

Effingham County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, October 15th, 2025

Time: 1:00-2:00 pm

Location: 104 Blohm Ave, Effingham & Zoom

Meeting Facilitator: Samantha Hicks

Attendees:

In person:

Beth Wise (ECHD, Family Connections & Family Resource Center Supervisor)

Felicia Depoister (Effingham County ROSC Recovery Navigator, CPRS)

Jenn Galvan (Family Resource Advocate, Family Resource Center)

Justin Carder (IDHS Office Administrator)

Norbert Soltwedel (Effingham County Board member)

Paul Kuhns (Effingham County Sheriff)

Samantha Hicks (Effingham County ROSC Coordinator)

Scott DeWeese (Outreach Coordinator, Pavilion Hospital)

Tommy Alsobrooks (Oxford House Outreach worker)

Zoom:

Abby Behrens (Central Region Prevention Specialist, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois)

Amanda Depew (Southern Region Outreach Coordinator, Illinois Joining Forces)

Bethany Hall (Regional Council Manager for Region Three, Birth to Five Illinois)

Deb Beckman (Statewide ROSC Leadership Team)

Kasey Kemme (U of I Extension Office Director)

Keith Powell (Safe Families for Children)

Kelly Buscher & Maria Deaconesa (Case Managers of Effingham County)

Kristin Davis (Family Guidance Center's Regional Substance Use Prevention Integration Center)

Maggie Gouchenouer (Analyst, Southeastern Illinois Drug Task Force, IL State Police)

Meghan Rewers (Director of Crisis Nursey of Effingham County)

Nick Phillips (Community Services Coordinator, Catholic Charities)

Patrick Miller (Illinois Faith and Recovery Collaborative)

Richard Kulich (Marion VA)

Stephanie Stanfield (Investigation Supervisor, DCFS)

Minutes

Introductions

Council meeting attendees introduced themselves and the agencies they represent or explained why they were attending. Attendees also provided updates regarding their agencies if applicable.

Tommy stated that the Oxford House Inc. will be expanding into the area with two new houses. One for women with children and one for men.

Felicia stated ROSC has started three new subcommittees to address our 3 priority projects.

Beth stated the Effingham County Health Department has applied for opioid settlement funds to help support those in recovery. More information to come.

Justin notifies the council that SNAP benefits will not be distributed for November.

Norbert states that Effingham County has money in the opioid fund to help address issues in the community and is wanting other organizations to apply.

Amanda provides that Rush Road Home in Effingham will be conducting Operation Turkey Drop where veterans can register to receive a free turkey and sides.

Samantha then provided an overview of ROSC for new attendees at the meeting.

Community Survey

Samantha says the community survey is up to 272 responses, but the goal is 1,000 responses by November 24. There have been paper copies distributed at all of the mental health and substance use agencies in Effingham, as well as Crossroads Bank. There is a Facebook post, Google doc form link, flyer, and QR code that can be shared to complete the survey.

Norbert asks what the state does with the responses to the survey. He has distributed paper copy surveys to rotary members to complete & has given them to Samantha to input.

Deb responds that the state uses the data for planning and funding and proving there is a need for us to have ROSC grants throughout the state of Illinois.

Committees Update

Samantha explains the three ROSC committees started earlier this month. There are two in the first week of the month and one in the second week. There is the Roads to Recovery committee which focuses on volunteer transportation to treatment and other recovery-related supports. Pathways to Peer Support focuses on getting more peer-to-peer support positions in Effingham County. The Healing Families committee focuses on providing support to family members of individuals that use substances.

Roads to Recovery Committee

Nick provided the updates for the Roads to Recovery Committee. He explains the committee brainstormed ideas on where to get volunteers for transportation. The group decided to focus on approaching churches for volunteers. He includes the group also discussed issues regarding insurance liabilities for transporting in personal vehicles.

Samantha specifies the churches the committee is starting to approach are New Hope, Christ Church, Journey Church, and Cornerstone. Members were assigned one or two of these churches each to contact.

Norbert mentions the Effingham County Public Transportation has small vans that can be used, but there is an issue finding drivers. The drivers get 65% reimbursed from the state.

Council discussed that being a possible route. Norbert stated he needs to talk to Beth who is the director over transportation at CIPT.

Council member mentions that volunteers would basically need to be on call to provide transportation when needed.

Keith states that Uber has a health and expanded health access fund where drivers can write off contributions on their taxes.

Council member adds this could be an issue due to random assignments of drivers and riders, there's no guarantee the rider would be assigned a driver that participates in this.

Meghan adds that they know someone named Eric Atterberry who drives for LYFT. He is trying to establish this service in Effingham County. She will reach out to him for more information to get a better understanding of the ride-sharing landscape. **Keith** stated LYFT has community grants.

Pathways to Peer Support Committee

Samantha provided the update for this committee. She stated each person who attended (Victoria from SWAN, Maggie from IL State Police, PLE Lora) was assigned a task to bring back to the next meeting—**Samantha, Maggie, and Victoria** are to research 2 different programs for the CRSS/CPRS certification and Lora is going to call treatment centers for the ROSC brochure to see if they have any of peer support specialist working for them and how they obtained their certification.

Council member asked what type of service providers could employ a peer support specialist.

Samantha stated that most commonly mental health and substance use agencies. This is another piece the committee will be researching. She stated that to get the certification work hours requirement, 51% or more of the duties has to be recovery support.

Healing Families Committee

Samantha provided the update for this committee. Samantha stated the committee has 3 routes they'd like to focus on—grandparents raising grandchildren, parents with children affected by SUD, and children affected by SUD in the home. She stated the committee understands that all of these are interconnected as addiction is a family disease. She stated **Keith** will document what people are reaching out for when they contact Safe Families for Children to bring to the next meeting, **Becky** will talk to people who have retired from education within the last 5 years and see what can be done to help children, **Jenn** will research what is already existing in Effingham County for family support, and **Felicia, Connie, & Samantha** will research evidence-based programs such as CRAFT for family members affected. **Samantha** also stated that SWAN is now the provider for the Caregiver grant which Heartland Humans Services no longer holds. She read over the services provided which she found on 97.9 website.

Community Events

Samantha asked for suggestions on community events to attend.

Council member suggested Downtown Christmas. Other Council members stated that many organizations in Effingham County already do a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal for families in need.

Beth suggested doing a dinner in partnership with a church.

Samantha stated her and Felicia have been meeting with MAR providers in the area and wants to get a panel type event set up. She also stated ROSC will be at Trunk or Treat on Oct 30th.

****NEXT ROSC COUNCIL MEETING****

Date: Monday, November 17th, 2025 @ 1:00-2:00PM

Where: 104 E. Blohm Ave, Effingham & Zoom

Contact emails:

ROSC Coordinator: Samantha Hicks; samanthah@hourhouserecovery.org

ROSC Recovery Navigator: Felicia Depoister; feliciad@hourhouserecovery.org

ROSC Program Supervisor: Jenna Hays; jennah@hourhouserecovery.org

Where to find past meeting minutes: <https://www.govst.edu/Recovery-Support/South-Central-IL-ROSC/EFCRC-ROSC-Council/>



Effingham County ROSC Facebook page

