



HLM Recovery Grundy County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: August 26th, 2025

Time: 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Location: Virtual

The HLM Recovery Grundy County Council Meeting focused on addressing community needs and fostering partnerships. Key issues discussed included the loss of behavioral health services, the need for more housing and transportation, and the lack of adequate childcare and peer support. The importance of personalized support and warm hand-offs was emphasized, with examples of connecting families to necessary resources. The role of faith-based organizations in reducing stigma and providing holistic care was highlighted. The meeting also underscored the need for youth mental health awareness and the collaboration with various local organizations to enhance recovery services and support.

Action Items

- Tarcia Leak - Investigate ways to address the identified needs in the Grundy County community, such as lack of youth activities, transportation issues, and childcare challenges.
- Tarcia Leak - Coordinate with the Celebrate Families program to host family-focused recovery support programs in the Grundy County area.
- Magdalena Campos - Explore opportunities to partner with HERO to provide Narcan training and education in the Grundy County community.
- Neesha Stringfellow - Follow up with organizations and individuals mentioned (e.g., NAMI Will-Grundy, Chestnut Health Systems) to further strengthen community connections and identify collaborative initiatives.

Opening Prayer and Introductions

- Neesha Stringfellow introduces herself and Heartlife Ministries, mentioning the meeting will start with prayer.
- Magdalena Campos leads a prayer, thanking God for the meeting and asking for unity and communion.
- Tarcia Leak welcomes everyone, including first-time attendees and those from the Will County meeting.
- Participants are asked to introduce themselves, their organizations, and whether they are new or existing council members.

Participant Introductions

- Tarcia Leak introduces herself as part of Heartlife Ministries and welcomes everyone to the first individual Grundy County meeting.
- Magdalena Campos introduces herself as the program coordinator for HLM Recovery and expresses excitement about the meeting.
- Aimee Merritt from the Pregnancy Resource Center introduces herself.
- Diana Belicke from Rosecrance Behavioral Health introduces herself as the Community Relations Coordinator.
- Ben Rudolph introduces himself as the recovery-oriented systems of care (ROSC) technical assistant.
- Ginni Demko introduces herself with her extensive roles in various organizations, including Chestnut Health Systems and Crossroads Counseling Services.
- Becca Hebron introduces herself as the youth and young adult program coordinator for NAMI Will-Grundy.
- Michelle Prime introduces herself as the Executive Director of NAMI Will-Grundy.
- Antonella introduces herself as the clinical director for North Central Behavioral Health.
- Crystal Torres introduces herself as the new Spanish program coordinator for NAMI Will-Grundy.
- Celeste Fonseca introduces herself and thanks everyone for allowing her to be part of the meeting.

Explanation of ROSC and Its Role

- Neesha Stringfellow explains what a ROSC is, emphasizing its role in connecting people with community-based services and supports.
- Ginni Demko provides additional insights, mentioning the importance of keeping a list of resources and connecting people in need.
- Neesha Stringfellow elaborates on the ROSC's goal of creating an infrastructure to address substance use and co-occurring disorders.
- The ROSC is described as a coordinated network of services that are person-centered and build on individual strengths and resiliencies.

Challenges and Needs in the Community

- Participants discuss the major challenges and needs in the community, including the loss of behavioral health services in Grundy County.
- Aimee Merritt mentions the need for more housing opportunities.
- Diana Belicke highlights the issue of transportation.
- Tarcia Leak notes that youth in Grundy County lack activities and places to go.
- Michelle Prime mentions the lack of adequate childcare, especially for non-traditional hours.
- Ginni Demko discusses the difficulty in getting schools to accept prevention specialists and the lack of open communication about mental health.
- Neesha Stringfellow shares insights from a Will County meeting about the needs of the Spanish and Latino population.

Personalized Support and Warm Hands Off

- Neesha Stringfellow explains the concept of personalized support and warm hands off, where they connect individuals with the services they need.
- Maggie shares an example of a family finding a psychiatric bed for their child through warm hands off.
- The importance of building strong community partnerships is emphasized, including working with hospitals, municipalities, local organizations, and faith-based groups.
- Neesha Stringfellow discusses the benefits of having a QR code in emergency rooms to gather community feedback.

Training and Education

- Neesha Stringfellow talks about the importance of training and education, mentioning their partnership with the Heroin Epidemic Relief Organization (HERO).
- Maggie explains how HERO provides Narcan training and awareness through their hidden in plain sight trailer.
- The role of faith-based organizations in providing resources and reducing stigma is highlighted.
- The need for more housing assistance and employment and life skills training is discussed.

Recovery Services and Substance Use Support

- Neesha Stringfellow outlines the recovery services provided by the ROSC, including connecting people to treatment, counseling, and peer support.
- The importance of mental health resources and accessing free therapy is emphasized.
- Housing assistance and employment training are identified as key needs.
- Community education and awareness events are mentioned as ways to reduce stigma and provide resources.

Youth Mental Health Awareness

- Celeste Fonseca emphasizes the need for more resources for youth mental health awareness in faith-based organizations and community centers.
- The importance of addressing mental health issues early and providing support for youth is highlighted.
- Tarcia discusses the role of faith-based organizations in providing holistic care and reducing stigma.
- The need for more partnerships and collaboration to address the needs of the community is reiterated.

Attendees:

- Tarcia Leak- Heartlife Ministries
- Magdalena Campos-Heartlife Ministries
- Neesha Stringfellow- Heartlife Ministries
- Aimee Merritt- Pregnancy Resource Center
- Diana Belicke- Rosecrance Behavioral Health
- Ginni Demko-Chestnut Health System and Crossroads Counseling Services
- Becca Hebron- Nami Will/Grundy
- Michelle Primm-Nami Will/Grundy
- Antonella Manzella- North Central Behavioral Health System
- Celeste Fonseca-Indiana Department of Health
- Ben Rudolph- Chestnut Health Systems