



MERC Meeting Summary

9:00 a.m. via Zoom

June 19th, 2025

Attendees:

- **Cora Hughes – Community Merc Council member**
- **Dustin Pearcy – Oxford House inc.**
- **Melissa Coffey – Community MERC council member**
- **Kara Wardein- CHS, Recovery Specialist**
- **Amanda Phelps- Alton Memorial Hospital**
- **Brittney Card – Macoupin & Montgomery County ROSC**
- **Jen Nagel-Fischer- The Porchlight Collective SAP**
- **Paul Fischer- The Porchlight Collective SAP**
- **TL White- Community MERC council Member**
- **Mark Knott- Madison/St. Clair County ROSC**

Business : A recap of FY 25

MERC has held 18 Stigma conversations in the community, MERC has had 12 community engagement opportunities via Health fairs and community events , we have created 3 different family recovery events with the help of AMARE where we were able to provide a free screening of a several family friendly movies at the Church of Nazarene in Roxanna IL, we have helped sponsor AMARE's Rockin 4 Recovery event every Sept for the past 5 years, we have helped distribute 125 NARCAN Emergency bags , connected resource information for SUD and Mental health services.

MERC along with the help of all of you in the council (we passed out over 350 physical surveys), completed a community survey to help us find where we are in need of more services and how MERC can help in connecting people with the services. The survey held in Madison and St. Clair County to help in our community needs assessment which became a part of our Strategic plan for fiscal yr 2026.

Here is the link to our strategic plan [Madison_StClair_FY25 MERC Strategic Plan \(1\).pdf](#)

This year we have established an advisory board made up of people with lived experience, members of both counties are involved. They helped plan our next movie event picking the movie and time and given us suggestions for the survey questions. Austin, Eric, Sam and Zach they discussed what some struggles for those in early recovery, suggesting that more family friendly events that are free help.

Giving the family unit an opportunity to unite and have fun without stressing the budget. Also they are looking over the strategic plan and going to offer possible solutions to helping us meet our goals over the next year.

The year overall has been a busy and productive year thanks to all of you showing up and doing what you do. I can't wait to see what we will accomplish this next year...

Announcements and upcoming events

**** Riverbend Ministries will be hosting a golfing event
July 25th, 2025***

Visit our website my-rfm.org/events to secure your spot.

***Contact Rachael Craddick rachaelc@my-rfm.org
for more information on sponsorship opportunities.***

All corporate sponsorships of \$1,000+ include 1 team.

• Upcoming Impact Report: we'll be reaching out to get input from the council to include on our impact report.

**** July 19th - Centerstone's Community Resource Fair at YWCA of Southwestern IL (in Alton)***

At the Edwardsville Library there are monthly Stigma conversations along with Narcan demonstrations which will continue to be held on the 24th at 6pm, check the library Facebook page schedule. A link to the Facebook page can be found on their website: [Home | Edwardsville Public Library](#)

MERC Upcoming Zoom Meeting

July 17th 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.