



MERC Meeting Agenda

9:00 a.m. via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/97144229718>

May 15th, 2025

Attendees:

- Angella Holloway- Chestnut, MERC
- Kathy Kehrer- Chestnut, CCE Faith & Recovery Collaborative
- Mark Knott- Chestnut, MERC
- Ashley Ramos- Gateway Foundation, CORS
- Bev Holland- Chestnut, Statewide ROSC
- Daniel Hutchison- Chestnut
- Dustin Percy- Oxford House
- Dusty Hanner- Chestnut, OEND
- Greg Norkus- St. Clair Co. Probation
- Jennifer Cate- Rise Recovery St. Louis (Faith Based program for Women)
- Kara Wardein- Chestnut, RCORP
- Kristin Anderson- Chestnut, CCBHC
- Lindsey McCoy- Amare, Family Connections Program Coordinator
- Melissa Coffey- Private Practice, Serene Therapy based out of Swansea
- Toni Randall- Chestnut, Bond ROSC
- Monique Brunious- Chestnut, Bond ROSC
- Tracy Dones- Chestnut, CCE Faith & Recovery Collaborative
- Amanda Phelps AMH- Warm Handoff
- Alex Schneider- HSHS, Outreach Coordinator
- Johanna Gonzalez- IDHS/SUPR
- Ryen Stone- Chestnut, SUPS
- Jennifer Schulz- Centerstone
- Kristen Marie Peterson- Our Brother's Keeper (Guest Speaker)

Todays Business

- Kristen Peterson: OBK, Our Brothers Keepers of Southern Illinois | Prison Ministry and Re-Entry located in E. St. Louis 614 N. 7th St. operating for about 10 years. Has been helping people who are getting out of state prison, with reentry services . These services are not mandated but voluntary so the level of motivation from participants tends to be high. They assist with efforts focused on untreated MH and SUD and makes connections with community-based providers (OBK does not provide these services directly). However they do provide AA meetings Tuesdays at noon (also open to the community). They also work with Federal prison cts if they lived in IL before incarceration and plan to live in IL after release these referrals come from the probation office. Covering 18 different service areas: help find housing, obtaining birth certificate, ID, bus passes, clothing, hygiene kits, peer mentoring, employment assistance with specific employers who provide opportunities (Tyson Chicken, Flying J are two main ones), life skills, work with emotional support dogs, etc. The recidivism rate is 6.8 percent for those who are engaging in the program. If participants do return to jail/prison, OBK keeps in touch 3-4 times per year and works to reconnect when they are released again.
- Melissa Coffey: Serene Therapy - Melissa Coffey - 6 Emerald Terrace Suite 4 Swansea, IL 62226 ,616-737-3638, Email melissa@serenetherapist.com
- Jenniefer, Centerstone: 3pm MH Awareness Month Proclamation Day read by the mayor in Alton.
- Kara- RCORP hosting upcoming Mental Health First Aid Training
- Upcoming Impact Report: we'll be reaching out to get input from the council to include on our impact report.
- May 15th - Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation at Centerstone's Alton location - 2615 Edwards Street
- May 28th - Centerstone's Mental Health Awareness Night at the Grizzlies Game
- July 19th - Centerstone's Community Resource Fair at YWCA of Southwestern IL (in Alton)

Announcements and upcoming events

- Jenniefer, Centerstone: 3pm MH Awareness Month Proclamation Day read by the mayor in Alton. 5/28 MH awareness night tailgate at Grizzlies game with game to follow. \$15 tickets in a shared section with other MH workers, also in the planning stage for 7/19 health/resource fair at YWCA Alton with things like health screenings, haircuts, etc.
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At the Edwardsville Library there are monthly Stigma conversations along with Narcan demonstrations which will continue to be held on the 3rd or 4th Wed of each month check the library Facebook page schedule. A link to the Facebook back can be found on their website: [Home | Edwardsville Public Library](#)

MERC Upcoming Zoom Meeting

June 19th 2025 at 9am

Metro East Recovery Council (MERC) Vision:

A community system that nurtures and supports individuals and families seeking or maintaining recovery for themselves or a loved one.

Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) Mission:

Collaborating to build and empower communities of recovery.