

Ogle/DeKalb ROSC Minutes

June 18th 2025

1pm

Attendees- Gerald Lott (ROSC Coordinator), Lauren Metzler (ROSC Coordinator), Ashley O'Dell (SVVOR), Steve McBride (SVVOR), Brandi O'Rorke (SVVOR), Clare Williams (SVVOR), Ben Rudolf (ROSC TA), Joyce Lewis (Ogle County Health Dept.), Heaven Allen (DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board), Marta Jarka (NW Ben Gordon Center), Rebecca Laudati (Hope of Ogle), Sarah Grunden (OMNI), Erika Hahn (OMNI), Kelsey Kant (LSSI Projects Lead)

Gerald

- We've been working mostly on Cledy's House of Hope and getting everything set up. Our first resident is moving in Thursday. Phase 1 is about done.
 - **Lauren:** I finalized the program, so email Clare if you would like it sent to you.
- The process is all online. We do not accept sex offenders or Class 2 and above for violent felonies within the last 7 years (not including time served). We do background checks for those wanting to join Cledy's, and they would also need a recommendation from the treatment facility they completed. Then, Lauren will interview them. They can be from anywhere, but we can not accommodate them for travel.
- We are also working on our other building which will be used for office space and a community room. We want Cledy's to feel like their home, so we will have meetings and guests in the other building. You can reserve spots there for presentations, groups, or meetings!
- Our Sober event was in DeKalb last month, and we did not get a good attendance. Our Ogle event is in Oregon at Lake Ladonna on the 28th. It starts at 10 and there are only a few spots left. Email Jake Albers at jake.albers@svvor.com to reserve your spot.

Recovery Friendly Workplace

Gerald

- The majority of states have something like this for employers. It trains employers to combat stigma, to identify when someone is having an issue, and how to reach out to their resources like Ben Gordon in a way that does not start problems for the individual at work.
- Along with that, we look at the hiring process and help individuals and hiring teams with people who have gaps in their employment due to treatment or other things.
- We know that most people are not using drugs for fun, but because they experienced something and this is how they cope with it. We are trying to solve the problem before it gets bad by helping find jobs, housing, etc. And these employers are going to have to be compassionate with people if they have to leave for a meeting, or can't stay late due to curfew.
- We at SVVOR would go to businesses giving trainings at businesses. Also people in ROSC and other resources help find jobs.
 - **Marta:** Is this restricted to certain counties?
 - No, we can go anywhere.

Marta

- We have something similar to this with our IPS Service which helps with job placement and resume building. There needs to be a mental health diagnosis before an individual

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can sign up. We would love to get in touch and maybe we could be a good resource for you guys cause we know of a lot of jobs that are sympathetic.

Gerald

- One of the first things I did when I first started SVVOR was go out to Las Vegas to visit the Foundation for Recovery which we are loosely based on. Out in Nevada, they run the RFW Program. They go to companies at their requests and they do a series of training for management, and they come up with a credo or statement saying that they believe in equal opportunity. They are then certified as being a recovery friendly workplace and then the state allows them some tax breaks. This creates an environment more conducive to helping those in recovery.

Steve

- I used to work in an HR department and we used to have people come in and talk with us as treatment advocates, but never any coaching or peer support advocates. So this is a great idea.

Ben

- I don't see many people in the business sectors in ROSC meetings, but I think that is really important to have so we can get some input from them. I think this is a great idea to incorporate them more. Maybe going to a rotary club or something similar to present this and spread the word.

Erika

- Our organization could make little stickers for you guys saying something like “less stigma more empathy” to distribute state-wide and at community events as well as businesses.

Heaven

- I'm thinking of funding for this, but I do think this is important to focus on as jobs and especially security in that job really does impact mental health.

Kelsey

- Our program is in the realm of youth prevention, so this is a bit out of my wheelhouse. But I am all for supporting this. We do the hidden in plain sight which could get brought into businesses as well.

Joyce

- This is a need! My husband hires a lot of second chance people in Winnebago county, so we are big supporters of this. You really need to have the empathy to do this, which we should emphasise to businesses.

Rebecca

- I agree. You might also think of having a booth for this set up at job fairs for employees and employers.

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Ben

- The coaching part of this is also really important like Steve said. They can help support getting the job, but also keeping the job!

Marta

- Our IPS specialists really emphasise the coaching aspect. They stay with the individual as long as they need, and they support the employer as well. We do require that the peer has a mental health diagnosis before we can offer this support.

What can ROSC do for you?

Rebecca

- We have been doing a lot of cleaning here. July 1st is our playground dedication. I will send invites to people.

Erika

- We had a lot of success this month. IL passed a law that says health classes teach kids about fentanyl and testing. We created a training for teachers and a presentation that they can use in their classes. We have received a lot of positive feedback from both teachers and students.

Sarah

- We also have downloadable PDFs and 2 podcasts on our website. We also have a load of Deterra and prescription bottle locks. We support a lot of college students and young adults, so those have been popular. Let me know if you would like some.

Kelsey

- With project lead for youth substance use prevention program through LSSI. We teach a curriculum in schools focusing on middle school. In the summer, we do a lot of community events, parades, back to school nights, etc. We do a lot of presentations, so we are now just focusing on preparing for the next school year.

Joyce

- We were awarded the Action Grant in 2023. We are addressing food insecurities within our area. We are putting in the raised garden beds at Cledy's and Legacy.

Heaven

- We just wrapped our grant funding cycle, so everyone has been notified of their status. Now we are just working on our support piece.