

## Effingham County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

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**Date:** Monday, June 16th, 2025

**Time:** 1:00-2:00 pm

**Location:** 104 Blohm Ave, Effingham & Zoom

**Meeting Facilitator:** Samantha Hicks

**Attendees:**

**In person:**

Felicia Depoister (Effingham County ROSC Recovery Navigator, CPRS)

Samantha Hicks (Effingham County ROSC Coordinator)

Beth Wise (ECHD, Effingham County Connections)

Olivia Jenkins (Hour House Prevention program facilitator)

Justin Carder (Local office administrator- IDHS Division of Family and Community Services)

Norbert Soltwedel (Effingham County Board member)

Betty Jackson (Certified End of Life Doula)

Mya Stuke (Mya's Misfits)

Becky Rhodes (Family Life Center Parent Coordinator)

Betty Jackson (Honey Bee Courageous, Death-doula)

Jenn Galvan (Family Resource Center of Effingham Co)

Janet Keyes (Family Resource Center of Effingham Co)

**Zoom:**

Kat O'Brien (Gateway Foundation Warm Hand off Program @ HSHS)

Brycen McFadden (Oxford House Inc Outreach worker)

Kelly Buscher & Maria Deaconesa (Case Managers of Effingham County)

Nathan Nichols (CEFS Public Transit)

Samantha Weidner (Effingham/Clay County Health Department)

Heather Greenwood (Southeast Illinois Area Health Education Center)

Margot Cepeda (VA Affairs)

Amanda Depew (IL Joining Forces Veteran Affairs)

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## Minutes

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**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.

**Coordinator & Recovery Navigator update**

- **Felicia** stated she is currently working on getting materials together for a Recovery Wellness group which will be open to the public at the Family Life Center. TBD on day and time. She stated we've been outreaching to the small village via town hall meetings (Altamont, Edgewood, & Mason so far). She stated we've been going to local business and asking if we can set up our resource table outside of their business to talk to people. ROSC will be at Goodwill on June 25<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm.
- **Samantha** stated she's been working on the last deliverable of this fiscal year for the state which is the Impact Report. She will share the one-pager with the Council via email.

### **ROSC Impact & Engagement discussion**

**Samantha** asked those attending the Council meeting about what sort of impacts they've seen ROSC make in Effingham County—stigma reduction, getting more resources out into the community, connecting individuals, etc.—what does the Council think has made the most impact in the community?

- **Jenn** stated ROSC was able to provide the list of treatment centers and other recovery related resources to her clients at the FRC.
- **Olivia** stated she was speaking with a couple of members of the Worship team at New Hope Church about the Narcan training ROSC recently did and how much they valued the insight and perspective. She stated she thinks attitudes are really starting to shift in terms of Narcan distribution and who's affected. She stated one of the members said that he never even thought of the elderly population needing Narcan for opioid prescriptions.
- **Beth** stated that over the past couple of years the availability and access to Narcan & fentanyl test kits in the community has soared. She stated that she's heard people using the test kits for when they go out to bars to test their drinks. She stated the perspective is starting to shift from "Narcan and fentanyl test kits are for people who use drugs" to overall safety for people to prevent accidental overdoses as well.
- **Norbert** asked if how we can help people using these types of drugs. Members of the Council stated people need to be willing to receive help, but getting the resources out in the community & education about these prevention and harm reduction efforts is vital.
- **Betty** asked if ROSC is a part of the Moccasin Creek Music Festival this week. Samantha stated we supplied that group with 200 boxes of Narcan last summer for the event but will not be attending this weekend. She suggested attending the Summer Showdown festival in September at Lake Sara.
- **Justin** stated he's heard of a nail polish that changes colors if dipped into a solution with substances. He said it might be worth looking into and may be cheaper.
- **Amanda** stated that she's heard ROSC's name all over the state in the circles she's a part of (Veteran Affairs) which she thinks is really cool. She stated she attended the IL Governor's Challenge for Preventing Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their families at SIUC and ROSC is being used as a solid resource in communities.
- **Norbert** asked what the Family Resource Center does in Effingham County. **Beth** gave an overview of this program—They are a DCFS funded grant, 50% of the families who are enrolled have DCFS involvement. That's the goal but the program will assist any family

with the supports they need with whatever they have going on. If they have a DCFS case, they'll work with them on what led them to become involved with the child welfare system & remediating some of those things. They assist with court advocacy with DCFS cases, parenting skills, provide anger management classes, budgeting, etc. They are also A DCFS alumni drop in center, so, anybody who's been removed from their home (under the age of 30), can drop in anytime so we can support them. The FRC is located at this location (104 E. Blohm Ave).

- **Beth & Norbert** had a short discussion about home-schooling efforts since it is a topic of discussion at the county board meetings recently.
- **Samantha** stated (in reference to that discussion) that is why the Illinois Youth Survey is so important for schools to administer to the kids to get feedback about home life, school life, nutritional information, mental health, substance use, etc. **Olivia** stated there was an *optional* question this year about gender identity which she thinks deterred many schools from participating in Effingham County this year. She stated only 2 participated.
- **Samantha** asked everyone invite at least 1 person to the next Council meeting.

**Samantha** showed the Council the ROSC FY25 Achievements PowerPoint she created. Each slide had each month of the fiscal year with what activities and achievements were done in that month along with some pictures. **Norbert** asked if Samantha could print off the one-pager impact report for the county board meeting today.

#### **Volunteer Transportation discussion**

**Samantha** stated that this topic is Goal 2 of our Strategic Plan: Assist the community in creating a volunteer transportation network for individuals needing residential treatment for Problem-Solving Court, Probation, and Safe Passage.

She stated we need a foundation to build off of when recruiting volunteers to drive people to treatment. She stated she'd like to provide organizations with a volunteer transport training to address concerns they may have with transporting someone in active addiction or in withdrawal, or different types of scenarios that could happen when transporting someone. Then, present the opportunity to CRs, churches, etc. She stated Safe Passage located at the Police Dept, 24 hours, and available for anyone who is seeking help without repercussions to get SUD treatment.

**Betty** asked if there are any churches that have vans to transport to events. Samantha stated the Journey Church has vans that could possibly be used. She would have to talk to Steve Linton, the Pastor. Betty suggested using the church vans to ROSC events to test out the volunteer transport idea. AWESOME IDEA.

**Norbert** asked **Nathan** if CIPT could help with this. Nathan stated that with CIPT being on demand response, a lot of times drivers already have committed schedules. The problem with this type of transport is that it would be out of their operation hours and in situations of crisis which isn't what CIPT is set up to transport for at this time. He suggested talking with their

director. Samantha also clarified to Norbert that the transport would be to 24-hour treatment facilities which are outside of Effingham County. Norbert asked where these places are located and members of the Council started listing the town and cities off. The closest facility is the Hour House in Charleston, IL.

**Becky** stated FISH does medical transport & Effingham Taxi use to do medical transport as well but is unsure if it's still running. **Samantha** stated is it and *only* accept insurance. They also *only* take people medicated assisted recovery appointments. **Beth** asked why transporting to treatment facilities isn't considered medical. The group discussed societal stigma—a broken leg VS mental health & substance use disorder treatment.

### Upcoming events

**Samantha** reminded everyone of the Summer Serenity Gathering happening this Saturday! She also asked the Council to email her 1 question that will be posted at each of the holes for Disc Golf and Trivia. We will need 18 questions total. Example: Honey Bee Courageous is owned and facilitated by: a,b,c,d, (multiple choice) or a true and false question. She asked for questions that reflect a Council member's organization so people can learn more about what resources are offered in the county to win a prize at the end!

\*\*\***Brycen** stated that Oxford House will be getting the keys to the house in Effingham, IL this week!! Brycen will start setting up interview referrals for a men's home with 8 beds! He also needs suggestions of places to get low cost furniture. Some members suggested Silk Purse and Catholic Charities. He also stated the men will need hygiene products—toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc. They'll also need bed sheets. **Justin** suggested starting an Amazon Wishlist to distribute to churches.

### Upcoming events

- **Summer Serenity Gathering- PLE Committee**
  - Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 2pm @ Edgewood Legion Lake in Edgewood
- **South Side subcommittee meeting**
  - Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6-7pm @ Edgewood Grade School
  - Will take place every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month; in person only for now
- **Disc Golf & Trivia**
  - Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 8:30am @ Community Park, Effingham

Contact emails:

Effingham County ROSC Coordinator

*Samantha Hicks—samanthah@hourhouserecovery.org*

Effingham County ROSC Recovery Navigator, CPRS

*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, JULY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2025**

Time: **1:00-2:00pm**

Where: **104 E. Blohm Ave, Effingham & Zoom**