

Ford County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 22nd, 2025, at 8:30 AM (Zoom)

Definition of ROSC: A Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) is a coordinated network of community-based services and supports that is person-centered and builds on the strengths and resilience of individuals, families, and communities to experience recovery and improved health, wellness and quality of life for those with or at risk of substance use and/or co-occurring conditions. The central focus of a ROSC is to create an infrastructure, or “systems of care”, with the resources to effectively address the full range of substance use and/or co-occurring disorders within communities.

Our Mission: Bring the community together to build a recovery support system to improve health, wellness and quality of life, through education, stigma reduction, and access to resources.

Attendance:

1. Frankie Ward (Chestnut Health Systems, Recovery Specialist)
2. Kari Knapp (Chestnut Health Systems - Associate of Community Health)
3. Barbara Brumleve (Ford County ROSC - McLean County ROSC, Chestnut)
4. Kami Garrison (Chestnut Health Systems - TA ROSC)
5. Melissa Watson (Family and Community Engagement Specialist Birth to Five Illinois – Region 9)
6. Sandra Beecher (Gateway Foundation – Sr. Professional Relations Manager)
7. Heather Angus (Peer Recovery - GROW)
8. Dave King (Carle Addiction Recovery Center – Community Outreach)
9. Melissa Johnson (LifeCil – Community Living Advocate)
10. Glenn Miller (Ford County Health Department - Administrator)
11. Christine P (Carle – Outreach)
12. Betty Kay Bennington (Ford County Health Department)
13. Mark Ecker (Ford County Health Department)
14. Megan Ramirez (Gibson Area Hospital – Consortium Coordinator)
15. Tim Nuss (Ford County Board)
16. Kira Ebert (Chief of Staff for State Rep. Jason Bunting)
17. Melissa A Walters (CEO Cris Rural Mass Transit District)
18. Danielle Kelley – Oxford House-Reentry
19. Shelley Smith – Oxford House
20. Abby Behrens (Prevent Child Abuse Illinois)
21. Cara – (Hands of Christ Food Pantry and Church)
22. Steve Bridges – (Central Illinois Joining Forces)

Agenda:

- Welcome & Introductions
- Main Topic: FY26 Kick Off Meeting
- Spotlight Presentation: CRIS Rural Mass Transit – CEO Melissa A. Walters

- Strategic Planning Highlights (Review of Goals 1-3)
- Recovery Month Plans
- Connection Corner – Building our roster
- ROSC Updates
- Agency Updates

The Ford County ROSC Council convened to discuss various initiatives aimed at enhancing community support and recovery efforts. The meeting began with participants sharing their names and roles, highlighting their commitment to the council's mission. Tim Nuss emphasized the positive impact of the Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) on the community, we are so fortunate to have such passionate council members!!

Frankie Ward introduced the kickoff for the FY26 planning, incorporating a football theme to rally support for recovery in Ford County. The agenda featured a presentation by Melissa A. Walters, the new CEO of Rural Mass Transit, who reported on the organization's success in providing transportation services, having delivered approximately 60,000 rides in Vermilion County this year. She outlined plans to replicate this success in Ford County, supported by a \$1.6 million budget primarily funded by IDOT, and announced the acquisition of two new vehicles for paratransit services.

SPOTLIGHT: Cris Rural Mass Transit – CEO, Meliss A. Walters

Melissa A. Walters, CEO of Rural Mass Transit, reported on the organization's operations, highlighting the provision of 60,000 rides in Vermilion County this year. She expressed optimism about expanding services to Ford County, with plans to hire local drivers if ridership increases. Additionally, a self-service booking system has been introduced for Ford County residents to schedule their own rides.

Melissa A. Walters detailed the transportation services available, highlighting the acceptance of all insurances and the implementation of a prepayment system to enhance service efficiency. She introduced Elijah Gordon, a new billing specialist, to assist clients with insurance processes. The discussion also addressed the tracking of denied rides to ensure adequate transportation resources, with Frankie Ward noting transportation as a significant barrier in the area. Suggestions for collaboration with health agencies to address caregiver-related transportation issues were made by Melissa J from CLA LIFE CIL.

Main Topic:

Strategic Goal Highlights:

Goal #1: Awareness & Engagement of Ford ROSC

- This is our visibility play – Making ROSC known and present across the county.

- Boost community presence and engagement: set up booths at farmers markets, libraries, and events while also presenting at Chambers, Rotary, and schools using storytelling and interactive sessions to share ROSC's impact.
- Build strategic partnerships: Collaborate with schools, senior networks, law enforcement, and faith-based groups to create ongoing community support.

Goal #2: Harm Reduction & Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR)

- This goal is about showing up – removing obstacles and delivering community needs.
 - Address barriers: Tackle stigma, improve transportation and educate what MAR is.
 - Expand Narcan® access: Ensure Narcan® is readily available to first responders, community organizations, and public spaces. Educate community members about Narcan® and actively promote it as an essential, life-saving tool during outreach events and throughout the community.
 - Partner Strategically: Collaborate with healthcare providers, public health departments, police, clinics and community partners that will have a meaningful impact to strengthen and expand harm reduction outreach efforts.

Goal #3: Reducing Stigma

- This goal is about changing hearts, minds and attitudes – Tackling stigma head-on.
 - Reframing Recovery Campaign: Share personal stories, distribute Reframing Recovery boxes/other materials, and use positive messaging to create greater understanding of SUD and Recovery. Engage the community through Reframing Recovery events, contests, and other interactive activities to build awareness
 - Substance – Free Events: Collaborate with local organizations to host sober socials and other community gatherings that create safe, welcoming spaces for individuals in recovery to connect, engage, and build community.
 - Provide Training & Education: Offer workshops and training sessions for community members and targeted audiences to increase understanding and directly reduce stigma.

Recovery Month Plans:

Frankie Ward highlighted the importance of community engagement and strategic partnerships in promoting awareness and harm reduction related to substance use. The council's goals include expanding access to NARCAN, reducing stigma through positive messaging, and hosting substance-free events. Additionally, plans for National Recovery Month were discussed, including the "Paint the Town Purple" initiative to encourage community involvement.

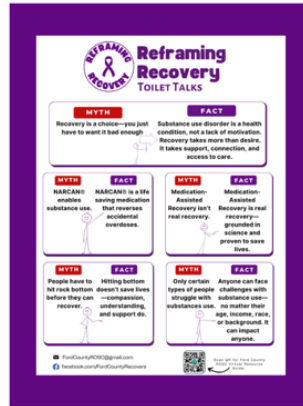
- Reframing Recovery Stigma Campaign
- Paint the Town Purple
- Outreach Events
 - Harvest Fest (September 13th)
 - Swine & Dine (September 20th)

Reframing Recovery Stigma Campaign:

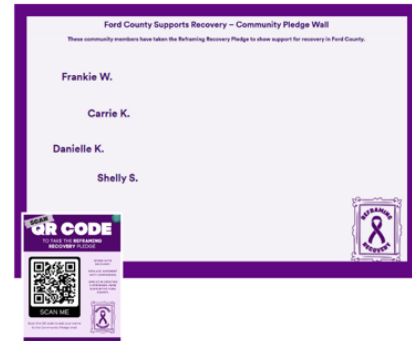
REFRAMING RECOVERY

TOILET TALKS

PR KITS

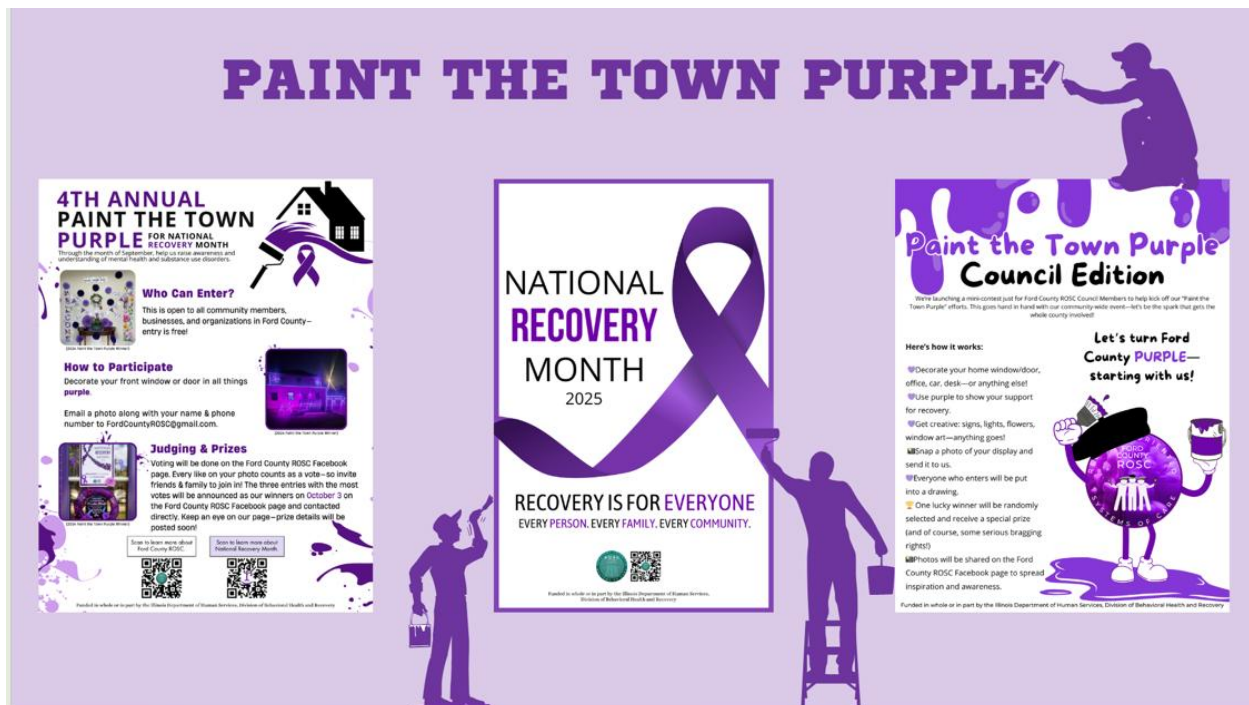


RECOVERY PLEDGE



Paint the Town Purple:

Ford County's 4th Annual Paint the Town Purple – We are asking the council to get involved and join in the decorations (if you haven't already). We will have a "Council Member" competition to help promote Paint the Town Purple!!

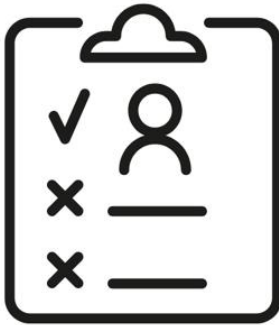


Connection Corner:

Frankie Ward presented Connection Corner, a new initiative focused on enhancing community representation by reaching out to various sectors, starting with faith-based organizations. Participants, including Barb Brumleve and Kami Garrison, contributed suggestions for potential contacts. Additionally, updates were provided on the RESET team's activities and upcoming meetings, including a hybrid council meeting scheduled for the 26th.

CONNECTION CORNER

Who's missing from the field? Building our roster.



WHAT IS CONNECTION CORNER?

Connection Corner is a new standing section of our monthly meetings, focused on identifying gaps in community representation and building stronger partnerships.

Each month, we'll highlight one sector that's currently underrepresented in our work.

The goal is to work together to:

- Identify individuals, organizations, or leaders in that sector
- Gather contact suggestions from council members
- Reach out and invite them to join the conversation and recovery movement

THIS MONTH'S SECTOR: FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Faith communities play a powerful role in healing, hope, and connection — yet they're often missing from recovery conversations.

Who in the faith-based community should we connect with — and can you provide contact info or help us make a warm handoff?

ROSC Updates:

Check out the pics from All Awareness Day – SO much FUN!!

UPDATES

A quick check-in from the field.

RESET TEAM

Reframing Recovery

Toilet Talks

Recovery Month

Substance Free Events

Next Meeting: Friday July 25th 9
am via Zoom

FORD ROSC COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday August 26th 8:30 am

In-Person, Location TBD

More information to come!

ALL AWARENESS DAY WAS A SUCCESS!

Thank you for everyone how volunteered,
hosted a booth, and shared the event!



Agency Updates:

Steve Bridges (Central IL Joining Forces) shared details about an upcoming Veterans Night Out and Resource Fair in Peoria, which is open to veterans and their families. The event will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Peoria Riverfront Museum and will include a meal and various resource providers.

Tim Nuss extended an invitation to anybody and everybody to the Ford County Board Meetings. They meet on the 2nd Monday of every month at 7pm in the basement of the Sheriff's office. You'll always have a platform!!

CONNECTION IS KEY!!!

We look forward to seeing you at the next ROSC council meeting, **IN-PERSON (location TBD), August 26th at 8:30 am.**

As always, please reach out if you have any questions, ideas for collaborations, etc.



CONTACT THE TEAM

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  [Ford.County.ROSC](https://www.instagram.com/Ford.County.ROSC)

 [Ford-County-Recovers-a-ROSC-Community](https://www.facebook.com/Ford-County-Recovers-a-ROSC-Community)

 [Ford County ROSC - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/FordCountyROSC)

