



## **Livingston County ROSC Meeting Minutes**

Thursday November 6, 2025 10:30am

*Hybrid (Zoom and In Person)*

*Dominy Memorial Library: 201 S 3rd St, Fairbury, IL 61739*

### **Attendees In-Person:**

- **Teresa Diemer-** IHR
- **Erin Fogarty-** Livingston County Health Department
- **Kami Garrison-** Chestnut Health Systems
- **Taylor Hartman-** Livingston County Mental Health Board & Livingston County Commission on Children and Youth
- **Grace Irvin-** Chestnut/Liv ROSC
- **Tim Jenkins-** Futures Unlimited
- **Shannon Lawler-** Heartland Head Start
- **John Schneider-** Liv ROSC

### **Attendees Online:**

- **Kristyn Durre-** Sugar Creek Alzheimer's Center
- **Alisa Ndorongo-Fall** (DRS)
- **Rhonda Looney-** IHR
- **Jodi Martin-** Boys and Girls Club
- **Melissa Simmons-** DRS
- **Clare Spires-** OSF

### **Strategic Plan Spotlight:**

- John took time to spotlight the three main objectives of the Livingston County ROSC Strategic Plan. (Goal 1, Objective B, Strategy 3)
- Goal 1: increase the number of community members that have factual knowledge of substance use disorder and mental health issues by 10% in three years.
- Objective B: Livingston ROSC will proactively respond to stigmatizing comments, language, and barriers to recovery to educate and equip the community and stakeholders with knowledge on addiction as a disease.

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- Strategy 3: utilize the stigma toolkit from the Center for Community Engagement at Chestnut Health Systems and share these resources on social media at least monthly.

### **CCE Toolkit:**

- John played a video on Stigma that was created by Chestnut's Center for Community Engagement. The video provided explanations of how stigma affects those suffering from a substance use disorder as well as how we can aid our community to reduce the stigma
- The video, as well as other trainings and resources, can be found on their website at [Center for Community Engagement | Substance Use Support & Resources in Illinois](#)

### **Q&A Roundtable:**

- John provided the group with six statements that they went around the room and stated how they felt about them based on the Likert Scale.
- The first statement was that Addiction/substance use disorder is a chronic disease that can be compared to other chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension.
  - o The majority of the group responded with responses of Agree or Strongly Agree. Shannon Lawler said she agreed but had a hard time strongly agreeing due to her feeling like the first time using a substance was by choice. Teresa Diemer provided the alternative perspective of that many people use for the first time with a parent and may even be forced to participate. Erin Fogarty also strongly agreed saying that like many health issues it is something that is genetic and while our choices affect us we are already more susceptible. Jodi Martin made the strong point of her being told at a young age as a Native American that they are predisposed to addiction and that it had become a genetic factor. Jodi shared that she took that very seriously and sees how it has negatively affected her lineage.
- The second statement was that Stigma is spread in many ways within the communities, including: a. the ways individuals talk about or talk to people with an addiction b. the attitudes and opinions community members have about addiction c. policies that suggest addiction is a choice or moral failing d. the acceptance of using certain substances (like alcohol) but not others.



- Again, the group all either Agreed or Strongly Agreed. Kami Garrison and Grace Irvin discussed how common it is now for individuals to be sober from a specific substance but not all, or how those who partake in alcohol have no problem pointing fingers at community members who are using other substances. Teresa Diemer shared that years ago she knew of AA groups that would not allow anyone other than alcoholics in the group and how they looked down on the other people with substance use concerns.
- The third statement provided was that Stigma delays people getting help which reduces early diagnosis and treatment and can lead to isolation for people with addiction.
  - The group again Strongly Agreed. Rhonda shared the importance of removing labels for people and instead wording it in the healthiest and safest manner. Teresa shared that IHR has experienced this and at times will allow certain people to enter a backdoor if they are worried about being in the waiting room.
- The fourth statement was Stigma is never spread in health care settings by professionals
  - The group all agreed that they strongly disagreed. The topic of language changing so frequently was discussed and how those of us in the mix can have a hard time retaining them all that it would be hard for someone who is not actively trying to stay on top of the verbiage to understand.
- The fifth statement was Stigma within the legal system often is the result of the criminalization of the disease of addiction.
  - Teresa Diemer said she strongly disagreed when it came to Livingston County. Teresa said she has been involved in Drug Court for a long time and she is proud to say that our county does their best to not negatively impact the individuals
- The sixth and final question was to identify what terms or words were stigmatizing.
  - Teresa Diemer stated that the only three she felt were not were Drug Use or Drug Misuse, actively using, and person in recovery. Which left the remaining terms (dirty drug screen, drug abuse, addict/junkie/user, former addict, and person with an addiction) to be stigmatizing.

### **Community survey:**

- John shared that 238 individuals have completed the survey. There are still 3 ½ weeks left before it is complete on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The goal is to double last years

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numbers, as of right now they are about equal and John is hoping he will see the numbers rise before it closes.

- John provided additional post cards for those in attendance to distribute.

### **Member Updates:**

- **Clare Spires** with OSF shared that they will be having their Healthy Holidays event on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. The last day to RSVP is November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- **Jodi Martin** of BGCLC stated that Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> is their Steak and Burgers event. Jodi said there will be a live and silent auction. Jodi said she would send the auction link out.
- **Tim Jenkins** of Futures Unlimited said that Futures is focusing on their new Transportation and it is going well. Tim said it is all hands-on deck to ensure that the community member's transportation needs are being met.
- **Erin Fogarty** with the Health Department said they will be having a drive-thru COVID and Flu Vaccination Clinic on November 12<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-6pm.
- **Teresa Diemer** shared that their Support Group will be held on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 9am-10am. Teresa said the group alternates between Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings. Please check their Facebook for dates.
- **Taylor Hartman** of the Mental Health Board said that they had seen an increase in the last couple weeks with community members reaching out for rental, utility, gas, and grocery assistance. They anticipate more in November with Link not being distributed.
- **Shannon Lawler** of Heartland Head Start said they have seen the same need in the community and that her caseload became full overnight.



**Next Meeting: Thursday, December 4, 2025**

- 10:30am-12:00pm via Zoom (Virtual Only)
- <https://zoom.us/j/91925670666?pwd=eFZGQnFkTW41UjN2bGtNSHdlbisyZz09>
- Subcommittees 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at Livingston County Health Department

**Upcoming Trainings:**

- Visit <https://www.coalitionsupport.org/trainings> for upcoming trainings.

**Virtual Resource Guide/Social Media**

- Virtual Resource Guide: <https://www.jotform.com/app/231105805739152>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LivingstonCountyRecovers>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/livingston.county.roscl/>
- YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGU\\_LCzRafxtFTikOV38oDg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGU_LCzRafxtFTikOV38oDg)

**ROSC Contact Information**

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- Kari Knapp, Associate Director of Community Health [kmknapp@chestnut.org](mailto:kmknapp@chestnut.org)
- Grace Irvin, Prevention Coordinator [gcirvin@chestnut.org](mailto:gcirvin@chestnut.org)
- Livingston County ROSC Team [LivingstonCountyROSC@gmail.com](mailto:LivingstonCountyROSC@gmail.com)

**Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.**