

WINNEBAGO ROSC

MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: Hybrid - Zoom

DATE: 6/10/25

ATTENDEES: Richard Springs (Host -EDDR Foundation ROSC), Halle Berghoff (EDDR Foundation), Ben Rudolph (Region 2 Technical Assistant Statewide ROSC), Chris Burton (Rosecrance Community Outreach Specialist, Prison Works NAACP Chairman), Sana Siddiqui (Winnebago County Jail Behavioral Health Coordinator), Scott Lewis (WCHA), Lanelle Gowdy (ReNest SADE IL), Ebony Teamer (Jubilee Case Advocate), Camille Thomas (Jubilee Housing Advocate), Jeb Orear (CORS Team at Rosecrance), Jess Harmon (Rosecrance PATH Outreach), J.P. Yance (Rockford Black Chamber of Commerce), Avery Johnson (City of Rockford Housing Advocate)

TIME: 10:00 am -11:00 am

AGENDA ITEMS

- I. Introductions: Name, Organization, how to stay in touch.
- II. ROSC Overview: What is the ROSC and why it is important to the community? Mission: Building a collaborative community while recognizing multiple pathways to recovery. Vision: to be a resource to the community including persons in recovery, their families, and others.
- III. Presentations: Multiple people gave short presentations discussing their organizations and the work that they do. Jess Harmon spoke about PATH and their work with the unhoused population in Rockford. Specifically in reaching out to them in their own spaces and offering them multiple ways to work towards finding housing. Jeb Orear spoke about the CORS program at Rosecrance, which specifically offers help with addiction and connecting unhoused people with resources to work towards recovery. James Jance gave background on the Rockford Black Chamber of Commerce, how it was founded and how it is helping within the community now. Avery Johnson spoke on Youth Housing within Rockford, and the many different ways they help the youth population to get them into classes and set them up for future success. Finally, Lanelle Gowdy spoke on her work at ReNest, how they work one on one with all their clients and spoke more specifically about their youth programs. They offer support for youth K-12 and offer many different courses to help address all their unique needs.

IV. Upcoming Events: We spent time going over upcoming events in the community. There's an Overdose Awareness Day Health Fair happening on August 30th. The general overview and Group Meetings schedule for Rosecrance was also shared. On July 12th there will be a Love Rockford 2025 Backyard Event featuring a health fair, food, dancing, and other activities. There is also an Invest. Include. Impact. Event hosted by the Rockford Black Chamber of Commerce on June 21st. Erick also spoke about EDDR's Pre-Apprenticeship program which is currently recruiting for a new cohort.

V. Strategic Initiatives

Goal 1: Increase the involvement of family members and other natural supports in the Recovery process of loved ones

Goal 2: Decrease Stigma in the community

Goal 3: Housing

Goal 4: Employment

Goal 5: Transportation

Goal 6: Improve knowledge of recovery events in the community

Goal 7: Build Recovery programs alongside providers

Goal 8: Increase and Maintain ROSC Council

Goal 9: Establish Recovery Support Services for Winnebago County

VI. Demographic Information: Erick discussed different demographic information for Rockford from the year 2024. He focused more specifically on the rate of overdoses based on the Coroners Report, and found that the number had decreased significantly from 2023. He spoke on specific area codes throughout Rockford that had seen much higher rates of overdose and pointed them out as places where more outreach is likely needed from programs.

VII. Additional topics included the want and need to expand the Winnebago County ROSC. Ben stressed the importance of having "everyone at the table" and how it is a council for the entire community. Erick recounted an encounter he had with someone at a Pride event, where they opened up about how discrimination against their sexuality made the road to recovery that much more difficult. There was also discussion on the importance of housing in the recovery process, and how that has historically been one of the most difficult things to remedy in the community. This also opened into a discussion on the issue of waitlists for recovery programs, and potential solutions to that issue.