

EDGAR COUNTY ROSC MEETING MINUTES

June 24, 2025

5:15 PM

Paris Hospital Conference Room D and on Zoom

Attendees: Nicki Hanks, Jessica Parrill, Rick Cook, Doug Cochran, Vicki Dick, Amy Hornbrook, Amanda Thompson, Janice Watson, Bethany Wagoner, Kyra Graham, Marlyn Frey, Michelle Hibbard, Camille Gordon, Kristin Davis, Jenna Hays, Kristina Drum, Cory Hanks, Heather Myers, Deb Beckman, Dennis Eveland, Lisa Foster, Scott Foster

Council Member of the month

During the meeting, Bethany Wagoner was honored as Council Member of the Month. Since joining *The Prairie Press*, Bethany has become a truly valued member of our council. Her dedication to highlighting our work has made a lasting impact—not only increasing the visibility of our efforts but also touching the hearts of our community.

Bethany consistently ensures that our council's initiatives, events, and stories are thoughtfully and accurately represented in the local media. Her voice has helped us break through the stigma surrounding substance use disorder and recovery, allowing more people to witness the hope, strength, and resilience that define our work.

Her compassion, professionalism, and commitment to reducing stigma have amplified our message and extended our reach far beyond what we could achieve alone. Bethany doesn't just report on recovery—she champions it.

Year in Review: Achievements and Changes

Nicki presented a year in review of the organization's activities, including events like the candlelight vigil, recovery picnic, winter warming drive, and laundry days. She announces that the organization has been awarded the NOFO Grant, ensuring their operation for the next three years. Jessica also reveals that she will become the recovery navigator for Edgar and Clark starting July 1st, with some changes to her group schedules. The organization's achievements, including helping 262 individuals with laundry services and distributing Narcan, are highlighted, along with recognition of donors and council members.

Volunteer Support and Structure Changes

Nicki announces changes to the organization's structure and activities due to reduced staff availability. She emphasizes the need for more volunteer support during laundry days and proposes potentially changing the day of the week for this activity. Jenna suggests conducting a poll to determine the best day for volunteers. Nicki also introduces plans for new subcommittees focused on second chance employment and resource awareness/ media, encouraging members to join based on their interests.

Agency Updates

ECPHD

No update at this time

Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch reporting continued growth and camera registrations.

HRC

No update at this time

CARE Coalition

CARE has filled all board member spots.

Soup Kitchen (Vicki Dick)

Vicki discussed the need for volunteers at the soup kitchen, June 30th – July 14th which operates Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 12:30 PM, with serving time from 11 AM to 12:30 PM. Heather expresses interest in helping, and Nicki promises to send out detailed information via email. The group discusses potential volunteer opportunities, including the possibility of involving younger volunteers, and Nicki plans to send a mass email to recruit more help.

Trafficking Training/ Handle with Care (Doug)

Doug had an interview with Channel 3 news regarding human trafficking cases in Effingham County, and he confirms a DEA program called "One Pill Can Kill" scheduled for October 1st at 6 PM at the Fine Arts Center. Doug mentions that recovery groups will be able to set up tables at the event, and OPV will provide Narcan samples for attendees.

RU Recovery (Rick Cook)

Program is going well, have seen some new participants

Celebrate Recovery (Janice Watson)

Celebrate Recovery has started serving a light Meal.

Homelessness Initiative (Amy Hornbrook)

The **homeless initiative** is continuing to move forward, the initiative has obtained an EIN number.

Community Updates (Scott Foster)

Scott announces that a new bus route will be implemented in the city, starting soon. The route will run hourly from 8 AM to 4 PM, beginning at Dollar General and making stops at various locations including Walmart, the hospital, Highland Court, and the post office. The service aims to improve accessibility for residents, including school children, but currently does not cross railroad tracks or stop at certain locations like Jay's Laundry or Rural King. Scott emphasizes that this is a significant development for the town and that the route may be expanded in the future.

Next Meeting: July 22, 2025, at Paris Hospital Conference Room A and on Zoom.