

EDGAR COUNTY ROSC MEETING MINUTES

September 23rd, 2025

5:15 PM

Paris Hospital Conference Room D and on Zoom

Attendees: Nicki Hanks, Jessica Parrill, Rick Cook, Debbie Cook, Doug Cochran, Vicki Dick, Sue Sheeran, Nate Alexander, Lisa Foster, Scott Foster, Michelle Creech, Lori Carroll, Janice Watson, Amanda Thompson, Lexanna Strader, Marlyn Frey, Michele Hibbard, Deb Beckman, Judy Benton, Susan Esslinger, Norm Wilson, Jennifer Hutson, Kristin Davis, Kyra Graham, Heather Myers, James Sanders

Spotlight Agency/ Program Individual Placement and support (ISP)

Michelle Creech, Recovery Services Supervisor at the Human Resources Center, presented on the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) program, an evidence-based model that helps individuals with mental health conditions and substance use disorders find and maintain meaningful, competitive employment. She explained that steady employment provides many benefits for clients, including increased income, improved self-esteem, stronger social networks, enhanced quality of life, and greater control over symptoms, often leading to reduced hospitalizations, decreased substance use, and less reliance on mental health services. Employers also benefit from IPS through better employee matching, reduced turnover, and access to customized post-hire support, while contributing to community recovery efforts. Michelle emphasized that IPS is a client-centered and strength-based approach, focused on rapid job searches, individualized long-term support, and integration of employment services with mental health and substance use treatment teams. She outlined the program's eight core principles, which include zero exclusion, client choice, attention to preferences, targeted job development, and personalized benefits counseling. Services available through IPS include resume building, interview preparation, transportation to interviews, vocational assessments, job placement and onboarding assistance, and support with educational goals and other work-related needs. Michelle concluded by sharing outcome data showing that IPS consistently achieves higher and more sustained employment rates than traditional vocational services, with participants keeping jobs longer, earning more income, spending less time in hospitals, and experiencing improved overall well-being.

Council Member of the month

Nicki announced Janice as the ROSC Council Member of the Month. Janice was recognized for her dedication and ongoing support within the recovery community. She has been a consistent driving force, volunteering her time to provide transportation to recovery-oriented events and

ensuring that all PLEs are able to attend and participate. Her compassion, commitment, and willingness to assist others make her a valued and inspiring member of the council.

Second chance employment update

Nicki provided an update on the Second Chance Employment Subcommittee, reporting that an Excel sheet of potential second-chance employers has been created. A formal letter has also been drafted and will be distributed to local factories to encourage participation. Nikki noted that one employer has already agreed to become a second-chance employer, marking an early success for the initiative.

Recovery Month events update

The **Candlelight Vigil** for National Overdose Awareness Day, held on August 31st, was attended by approximately 40–50 people, and the Council provided Narcan training to nine participants. Nicki expressed appreciation to all volunteers who helped make the event successful.

The **Recovery Affirmation Window Painting** initiative was also highlighted, with thanks extended to partnering businesses and organizations, including Jay's Laundry, the Paris Police Department, the First Baptist Church, Precision Collision, Car Quest, Paris District 95 Superintendent's Office, Edgar County Public Health Department, and the National Guard Armory.

The **Hike to Recovery** event was attended by 11 individuals and was described as a positive and enjoyable day.

The Council also celebrated the success of **the Never Walk Alone Recovery Picnic and Walk**, noting strong community support and generous contributions from local donors, with special recognition to HRC for their partnership. Additional thanks were given to CARE and Lake Ridge Christian Church for their donations for children, which allowed each child to select a prize during the picnic, with an additional prize distribution at the close of the event.

Expungement Clinic

Nicki reviewed details of the upcoming Edgar County Sealing and Expungement Clinic, scheduled for November 8, 2025, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, located at 201 South Central Avenue in Paris. She emphasized that participants must register in advance by scanning the QR code and signing up in order to attend.

Agency Updates

ECPHD

The Council was informed that the first Drive-Thru Flu Shot Clinic will be held on Friday, October 3rd, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Watch (Scott Foster)

Scott announced that the Neighborhood Watch Facebook page currently has 2,967 followers.

HRC

No Update

CARE Coalition

No update

Soup Kitchen (Vicki Dick/ Sue Sheeran)

Vicky reported a decrease in volunteers at the Soup Kitchen and encouraged new individuals and community groups to consider volunteering. She noted that those interested can contact her at 217-264-5514 for more information.

Trafficking Training/ One pill can kill (Doug)

Doug announced that the *One Pill Can Kill* presentation will take place on Wednesday, October 1st, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Paris Center of Fine Arts, located at 14040 East 1200 Road in Paris, Illinois. He invited both ROSC and CARE to set up a resource table during the event. Doug stated that he is conducting a human trafficking awareness training for Shiloh students.

RU Recovery (Rick Cook)

No update

Celebrate Recovery (Janice Watson)

No Update

Homelessness Initiative (Nate Alexander)

Nate reported that the building previously under consideration was not a suitable option. He requested that anyone aware of potential buildings that may be a good fit contact him and encouraged community members interested in supporting the initiative to reach out.

Next Meeting: October 21st, 2025, at Paris Hospital Conference Room A and on Zoom.