

Coles County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: March 3, 2025

Time: 12:00PM – 1:00PM

Location: Life Span Center Auditorium / Zoom

1. Welcome & Introductions

- **Lisa Blackwell** opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Attendees introduced themselves, including:
 - Lisa Blackwell – Coles County ROSC Coordinator
 - Kandice Mills – Douglas County Recovery Navigator
 - Brendan Hartley – Person with Lived Experience
 - Gary Stephan – Wingman Ministries
 - Robert Davis – Community Member
 - Scott Swaim – The Pavilion Hospital, Champaign
 - Jasmine Gast – Recovery Navigator
 - David Cottrell – Addictions Deflection Specialist, Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC), DART
 - Carrie McKinzie – Gateway Foundation
 - Tyler Warner – Recovery Navigator, BASE Program
 - Brenda Engel – Sail
 - Kristen Davis – Regional Substance Use Prevention Integration Coordinator, Family Guidance Center
 - Brandy Slaunter – Recovery Navigator, CORES Program
 - Leanna Morgan – BASE Program Coordinator
 - Whitley Grayson – Recovery Navigator, Coles & Cumberland Drug Court
 - Heather Myers – Outreach Coordinator, Salvation Army's Support Services for Veterans and Families
 - Michelle Hibbard – Community Relations Coordinator, Rosecrance
 - Julie Pohlman – Region 4 Technical Assistance, Chestnut
 - Carley Parks – Sail
 - Johanna Gonzalez – ROSC Coordinator, Illinois DHS SUPR

- Heather Meyers – Outreach Coordinator, Salvation Army’s Support Services for Veterans and Families
 - Michelle Hyberd – Community Relations Coordinator, Rosecrance Central Illinois
 - Jenna Hayes – ROSC Supervisor, Recovery Outreach Coordinator
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2. Overview of ROSC and Meeting Objectives

- Lisa Blackwell provided an overview of **Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC)** and its mission in **Coles County** to assist individuals and families affected by substance use disorder (SUD).
 - Goals for the meeting:
 - Strengthening **Coles County’s recovery supports**
 - Increasing **community collaboration**
 - Sharing **organizational updates and resources**
 - Promoting **education and awareness**
 - Identifying **community needs and challenges**
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3. Guest Speaker: Jasmine Gast – Lived Experience

- **Jasmine Gast, Recovery Navigator for Coles County**, shared her personal journey of recovery.
 - Highlights of her story:
 - **Clean date:** August 4, 2022.
 - Grew up in **foster care** and struggled with addiction from an early age.
 - Began **substance use at 15** following a knee surgery and later progressed to **methamphetamine use**.
 - Became a **mother at 19** while still in active addiction.
 - Eventually sought **treatment and recovery**, which transformed her life.
 - Now works in **community outreach** to support others in recovery.
 - Jasmine emphasized that **long-term recovery is possible with support, resources, and community connection**.
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4. Community Recovery Efforts & Initiatives

A. Education & Outreach Programs

- Jasmine provided updates on **community education classes**:
 - February's topic: **Healthy Relationships** (Valentine's Day theme).
 - March's topic: **Money Management & Recovery** (St. Patrick's Day theme).
 - Classes are currently held at the **library**, but new **location options** are being considered to increase attendance.

B. Community Laundry Days

- Initiative to provide **free laundry services** for people in need.
- Currently, **\$200 has been raised**, but more donations (monetary, detergent, dryer sheets) are needed.
- Potential **laundromat locations** being considered in **Mattoon and Charleston**.

C. Upcoming Event: Together in Tune – Recovery Jam

- Scheduled for **March 20th, 1:30-4:30 PM**.
- Features:
 - **Live music & open mic**.
 - **Free coffee and snacks**.
 - **Community resources & education** on ROSC.
- **Goal**: Celebrate **recovery**, **reduce stigma**, and increase community engagement.

D. Additional Planned Events

- **Recovery Grub Fest** – A summer event featuring **local food vendors and recovery education**.
- **Bring Your Own Mug (BYOM) Coffee Events** – A sober alternative gathering at local coffee shops with photography & community voting for the best mug.
- **EIU Bowling Night** – Engaging college students in recovery awareness.
- **Faith & Community Subcommittee** – New subcommittee promoting **faith-based recovery events**, including **prayer in the park** and interfaith collaborations.

5. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes & Community Resources

- **Meeting minutes** from the previous council meeting were reviewed and approved by **Kandace Mills**.
 - **Community Asset Map:**
 - Lists **recovery-related resources in Coles County**.
 - **Lisa requested members** to submit additional resources to keep the map updated.
 - **Discussion on Community Needs:**
 - Need for **better transportation options** for those seeking treatment.
 - **Proposed idea:** Creating a **transportation resource list** (including local volunteers).
 - Concern that **recovery housing beds are available but not well-known**.
 - **Solution:** Develop a **centralized list of recovery housing with availability tracking**.
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6. Community Survey & Needs Assessment

- **Survey results** provided **important insights** into Coles County's recovery needs.
 - Key findings:
 - **Increased demand for recovery housing**.
 - **Ongoing stigma** prevents some individuals from seeking help.
 - **Need for additional outreach** to underserved communities.
 - **Strategic Plan in Development:**
 - Based on the **survey data & needs assessment**, a **strategic plan** is being created.
 - **Members encouraged** to share ideas for the plan before submission at the end of the month.
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7. Open Discussion & Additional Updates

- **New Ideas & Future Initiatives:**
 - **Recovery Resource Fair:** A proposed **gathering of recovery organizations** and treatment providers.
 - **More collaboration with sober living homes and transportation providers**.
- **Social Media Outreach:**

- Members encouraged to **follow and share the Coles County ROSC Facebook page** to increase awareness.
 - Organizations **can submit updates for posting** on ROSC's page and newsletter.
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8. Next Meeting & Guest Speaker

- **Next Meeting Date:** April 7th, 2025
 - **Guest Speaker:** Representatives from **BASE Program (Build, Amplify, Support, Empower)**
 - **BASE works with at-risk youth in school settings** using intervention programs.
 - **Future discussion:** Overview of **Handle with Care Initiative**.
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9. Closing Remarks

- Lisa **thanked attendees** for their participation and **encouraged continued collaboration**.
 - Members were reminded that **ROSC is a community effort**, and their involvement is crucial.
 - Meeting adjourned.
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Coles ROSC Contact Information:

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