

Lee/Whiteside ROSC Minutes

August 20th, 2025

3pm

Attendees- Gerald Lott (ROSC Coordinator) Jake Albers (SVVOR), Brandi O'Rourke (SVVOR), Jordan Keene (SVVOR), Clare Williams (SVVOR), Ben Rudolf (ROSC TA), Whitney Miller (LCSW Roberts Counseling), Melanie Marrandino (NAMI: Gigi's Virtual Playhouse), Stephanie (Sauk Valley CPR), Kenneth Bell (Statewide ROSC TA)

Gerald

- Steve, our DeKalbCounty Recovery Coach, has taken a new position elsewhere. However, I am starting interviewing people for his position tomorrow, so I hope to have it filled shortly. Lauren is also back from her temporary leave, and we have hired a new Whiteside Co. coach: Jordan
- We had 31 intakes last month, which is a big pick up from this summer. We're also starting a new stat which will show failed referrals, e.g., we are called to speak with someone and they don't show up or otherwise ghost us.
- We tried doing a float in Dixon/Whiteside last month, but we had to move the day due to rain, and thus lost a lot of people who were planning on coming.
- Cledy's has 10 finished rooms, and 5 ladies currently living there, 1 lady has 2 young children with her. We are getting a lot of applications from ladies wanting to live there.
- On a similar note, we were at full capacity in Legacy, our men's home, for a while. 2 men have since left and we are back to 8 guys. We are also getting more applications there.
- **Saturday, October 11 at NIU is Recover-Con!** Our key-note speaker will be Kyle Overmeyer, and our other speakers will include Shannon Egan, Mike Tyson, and our very own Ben Rudolf. The theme for it is Recovery Lives Here.
- On August 28th in New Lenox, there is an event called Your Light Still Shines. We will be going, and we very strongly encourage that you all go as well.
- August 31st in Sterling at the Grand Civic Center, we will have an event for our Tevin's Tribe to commemorate loved ones who have passed from addiction related causes.
- On August 22nd, we will have a Bowling event at Plum Hollow in Dixon. It will be from 6-8 pm. Please let us know if you are planning on coming!
- Part of our mission was to launch a public awareness campaign called Recovery Lives Here (the same theme for Recover-Con). We're trying to put a face on recovery using heroes in our own communities who are willing to say "I am in recovery". It is a 3-year campaign, so for the next 36 months, each month we will focus on 1 person to showcase their story. We will also highlight 1 person from our Tevin's Tribe and invite their family to speak. If you know anyone who would be interested in doing this, please give us their information.
- When we hire someone at SVVOR, we have them watch 4 movies: 1 is a TedTalk by Johann Hari. The other three are movies by Greg Williams. We have been given the rights to show these movies on behalf of the ROSC council at various locations including businesses, libraries, events, etc.
- As you all know, we have that second building in Rock Falls that was donated to us. We wanted to turn it into a detox home, but I have not seen a whole lot of enthusiasm for that. I really want that building used, so I'm thinking of turning it into a Recovery Charter School. I would love to hear everyone's thoughts on this
 - **Lauren:** Could we turn that building into a homeless shelter?

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- **Gerald:** I'm open to that, but we may run into issues with the neighborhood about it.
- **Ben:** There's always all sorts of rules no matter what you try to do for this project. However, the important thing is repurposing this building instead of just letting it sit there.
- **Kelsey:** Our program at Project Lead goes into classrooms and teaches the effects of drugs while also giving practical life skills. I think the school is a really great and very necessary idea.
- **Melanie:** I love this idea and would love to collaborate with you on this.

WHAT CAN ROSC DO FOR YOU?

Whitney

- Grief Group is the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5pm. You can find the zoom link for it on the SVVOR facebook page.

Melanie

- If anyone wants to see a therapist, we have some openings. Just let me know.

Stephanie

- Get the word out about what I do. I'm happy to talk with anyone.

Jake

- Please let me know if you have anyone that would be interested in speaking and/or having a booth at Recover-Con.

Lauren

- On September 6th, we are having our annual Volleyball tournament honoring those who have passed from addiction related causes.

Gerald

- There is a poverty simulation event on September 5th in Sterling. Clare will attach the flyer.
- We are also having our Bowling event at Plum Hollow in Dixon on the 22nd. It will be from 6-8, and all are welcome to join, but please call and register.