

Lee/Whiteside ROSC Minutes

5/21/2025

3pm

Attendees- Gerald Lott (Executive Director), Brandi O'Rourke (SVVOR Peer Recovery lead), Clare Williams (SVVOR Secretary), Ben Rudolf (ROSC TA), Johanna Gonzalez (ROSC Coordinator), Micheal Wilcox (Lee County Probation Dept), Melanie Marrandino (Willow Creek Counseling), Karl Arellano (Sterling VA Clinic)

Gerald

- We are currently putting all our time and effort into remodeling Cleady's House.
- Our ribbon-cutting ceremony for Cleady's House of Hope was on May 13th
 - Ben: It was wonderful. So many people came out, and I was very encouraged by the support from the community.
 - How do you plan on ramping up housing
 - The building is shaped like a U, so we will open rooms in stages. The idea is that we open 12 beds first, then add 7 more units in July, and so on until it is full.
 - How should we refer people to Cleady's?
 - Send them to our website, and the application will be on there. You are also welcome to call me or Lauren.
- We had 23 intakes in April. 9 female, 14 male. 11 from Lee, 6 from Whiteside, 3 from Ogle, 2 from DeKalb, and 1 from outside the counties.
- We just found out that DeKalb has awarded us another grant for another year.
- We have to do our Impact report for our ROSC councils.

What have we (ROSC) done for you, or can we do better?

Melanie

- There is an influx of people coming in seeking help with recovery.
- By making things illegal or difficult to acquire, there is a need for safe spaces. Especially for children and teens.

Mike

- I agree that it is a slow takeover, but things are really taking effect.
- The sober events SVVOR does really seems to be helping.
 - We advertise for you guys cause we support what you do and we see the effects.
- I think people are struggling to engage and need more mentorship.

Karl

- From our perspective, a lot of our services are integrated. There has been an increase in support and with what we do.
- With gambling services, those have increased and have been added to what we assess.

Brandi

- I have only been with SVVOR for a little bit now, but I have seen a growing support and interest from other people

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Johanna

- I sit in on a lot of meetings and I know that in Take Action, they determined that they needed warming centers that stayed open longer than 5 p.m. I'm excited with all the potential here.
- Vending Machines: We have seen a lot of interest in getting them set up and having volunteers take care of them.

Mike

- I would like a form for the referral list for your recovery home including criteria.
 - Gerald: They should be in treatment first. I'll reach out to you with this, but it is on our website.

Karl

- I think the pro social aspects of recovery are great. We have peers who want to come down and be with our veterans. Keep us updated on your sober nights

Melanie

- I think ROSC is doing great, and I really appreciate that we gather and we help the community.

Brandi

- I want to thank Mike for his and his staff's help. You guys are great.