

Ford County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 26th, 2025, at 8:30 AM (Hybrid)

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. Brittany Fry (Clove Alliance)
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. Del Saam (Veteran’s Treatment Court)
12. Betty Kay Bennington (Ford County Health Department)
13. Mark Ecker (Ford County Health Department)
14. Deb Beckmann (Statewide ROSC)
15. Tim Nuss (Ford County Board)
16. Emily Ochs (Land of Lincoln Legal Aid)
17. Odette Hyatt-Watson (ECIAA)
18. Abby Behrens (Prevent Child Abuse Illinois)
19. Cara – (Hands of Christ Food Pantry and Church)
20. Steve Bridges (Central Illinois Joining Forces)
21. Helen Haynes (ECICAA)
22. Betty Kay Benningfield (FCPHD)
23. Lynn Matthews (CRCC)
24. Marsha Slack (Melvin Public Library)

Agenda:

- Welcome & Introductions

- Main Topic: International Overdose Awareness Day and Ford ROSC 2025 Community Survey
- Recovery Month Plans
- Agency Updates

The Ford Co. ROSC Council had a successful Hybrid meeting with 9 in-person attendees and 15 virtual attendees. We would like to thank the **Ford County Public Health Department** for opening their beautiful space to have our in-person meeting and Betty Kay's informative Narcan® training that followed the meeting. Frankie Ward initiated the session by emphasizing the importance of community collaboration and the role of each participant in addressing health issues in Ford County. The meeting fostered a supportive environment, allowing members to share their roles and contributions to the community's health initiatives.

A significant focus of the discussion was on **International Overdose Awareness Day**, where Frankie highlighted the need to honor overdose victims and promote harm reduction strategies. The council noted a 24% decline in U.S. overdose deaths, while also recognizing the persistent challenges faced in Ford County.

The upcoming **community survey** was a key topic, with Frankie outlining its structure, including ten mandated questions from the state. The group discussed setting a realistic participation goal of 250 responses, with suggestions for outreach strategies to enhance response rates. Ideas included using social media, flyers, and QR codes, as well as leveraging local events and organizations to distribute the survey effectively.

Main Topic:

International Overdose Awareness Day and Community Harm Reduction Efforts

Frankie Ward presented on International Overdose Awareness Day, focusing on its purpose to honor overdose victims and promote community action. The meeting shared hopeful statistics, including a 24% decline in U.S. overdose deaths, while also addressing the reality of overdose occurrences in Ford County. The importance of harm reduction strategies and community involvement was emphasized throughout the discussion.

- * International Overdose Awareness Day and its significance in the community.
- * Success and impact of the All-Awareness Day event.
- * Harm reduction strategies and their importance in addressing substance use disorders.
- * Strategies for increasing community engagement and participation in recovery efforts.
- * Community engagement and participation in local board meetings.

Survey Overview and Community Engagement Strategy

Frankie Ward provided an overview of the community survey that Ford County plans to distribute, emphasizing the importance of local data in guiding their work. The first ten questions are state-

mandated and will not change, while some questions from the previous year have been removed to shorten the survey. The survey will be launched on September 1st to avoid the holiday season.

Goal Setting and Survey Review

Frankie Ward emphasized the importance of having a specific goal for survey participation, proposing a target of at least **250 responses**. Kari Knapp mentioned that Melissa Watson suggested a range of 200 to 250, which aligned with Frankie's thoughts. The group expressed agreement on the proposed numbers and the desire to exceed them.

Discussion on Substance Use Survey Enhancements

Frankie Ward emphasized the need to enhance a substance use survey by including questions about Narcan availability and awareness. Suggestions from the group included inquiries about respondents' knowledge of Narcan, their current employment status, and whether they or someone they know is using substances. The discussion also highlighted the importance of demographic data to tailor outreach efforts effectively.

Strategies for Increasing Survey Response Rates

Frankie Ward led a discussion on enhancing survey response rates through strategies like social media promotion, flyers, and QR codes. Odette Watson proposed using the LIHEAP season to collect responses from clients, while Brittany Fry suggested placing QR codes in recovery meeting locations. The team also explored partnerships with local churches and community organizations to reach a broader audience.

Recovery Month Initiatives and Community Engagement

Frankie Ward outlined several initiatives for Recovery Month, including the distribution of **Reframing Recovery boxes** and the **Paint the Town Purple** campaign. The council is encouraging **community participation by asking members to share what recovery means to them**, with the goal of posting daily responses throughout September. Additionally, local businesses are contributing prizes for the campaign to foster community involvement.

Community Engagement and Upcoming Events

Frankie Ward addressed the need for community involvement, suggesting initiatives like wearing purple at local sports events to raise awareness. She also mentioned the RESET team's ongoing projects related to stigma and harm reduction. Abby Behrens shared details about Lunch and Learns in September, where Frankie will be a panelist, and noted the potential for CEUs, 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 – Distribution starts Friday, Sept 5th!!
- Paint the Town Purple – Please send your pictures to FordcountyROSC@gmail.com


- What does Recovery Mean to YOU?
- Outreach Events
 - Harvest Fest (September 13th)
 - Swine & Dine (September 20th) – TBD?

Reframing Recovery Stigma Campaign:

REFRAMING RECOVERY

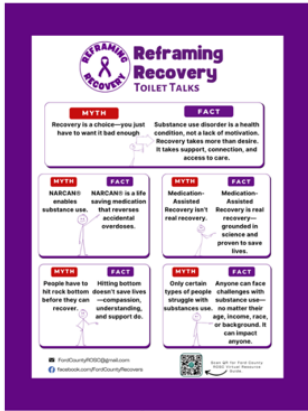
TOILET TALKS

PR KITS





Information Sheets

- How to use NARCAN®
- Harm reduction fact sheet
- Where to find NARCAN® locally
- Language Swaps
- Social Media Toolkit info
- Stigma FAQ Sheet
- Frame Insert
- Reframing Recovery Flyers



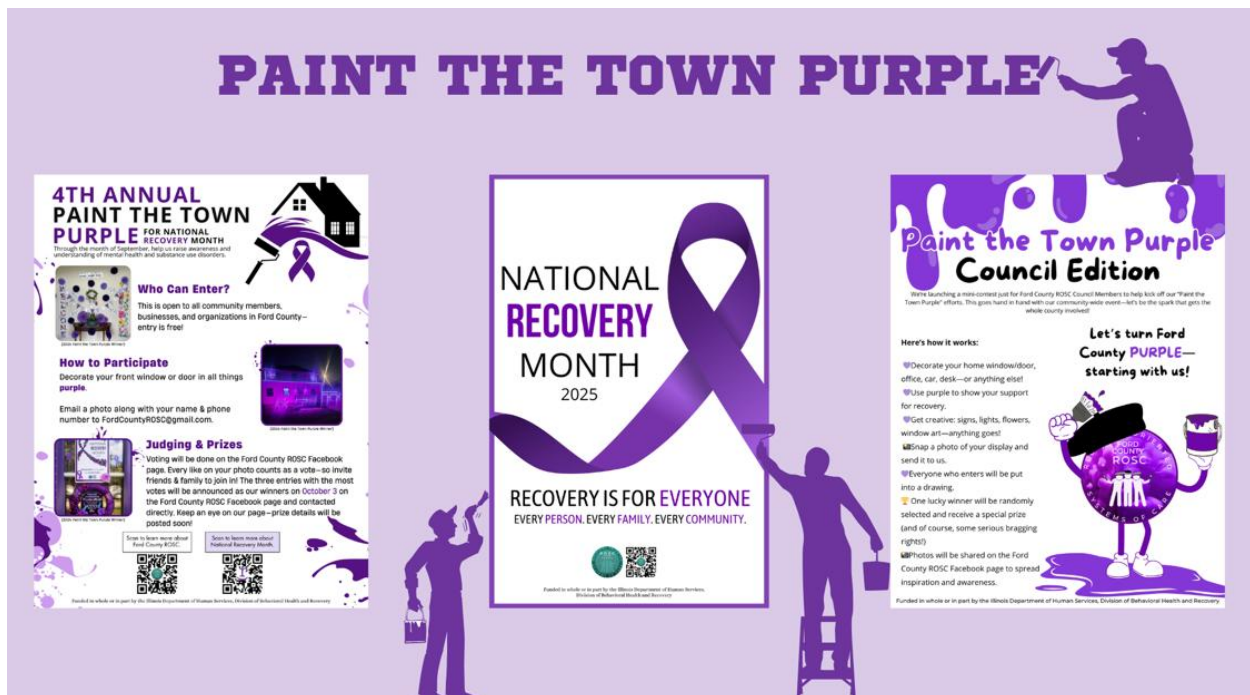
RECOVERY PLEDGE






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!!



Council Questions: Please review and send us your responses along with a picture!!



Council 1-Question Survey

We're Asking You:

“What does recovery mean to you?”
 (Optional: add a picture or symbol that represents recovery to you — this could be a symbol, a personal photo, or your agency's photo/logo)

Your response can reflect you as a person or as your organization.

Responses will be shared on our social media.

Examples:

“Recovery means hope and second chances.”
 “Recovery is community and connection.”
 “Recovery is finding balance and peace.”
 “Recovery means having support when I need it most.”
 “Recovery is growth and new opportunities.”

Recovery is for everyone — we all play a role in hope, healing, and support

Agency Updates:

Odette Watson announced that the Ameren grant program has begun, allowing assistance for families with a minimum \$250 bill for gas or electric services. Additionally, she mentioned that applications for

mobile home weatherization are still open, highlighting the program's focus on repairing and insulating mobile homes.

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!!

Melissa Watson will continue recruiting for the Action Council and Family Council to gather input from Ford County families regarding mental and behavioral health goals.

Action Items:

- * Betty Kay Benningfield from the Ford County Public Health Department will conduct a Narcan training session after the meeting, both virtually and in person, to educate attendees on how to use Narcan effectively.
- * Frankie Ward and Barb Brumleve will distribute reframing recovery boxes starting next week, which will include naloxone and educational materials.
- * Frankie Ward will reach out to pharmacies to ask if they can include postcards with QR codes in prescription bags to promote the survey.
- * Odette Watson will connect with the activity director at local assisted living facilities to facilitate survey completion among seniors.
- * Frankie Ward will send out an email with a link to the survey for council members to share their thoughts on what recovery means to them.
- * Frankie Ward will invite community members to attend the Ford County Board meetings held every second Monday of the month at 6 p.m. in the basement of the Sheriff's building.
- * Melissa Watson will continue recruiting for the Action Council and Family Council to gather input from Ford County families regarding mental and behavioral health goals.

CONNECTION IS KEY!!!

We look forward to seeing you at the next ROSC council meeting, **via Zoom, on Tuesday, September 23rd 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](#)



[Ford-County-Recovers-a-ROSC-Community](#)



[Ford County ROSC - YouTube](#)

