

Ogle/DeKalb ROSC Minutes

5/21/2025

1pm

Attendees- Gerald Lott (Executive Director), Steve McBride (SVVOR Peer recovery specialist), Jake Albers (SVVOR Peer recovery specialist), Brandi O'Rorke (SVVOR Peer Recovery lead), Clare Williams (SVVOR Secretary), Ben Rudolf (ROSC TA), Penny Stark (RCA), Johanna Gonzalez (ROSC Coordinator), Joyce Lewis (), Heaven Allen (DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board), Ashley Maki (DeKalb PD), Steve Lekkas (DeKalb PD), Paul Benson (Safe Passage), Debra Beckmann (Statewide ROSC Team), Marta Jarka (NW Ben Gordon Center)

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.
 - Marta: How do you plan on ramping up housing
 - Gerald: 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.
 - Marta: How should we refer people to Cleady's?
 - Gerald: 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?

Heaven

- Steve has been wonderful in our community. We spoke about our IRIS program, which is great for connections and sharing resources. It's really more of an RCO thing than a ROSC thing, but I still recommend it.

Joyce

- In the back of Cleady's House of Hope, we will be putting in raised garden beds. Students will be building them with instructors, and we will teach people how and what to grow. The ladies in the house can then use the produce themselves or it can be given to local food pantries.

Gerald

- How do you all feel about MAR or harm reduction now since joining ROSC?
- Have you started or heard of new support groups?

Marta

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- We got One Boxes at all of our Ben Gordon centers. We also have free Narcan and fentanyl testing strips.
 - Gerald: I believe that since we introduced One Boxes to the area, over 150 have been installed.
- We still have openings for our July 8th cooking classes.

Ashley

- We've really benefited from Steve being around. We have a revolving door here of people seeking help, and Steve has been great in helping with it.
- We will have 1 person assigned to an officer for ride-alongs all summer

Paul

- I can reach out to our transitional housing department. We give out a lot of SVVOR promotional materials
- June 21st is DeKalb's pride, and we have a sign-up sheet for our Vendors. We would also love to do a collab event with SVVOR in DeKalb
 - Steve: We are doing a Kickball tournament in DeKalb on the 30th of this month.

Penny

- RCA offers Medicare-assisted treatment. Our Medical Director participates in the IL help-line (marnow IL)
- RCA is opening a second outpatient in Rolling Meadows. We are slowing down now, but should pick back up after Memorial Day.
- I'd love to see more collabs in getting people connected and sharing resources.

Johanna

- Gerald, are you familiar with the DePage WhatsApp group?
 - Gerald: Yes, but my problem with it is that I've seen it diluted with unimportant messages.
- In DuPage, they have a big WhatsApp group for their ROSC. It started with 11 people/organizations on it, but it currently has over 120! They created a separate chat only for announcements to help dilute unimportant messages.

Ben

- Blake (the person who runs the group) also created an interactive Excel sheet and map that lists all resources in their area. He is hoping to expand it to Northern IL and maybe some other states.

Gerald

- On the 22nd-23rd, some of my team and I will be in Cartersville for the Southern IL Recovery Network (similar to RecoverCon)
- We are waiting to hear back on some grants to see how big RecoverCon 2025 will be.

Penny

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- When I first started, one of my first calls was for a woman who had overdosed. She received medical assistance, and she is now recovered. I used to use soboxone in my recovery, and I know firsthand the stigma against it. I would love to see a support group around it.

Jake

- On June 12th, there is an event at the Elks on prevention.
- Monday nights, we have an all-recovery meeting here in our Rochelle office. Once I am done with my SMART training, I plan on having a SMART recovery meeting.