



Livingston County ROSC Meeting Minutes

June 5th, 2025, 12-1 pm

Via Zoom

Attendees:

- Kari Knapp- Chestnut/Liv ROSC
- John Schneider- Chestnut/Liv ROSC
- Caitlin Chagoya- IHR
- Taylor Hartman- Liv. Co. Mental Health Board
- Becky Ballard- IHR
- Melissa Simmons- DHS Rehabilitation Services (VR)
- Melissa Johnson – Life CIL
- Makayla Carlson – Chestnut (Intern)
- Monty Andrews – Rural Transportation
- Tim Jenkins – Futures Unlimited
- Teresa Diemer - IHR
- Johanna Gonzalez- IDHS/SUPR
- Kami Garrison- Statewide ROSC

*Note: You can review Council meeting recordings at:
<https://www.youtube.com/@livingstoncountyrosc9004>

Strategic Plan (Emphasize on Goal #2):

- The Strategic Plan for the ROSC Council was re-introduced, outlining goals for the fiscal years 2026 to 2028, which include reducing stigma around substance use, promoting medication-assisted recovery, and ensuring effective service delivery. Each goal is accompanied by specific, measurable objectives to track progress.
- **The June council meeting aimed to concentrate on the second goal regarding medication-assisted recovery and evidence-based practices**
- Overdose statistics for Livingston County were shared noting 10 deaths in 2024 and a rate of 34 per 100,000 residents, which exceeds state and national averages. Of the 10 deaths, six were directly related to opioids, with four of those involving fentanyl. The data indicates that many individuals had multiple substances in their systems, emphasizing the complexity of the overdose issue

Discussion on Harm Reduction & NARCAN Distribution in County

- **Outlined plans to enhance harm reduction initiatives within the community, aiming for at least two new initiatives by fiscal year 2026; encouraged participants to consider daily practices that serve as forms of harm reduction, leading to a discussion where various examples were shared, including childproof lids and trip reduction measures in homes**

Funded in whole or in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery



- **Harm reduction is a critical approach in addressing opioid use disorder, focusing on strategies that reduce physical harm, decrease substance use, and support individuals at various stages of recovery. The discussion included the distribution of clean needles and naloxone, as well as the use of medications that help reduce opioid sensitivity. These methods aim to treat individuals with compassion and dignity while facilitating their journey toward recovery.**
- **Becky Ballard shared details about a NARCAN training event at IHR, which included an open house format and participation from community members. Attendees received training and kits, and while the turnout was modest, the initiative was recognized as a significant step in community health efforts & importance of continuing such initiatives to save lives.**
- **Harm reduction video was shown:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=39Dha4VtkAI&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fhubblecontent.osi.office.net%2F&source_ve_path=Mjg2NjY

Breakout Discussions (15 minutes - 2 groups)

- ▶ **In what other places in the community can we distribute Narcan?**
- ▶ **What type of harm reduction education would be most beneficial, and where at?**

Breakout Discussion Recaps

- Johanna Gonzalez shared insights from her group on harm reduction initiatives, highlighting the need for Narcan distribution through transportation services and pharmacies. The discussion included targeting hotels and nursing homes for partnerships, as well as addressing the stigma surrounding syringe service programs in Livingston County. Caitlin Chagoya added that some pharmacies might accept used syringes, emphasizing the lack of clean needle exchange programs in the area.
- Taylor highlighted the importance of making Narcan and emergency medical kits more accessible through various agencies, including Cintas. Tim supported the idea of having Narcan available at gas stations, noting the need for quick access during emergencies. Caitlin added that a local Thornton's already provides Narcan, indicating some progress in accessibility.
- John highlighted the importance of the Recovery Month event on September 6 and invited participants to engage individuals with lived experience to share their stories. He outlined upcoming trainings, including topics related to outreach with the BIPOC population and Youth and Mental Health First Aid. The next meeting is set for July 10, with details to be determined.



Community Updates

- Caitlin Chagoya shared details about an upcoming NARCAN training scheduled for May 21st, which will focus on recognizing opioid overdoses and the use of reversal medications. The training will feature a demonstration and will run from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., with light snacks available.
- Melissa J from CLA LIFE CIL mentioned her return to the office after surgery.
- Kalyn Patterson asked for events to highlight in the monthly newsletter
- Clare Spires noted the start of a diabetes clinic at the U of I Extension Office.
- Taylor Hartman provided information about a PUNS workshop on May 14th, aimed at helping families access resources for youth with disabilities.
- ***Autumn Olowo's last day with the Livingston ROSC will be May 30th. You can still email the Livingston ROSC Gmail to contact the team.***

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 10th 9-10 AM via Zoom

Upcoming Trainings:

- Visit <https://www.coalitionsupport.org/trainings> for upcoming trainings.

Virtual Resource Guide/Social Media

- Virtual Resource Guide: <https://www.jotform.com/app/231105805739152>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LivingstonCountyRecovers>

ROSC Contact Information

- John Schneider, Community Health Specialist jjschneider@chestnut.org
- Kari Knapp, Associate Director of Community Health kmknapp@chestnut.org
- Autumn Olowo, Community Health Specialist amolowo@chestnut.org
- Livingston County ROSC Team LivingstonCountyROSC@gmail.com