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Council meeting attendees introduced themselves and agencies they represent or reason for being present.

#### **ROSC Coordinator/Recovery Navigator update**

Samantha H. reminded the Council to sign updated MOUs to ensure contacts for each organization are correct. Felicia D. gave an update on her peer-to-peer meetings with individuals in the community. She stated she meets with one woman in person and other individuals via phone calls weekly. She said she speaks with 5-6 peers weekly regularly. She discussed some barriers via referrals, such as disconnected phones. Samantha H. stated Felicia will keep an Excel sheet to track the statistics of her referrals, such as when and where they came from, how many times she's reached (successful/unsuccessful,) and updates on how the peer is doing.

Samantha H. discussed the Narcan training with Tri-Star Academy and Aspire High School and explained what adolescents the school admits. Students often come to them for truancy, behind on grades or credits, eligible for expulsion or expelled, teen parents, etc. They are an alternative school, but the difference between them and TLC is they do not typically have students with IEPs as they do not offer special ed services. About 8 years ago, they integrated a trauma-informed pilot approach to teaching and learning. They focus on academics but also teach students the brain science behind trauma and toxic stress, focusing on the brain's ability

to adapt and overcome with supportive relationships and healthy coping skills. Samantha H. and Felicia provided 8 staff members with Narcan and Narcan training.

Samantha H. stated that Effingham County is receiving a free Harm Reduction Box to hold Narcan and other HR supplies such as fentanyl test strips, gloves, etc. Marianne Drainer from Chestnut Health Systems reached out to Samantha H. as her position is to give Harm Reduction supplies to the 9 counties she oversees via a DOPP grant. Samantha H. asked for suggestions on where to place this box, similar to a newsstand. Samantha H. suggested the Amtrak station, Wallace F. suggested Walmart, Becky R. suggested the courthouse lawn where the museum is located, and Cody B. suggested Speedway off Fayette Ave. Rachel T. suggested Jack Flash as it is locally owned. The discussion of high-traffic areas, target population, and vandalism was discussed. It is unclear now if the box will bolt down or if it is temperature-controlled due to storing Narcan. Samantha H. let the Council know Marianne is delivering the box this week and will inform the Council of its condition at the next Council meeting. Samantha H. will also reach out to these locations mentioned to see if they'd be receptive to housing the box, as ROSC will be responsible for refilling it as needed. Jenee W. stated she would get the contact information for the Amtrak station and email Samantha H. Becky R. said Delane Donaldson is the contact for the museum on the courthouse lawn. Samantha H. mentioned ROSC will be providing Narcan training to the Family Life Center staff in October for all their locations.

### **Advisory subcommittee update**

Cody B. gave an update on the Advisory subcommittee meeting on September 5th. He stated what was discussed in terms of what the committee would like to see happen in Effingham County regarding treatment, jobs, and sober events. Cody B. mentioned the design for the yard signs that ROSC will purchase and plans for the Halloween Parade in October. The next Advisory Subcommittee meeting will be September 25th, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Kirby Foods IGA in Effingham, IL.

### **ROSC Related Events**

- ❖ *FREE Laundry Day Event*- Friday, September 29th, 2023, from 9 am-7 pm at Becker's Wash - N- Dry. Samantha H. stated the ECHD is providing the funds for this event and dental kits. ROSC has gathered items such as shampoo, conditions, combs, deodorant, soap, Chapstick, and hand sanitizer. Melissa Monte from the Aviary Treatment Center in MO has donated 10 pre-made hygiene kits. Samantha H. asked about plans for the coming months and obtaining future sponsorship when the ECHD grant ends after December 2023. Many members suggested contacting churches such as First Baptist, Centenary Methodist, First Presbyterian (Pastor Katie,) New Hope, and First Church of God. Samantha H. will reach out in the coming months to coordinate possible partnerships.
- ❖ *Cornerstone Trunk or Treat*- Saturday, October 28th, 2023, from 3-5 pm. Samantha H. stated that ROSC will be there at 2 pm to set up and pass out candy and brochures and have Narcan available. Samantha H. asked for candy donations for this event.
- ❖ *Halloween Parade*- Sunday, October 29th, 2023, at 2 pm. The Advisory subcommittee has ordered T-shirts with the Recovery logo and provided the truck and trailer for this event. Samantha H. stated about 10-15 people are walking/riding currently for ROSC & that others

from different organizations are welcome to join. Samantha H. is asking for candy donations for this event as well. She stated a couple of PLEs have already donated 1000-piece candy bags. Samantha H. noted the theme for the parade is "Favorite Space Characters" and asked for suggestions on how to participate in the theme as well. Samantha H. suggests face paint like aliens. Cody B. suggested making a float of some sort. Details will be sorted out via the Advisory Subcommittee Facebook page and emailed to the rest of the Council for updates.

### **FY24 Strategic Plan**

Samantha H. addressed the current Strategic Plan for Effingham County and asked everyone in attendance to provide 1 goal and a couple objectives on how to carrying out the goal for the Council's FY24 Strategic Plan. Beth W. voiced Sober events. Becky R. voiced a prior vision of the mall being made into a Recovery Community Organization. Mention of the "180 building" is used for large events, primarily by New Hope Church. Someone suggested more treatment options via Level 3.5. Wallace F. stated that the organizations present have more pull and contacts to make the treatment piece work. The discussion of this long-term goal was ended as the meeting was adjourned.

Next ROSC Meeting Date: **Monday, October 16th @ 1 pm**

Location: **104 Blohm Ave in Effingham & Zoom**

Next Advisory Committee Meeting Date: **Monday, September 25th @ 2pm**

Location: **Kirby Foods IGA (restaurant part)- 101 S. Merchant, Effingham, IL 62401**

Contacts:

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