

Effingham County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, April 28th, 2025

Time: 1:00-2:00 pm

Location: 104 Blohm Ave, Effingham & Zoom

Meeting Facilitator: Samantha Hicks

Attendees:

In person: Kat O'Brien (Gateway Foundation Warm Hand off Program @ HSHS), Felicia Depoister (Effingham County ROSC Recovery Navigator, CPRS), Samantha Hicks (Effingham County ROSC Coordinator), Scott Deweese (Pavilion Outreach Coordinator), Merl (PLE), Beth Wise (ECHD, Family Connections), Nathan Nichols (CEFS Public Transit), Margot Cepeda (VA Affairs), Carrie McKinzie (Gateway Foundation- Outreach), Janet Keyes (Family Resource Center), Jenn Galvan (Family Resource Center of Effingham Co)

Zoom: Kelly Buscher & Maria Deaconesa (Case Managers of Effingham County), Alex Schneider (HSHS Community Health Outreach Specialist), Maggie Gouchenouer (IL TASC/State Police Data Analyst), Meghan Rewers (Director of Crisis Nursey of Effingham County), Kristin Davis (Family Guidance Center- Prevention Integration Coordinator), Walt Altman (New Hope, unhoused), Samantha Weidner (Effingham/Clay County Health Department)

Minutes

Introductions

Council meeting attendees introduced themselves and the agencies they represent or why they were attending. Samantha then gave an overview of ROSC for new people who are attending the meeting. Samantha stated she is "super jazzed" about the upcoming months because exciting things are happening! She also stated to be sure to attend the May 19th Council meeting. We will have a guest speaker from Oxford House talk about the valuable resource coming to the area SOON.

Coordinator & Recovery Navigator update

- Samantha stated her and Felicia have been/will be infiltrating the Edgewood/Mason area. A new sub-ROSC meeting will be held there every 4th Monday of the month from 6-7pm at the Edgewood Grade School. Samantha stated that the villages of Effingham County have slightly different needs than Effingham city and want to make steps towards community changes in those villages.
- Felicia is starting a bi-weekly (starting tomorrow, April 29th) Recovery Wellness group from 4:30-5:30pm at the Edgewood Grade School as well.
- A community wide Narcan training will be held June 10th during the meeting since the creation of the DOPP site at Unique Treasures.

- New Light Counseling accepts ALL MCOs & Medicare now.
 - Shared the impact Rosie has made on family members of those using substances via a personal story from community member. Also addressed that Andes Health Mart sells Narcan for \$50 a box. Samantha will be reaching out for an education opportunity and possible partnership.
- Griffin Therapeutic Solutions accepts BCBS & Aetna now.

Date & time of Council meeting discussion

Samantha stated that 8 of the 12 survey results stated Monday from 8am-6pm was the best day. 6 voted morning and 6 voted afternoons of this day. Samantha stated she did not put a “keep meeting time and date as is” option for which she apologizes. Samantha asked if anyone greatly opposes keeping the Council meeting date and time the same. Majority agreed to keep as it for FY26.

Samantha stated she will be putting action items on the agenda moving forward to hopefully give Council members a way to feel “a part of” in reference to the Council.

ACTION ITEM: Needing help with tech support during Council meetings; watch the chat on Zoom & display documents that are being reviewed. **Beth Wise volunteered to do this for next month’s Council meeting.**

Council engagement & membership protocols discussion

Samantha stated she sent out a survey that asked about Council member’s particular strengths, how to get involved with ROSC, any interest in subcommittees, why members attend meetings, barriers to actionable tasks outside the Council meeting, etc. to get a gauge on how to help facilitate Council members ideas and goals for the Council. 5 surveys were received back which stated the biggest barrier of actionable tasks outside the Council meeting is time and commitments (services provided from job and personal).

Samantha stated that this Council is volunteer basis even though most of us are here on for work on work time, including herself. **Merl** is a PLE here today, he has some extra time to help. **Walt** has some time. Find some people who are passionate about the work ROSC is doing that have more time to dedicate than the service providers. We need to expand out reach.

Beth asked for a clear definition on what Council members need to be doing. Give someone a direct task to complete.

Merl shared his experience as a PLE and the barriers he has faced with the court systems and DCFS during his recovery journey. He stated that someone from probation, state attorney, or courts needs to be at this table. He stated he didn’t know where to turn when he first started recovery because ROSC wasn’t around. He stated he’s faced barrier after barrier such as finances, transportation to mandated appointments, and wrongful cases pertaining to DCFS. He stated it’s really hard to stay afloat while trying to build a support system for recovery while having to deal with all the other obligations placed on someone who is new in recovery. He

stated he found recovery in AA then transitioned to CR and was able to build a support system but still faces challenges legally day to day for his past. He stated that the legal system breaks people down and then people just give up because they have no hope of ever getting out of the hole they dug themselves.

Samantha asked if anyone from the table could invite someone from the legal system to the next meeting or any meeting. **Jenn** stated she can. **Merl** stated he can but would probably be better coming from someone else that's not currently wrapped up in cases. **Carrie** stated that Molly Williamson is the new probation director replacing Cheryl Meyers. **Merl** stated he thinks Christine Winters would be a great person to have at this table. **Merl** stated he will go to probation after this meeting to invite someone to come.

ACTION ITEM: Invite 1 person to the next Council meeting.

Beth mentioned that when the Deflection Initiative for this area launches, it would be good to have the Deflection Specialists here. Samantha stated the launch is projected to be in the fall. Deflection is a program facilitated by TASC Center for Health and Justice that has been being implemented in stages over the past year for this area (including Effingham County). It will be mainly used by law enforcement when they come in contact with an individual who needs more help than they can provide on the scene. Law enforcement contacts the Deflection Specialists to get the person connected to the resources in the area through relentless engagement to deflect them from going into the system again or for the first time.

Nathan suggested making a flow chart for all the organizations and what they offer instead of a resource guide. He stated it may be easier to follow if someone is in crisis. Samantha asked if anyone is willing to start creating this flow chart or a flow chart for their organizations' services to compile. No one responded at this time. **Merl** and **Nathan** discussed the services CIPT offers such as on-demand response and ETRAX. **Merl** was unaware of these services. **Nathan** suggested going into the CRs and talking about ROSC since there seems to be a need to get resources in people's hands.

Samantha reviewed the updated membership protocols and asked for input on the Council's mission statement. **Merl** suggested flipping the mission statement and council vision. **Beth, Jenn, Felicia, Kelly, Meghan, Sam W.,** and **Nathan** also had suggestions as the mission statement was wordy. **Beth** typed up the new mission statement during the meeting and sent it to Samantha with Council's approval.

Samantha discussed "membership expectations" and highlighted inviting new members to join our Council to bring new ideas to the table. She also highlighted talking about the SOLUTIONS at meetings rather than focusing on the barriers so we can facilitate change in the community. She stated her and Felicia have been meeting with stakeholders to find out what barriers their agencies specifically face when serving their clients. She stated that agencies have protocols that they have to adhere to before making big changes, so having people at the table who know

what their agencies protocols and directives are would be helpful in addressing systemic change.

Merl asked if he can bring more people from AA, NA, and CR to this meeting. Samantha stated “Yes, bring them all” and stressed the fact that our “main” Council meeting needs to have voices of people with lived experience to have them tell use real time barriers they’re facing.

Samantha asked if anyone would like to implement a subcommittee—housing, transportation, education/presentations, events, etc. No statements at this time, but Samantha stated to think about it and we’ll revisit this topic.

Samantha gave an overview of ROSC events coming up and stated we’re needing Oct-Dec laundry day sponsors. **Meghan** asked how much it costs to sponsor a laundry day. Samantha stated \$250-\$300 typically are what we dispense in quarters.

Samantha stated she sent out an updated “Find Treatment quick guide” with the help of **Carrie, Felicia, and Bonnie** (Shelby/Moultrie Co ROSC).

Beth stated that the Family Resource Center has started Partnering with Parents—a group of parents who run the meeting for support of families involved with DCFS. Anyone with current or past DCFS involvement can come and gain support from parents who have been through it and come out on the other side with their children. She stated representatives from Springfield come and share information and ideas with parents for this area. She stated May 5th from 3-5pm is the next meeting in this building.

Upcoming events

- ***Parking Lot Party + Narcan Training***
 - **Monday, May 5th @ 5-6:30pm @ Colonnade Apartments in Effingham**
- ***Community-wide Narcan training***
 - **Tuesday, June 10th @ 4:30-5:30pm @ Edgewood Grade School**
- ***Tails and Trials***
 - **Saturday, May 24th @ 10am-12pm @ Ballard Nature Center in Altamont**
 - **Partnership with Family Mental Health Support**
- ***Summer Serenity Gathering- PLE Committee***
 - **Saturday, June 21st @ 2pm @ Edgewood Legion Lake in Edgewood**
- ***Sub-ROSC meeting (better name to come)***
 - **Monday, June 23rd @ 6-7pm @ Edgewood Grade School**
 - **Will take place every 4th Monday of the month; in person only for now**

Contact emails:

Effingham County ROSC Coordinator

Samantha Hicks—samanthah@hourhouserecovery.org

Effingham County ROSC Recovery Navigator

Felicia Depoister—feliciad@hourhouserecovery.org

ROSC Program Supervisor

Jenna Hays- jennah@hourhouserecovery.org

Where to find past meeting minutes: <https://www.govst.edu/Recovery-Support/South-Central-IL-ROSC/EFCRC-ROSC-Council/>



Effingham County ROSC Facebook page



****NEXT EFFINGHAM ROSC COUNCIL MEETING****

Date: Monday, May 19th, 2024

Time: 1:00-2:00pm

Where: 104 Blohm Ave, Effingham & Zoom