

EDGAR COUNTY ROSC MEETING MINUTES

April 22nd, 2025

5:15 PM

Paris Hospital Conference Room D and on Zoom

Attendees: Nicki Hanks, Jessica Parrill, Lexanna Strader, Norm Wilson, Judy Benton, Jack Hoffman, Rick Cook, Doug Cochran, Susan Essinger, Vicki Dick, Amy Hornbrook, Amanda Thompson, Sue Sheeran, Nate Alexander, Janice Watson, Bethany Wagoner, Kyra Graham, Marlyn Frey, Michelle Hibbard, Cindy Spencer, Jennifer Bonawhit,

Spotlight Agency/Program Choices Pregnancy and Health Resources (Janice Watson)

Janice shared an overview of her role at Choices Pregnancy and Health, highlighting that the organization's mission extends beyond addressing pregnancy to supporting young women in navigating significant life decisions. She outlined the three primary options available to individuals experiencing an unplanned pregnancy: parenting, adoption, and abortion. For those who choose to parent, Janice discussed the comprehensive support available, including access to educational classes and the "Earn While You Learn" baby store, which provides essential baby supplies. She also explained the adoption option, noting that the center offers thorough information and ongoing support throughout the process. For individuals considering abortion, Choices provides accurate, nonjudgmental information to help them make informed decisions.

Janice emphasized that the organization's core mission is to offer unconditional love, support, and compassion, regardless of the individual's choice. She further highlighted the availability of resources for those who have had abortions, as well as ongoing education on healthy relationships and pregnancy prevention, reflecting Choices' holistic and empowering approach to care.

Janice expanded on the educational resources available for parenting, detailing a broad curriculum that includes topics such as prenatal care, the emotions of pregnancy, labor and delivery, safe hygiene, postpartum self-care, going home alone with baby, shaken baby syndrome, breastfeeding, and the baby's first year. Additionally, Choices offers classes that address wider life and family dynamics, including anger management, raising a strong-willed child, and co-parenting.

Janice conveyed that Choices Pregnancy and Health is committed to walking alongside individuals at every step of their journey, providing them with the knowledge, resources, and emotional support needed to make empowered and informed decisions.

Strategic Plan for Second Chance Employment

Nicki led a discussion on the strategic plan for second chance employment opportunities in Edgar County. The team discussed potential employers to reach out to, including Betty Jane's Kitchen and Main Street Cafe. They also considered involving local companies and individuals in the employment process. Jennifer suggested Aerogentech as a potential employer, and Nate proposed approaching EDCO, an economic organization. The team agreed to set up individual meetings with these potential employers to explore opportunities.

Council Member of the month

During the meeting, Nate Alexander was honored as Council Member of the Month, a recognition well-deserved for his outstanding dedication and service to the community. His impact has been felt widely across numerous local initiatives, as he remains actively involved in PERk, ROSC, and the Ministerial Fellowship, among other efforts. Nate serves on several boards and played a vital role in the development of the Doorway to Hope initiative, further demonstrating his commitment to fostering community well-being.

As a pastor at Lake Ridge, Nate consistently goes above and beyond to support individuals facing hardship, offering both spiritual and practical guidance. His compassion is evident in the small yet meaningful ways he serves—such as personally providing transportation to individuals so they can attend Laundry Day, ensuring even their most basic needs are met with dignity and care. His selfless contributions continue to uplift and strengthen the community.

Upcoming Community Events

Nicki provided an overview of several upcoming community events designed to promote connection, wellness, and recovery. She announced **Recovery on a Roll with ROSC**, a **Free Skate Night** scheduled for **April 24th, 2025, at 6 p.m.** at the **Skating Rink at Twin Lakes**. Another exciting event is **ROSC Flow: Recovery Flow**, a **yoga session** taking place on **Thursday, May 15th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.** at **Westlake Park in Paris**. Nicki also highlighted the **Color the Sky** event, a fun and creative **kite decorating and flying** activity to be held on **June 7th at Sunrise Park on North High Street in Paris**. This event will be hosted in collaboration with **Clark and Cumberland ROSC**, and community participation is encouraged. Nicki extended a warm invitation to everyone to attend and encouraged those interested to **set up a booth**, noting that such involvement would be greatly appreciated.

Agency Updates

ECPHD

The Edgar County Public Health Department will host a **Community Baby Shower** on **Thursday, May 1st, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** at the **STEP Station, 14793 East 1200 Road, Paris, IL**. This **free event** for moms and babies includes **food, giveaways, prizes, and fresh**

produce from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois Farmer's Market. Attendees can also enjoy a **lunch session** with **guest speakers** and receive **complimentary gifts**.

Neighborhood Watch

No update at this time.

HRC

It was announced that **HRC and ROSC** are partnering to introduce a **Recovery Walk** the morning of this year's **Recovery Picnic**. This new addition aims to further promote awareness and unity within the recovery community. More details will be shared as planning continues. An upcoming **planning meeting is scheduled for this Thursday**, and organizers hope to provide additional information to everyone shortly after.

CARE Coalition

Drug take-back day was Monday. CARE has been able to find new bored members and plans to have a meeting soon

Soup Kitchen (Vicki Dick/ Sue Sheeran)

The Soup Kitchen needs volunteers! They serve anywhere from 80 to 100 individuals a day.

Trafficking Training/ Handle With Care (Doug)

Doug shared several important updates. He has a human trafficking training scheduled for District 95 this fall, aiming to raise awareness and equip staff with critical knowledge. He also reported that the Handle With Care program is progressing well, with both the FBI and Illinois State Police approving its implementation. In addition, Doug is collaborating with the DEA on the One Pill Can Kill campaign, which will be brought to local schools in Edgar County to educate students on the dangers of counterfeit pills and drug use.

RU Recovery (Rick Cook)

Program is going well .

Celebrate Recovery (Janice Watson)

Celebrate Recovery has started serving a light Meal. They have been seeing some new faces.

Homelessness Initiative (Nate Alexander)

The **homeless initiative** is continuing to move forward, though there have been a few **challenges and setbacks** along the way, which were expected as part of the process. Despite these obstacles, progress is being made, and efforts remain focused on finding sustainable solutions to support those in need.

National Day of Prayer Freedom Rally (Jack Hoffman)

The **Freedom Rally**, a **National Day of Prayer and Evening of Hope**, will take place on **May 1st, 2025**, at **6:00 p.m.** at the **First Baptist Church in Paris**. A meal will follow the event. Attendees who would like to **take pictures with the performers** are encouraged to arrive by **5:30 p.m.** to do so before the program begins.

Next Meeting: Ma 27th, 2025, at Paris Hospital Conference Room A and on Zoom.