

Douglas County ROSC Council Meeting Notes

Date: December 18, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Location: Virtual via Zoom and In-Person at the Douglas County Annex, 209 East Van Allen, Tuscola, IL

1. Holiday Themed Welcome and Introductions

Douglas County ROSC Council Meeting Attendees:

Angie Hunt – Healthcare Navigation Specialist, DCHD, **Julie Pohlman** - Statewide ROSC, Region 4 TA, **Brandy** – CORS Recovery Navigator, Coles County, **Joe Duncan** - Chief of Police, Atwood, **Carrie McKinzie** - Gateway Foundation, **Kristin Davis** - Family Guidance Centers, **James Sanders** - Recovery Navigator, Edgar County, **Amber Clark** - Community Engagement Coordinator, VA, **Brycen McFadden**, Outreach worker Oxford House, **Tisha Gatson** – Brightpoint, **Barb Gibson** – PAL, **Jaya Kolisetty** – executive Director, RACES, **Linda Scribner** - Founder of Be Brave, **Tia Schum** - Piatt County ROSC Coordinator, **Matthew Hales**, Newman Librarian, **Diane Zell** – NAMI, **Lisa Edwards** - Douglas County Coroner, **Jason Pantier** - Douglas County Probation, **Kandis Mills** - Douglas County ROSC Navigator, **Lisa Blackwell** - Douglas County ROSC Coordinator, **Rob Woods** – Firefighter,

2. Review and Approval of November Meeting Minutes

- November meeting minutes were reviewed and approved without objections.
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3. Organizational Spotlight / Guest Presentation

Presenter: Amber Clark, Community Engagement Coordinator, VA

Topic: Suicide Prevention Resources and Strategies

- Key highlights:
 - Discussed alcohol and substance use as risk factors for suicide.
 - Data from 2021 shows 6,392 veteran suicides, with the 2024 report releasing soon.
 - Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) and PTSD significantly increase suicide risk among veterans.
 - Emphasized safe storage of firearms and medications.
 - VA S.A.V.E. program: Signs, Asking, Validating experiences, Encouraging action.
 - Crisis line information:
 - Phone: 988, press 1 (Veteran Crisis Line).
 - Chat: veteranscrisisline.net/Chat.
 - Text: 838255.
 - Over 150,000 gun locks distributed in Illinois; free upon request.

4. Deliverables

a. Community Resource and Asset Mapping

- Reviewed recovery resources available in Douglas County.
- Discussed additional support needed to fill key gaps in services.

b. Community Survey Update

- 950 survey responses needed to meet the 5% population goal.
- Current distribution points: schools, factories, and social media (Facebook page).
- Encouraged each council member to collect 4-5 more responses.
- Timeline for data analysis set for January 2025 planning.

5. Homelessness Awareness Initiative

- Update on distribution of homeless bags, which included hand-knitted scarves, hats, and gloves.
- Remaining bags available for emergencies—contact the council if needed.

6. Transitional Housing Updates (PJ's Place)

- Updates provided by Linda Scribner.
- Discussed plans for another thrift sale in spring to support PJ's Place and Be Brave.
- Additional fundraising event in spring, details will be released later.

7. Faith-Based Recovery Initiative

- Updates on partnerships with faith-based organizations.
- Next steps include increasing involvement through initiatives like Certified Recovery Congregations.

8. PLE Initiative (Persons with Lived Experience)

- Discussion on benefits of PLEs on the council.
- Subcommittee to be formed to involve PLEs in council activities and events.
- Call for interested participants.

9. Planning for the Holiday Season

- Focused on resources and support for families affected by SUD during the holidays.
- Information shared through newsletters and community initiatives.

10. Navigator Updates

- Updates for January and February:
 - Community Zoom meetings planned
 - Continued one-on-one peer support.
- Ongoing jail visits.
- Assisting with community survey distribution (e.g., coffee shops).

11. Local Events and New Ideas

- Ideas for spring and summer recovery events, including a picnic and speak-and-eat gatherings.
- Opportunity to suggest events and speakers for the new year.

12. Next Meeting Details

- **Date:** January 22, 2025
- **Time:** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- **Location:** Virtual and In-Person at the Douglas County Annex.
- **Guest Speaker:** Focus on PLE New Beginnings and Goal Setting.