

## **Macoupin and Montgomery County ROSC Meeting(s) 10.27.2025**

**Host: Elyse Schoen**

**Location:** Hybrid meeting in person at Litchfield Beacon Church and zoom

**Attendance:** Kevin Schott (Litchfield Citizen), Starla King (Peer support worker at SFW clinic/Recovery Corps Navigator), Greg Santoni (TASC CHOICES), Arielle Bozarth (Jane's House), Sam Brown (5<sup>th</sup> Street Renaissance), Alleahnia Pollard (Recovery Corps Project Coordinator), Greyson Lewis (citizen/peer support worker), Jon Magnuson (Pastor at Beacon Church and RCO Next Network Director), Whitney Steward (Next Network Manager/Home of Hope Manager), Miranda Smith (Emerald Gardens non-profit and ROE3 Learning Express), Nicholas Jarman (minister at Unity Baptist Church), Alison Heyen (Lincoln Land Community College), Juliet Milton (MCPHD Domestic Violence), Patrick Miller (IL Faith based and recovery collaboration), Whitney Evans (Montgomery County Health Department), Lindsey Kidd (Care Coordinator at RCORP Centerstone), Carrie McKinzie (Gateway Foundation), Sheena Langhauser (Memorial Hospital Program Coordinator).

### **[1:30pm- 2:00pm] Summary of Planning Committee Meeting**

#### **School Food Drive Partnership Discussion**

The meeting discussed a Gillespie school district-wide canned food drive for food pantries being hosted by the MMTT peer group. The ROSC decided to partner with the existing food drives rather than creating a duplicate initiative, while maintaining their own targeted distribution of hygiene products through Breaking Bread, Laundry Days, and Blessing Boxes across Macoupin County. There was also discussion about SNAP benefits for able-bodied working adults ending on November 1, with concerns raised about all SNAP benefits potentially being cut in the state of Illinois.

#### **SNAP Beneficiaries and Food Assistance**

The Next Network/RCO presented data on SNAP beneficiaries in Montgomery County, estimating around 1,700 people in Litchfield receiving benefits, and discussing the potential impact of benefit cuts on able-bodied working adults and vulnerable populations. They highlighted the critical state of local food pantries and the need for coordinated efforts to prevent service duplication. The Recovery Corps Project Coordinator is working on a survey to gather statistics on SNAP and EBT recipients' needs and is exploring partnerships with blessing boxes and other food assistance programs in the region.

#### **Community Laundry Services Planning Meeting**

The meeting focused on the planning and coordination of community laundry services, with discussions on funding, volunteer efforts, and outreach to local businesses. Montgomery highlighted the need for continued support through donations and volunteer efforts, noting that current funding will sustain operations through November. Aleahnia was tasked with collecting data to update the committee on funds and services provided. The group also reviewed the success of recent free laundry days events in various towns and discussed plans for future events, including the possibility of expanding to Carlinville.

### **Anti-Stigma Harm Reduction Campaign**

The meeting focused on planning an anti-stigma campaign for harm reduction services, with Whitney and Aleahnia discussing the implementation of a social media campaign across multiple platforms. They considered using eye-catching visuals like the past use of purple glasses and duct tape on the mouth to raise awareness. The group also explored the idea of visiting landmarks in small towns and taking pictures in front of them to promote harm reduction services and create a sense of community support. The anti-stigma campaign will center around harm reduction services. Participants discussed the importance of education and using data and statistics to engage the community, particularly conservative audiences. They emphasized the need for an impactful image or video to accompany the campaign. The group also touched on the success of harm reduction efforts in Montgomery County, including the distribution of clean needles and other resources. They concluded by mentioning upcoming events in November and the transition into fiscal year 26, where they will work on achieving five DBHR-set goals.

### **[2:00pm-3:00pm] Summary of ROSC meeting**

#### **Speaker #1: Jane's House: Women's Sober Living**

Ariel Boznar presented Jane's House, a new grassroots organization that aims to establish a 2-year women's sober living home in Macoupin County. The organization, which received its 501c3 status earlier this year, plans to provide wraparound care through weekly workshops on topics like budgeting and self-care, while focusing on breaking the generational cycle of addiction. Jane's House will operate as a healing place to call home, offering residents a percentage of their rent payment back upon successful discharge, and requiring participation in volunteer hours and drug screenings. The organization is currently seeking funding and a physical location to begin its mission. The ROSC discussed fundraising strategies for Jane's House, which will host mothers in addiction and their children, focusing on sober events and partnerships across counties. A member offered to host a paint night fundraiser, which could possibly generate \$25-50 per ticket for up to 40 people, and suggested including a children's craft area to increase attendance. The group

explored using church facilities for events, with one member offering their church gymnasium space in Brighton. They also discussed the possibility of expanding services to include fathers in the future but agreed to start with a focus on mothers and children.

### **Community Sober Holiday Events**

The group discussed organizing community events, with Carissa suggesting themed activities like gingerbread house making during the holiday season. They explored hosting sober alternatives for holidays like Super Bowl and Valentine's Day, with Clinton County's previous sober holiday celebrations serving as an example.

### **Speaker #2: Teen Support Group Expansion Plans**

Grayson Lewis presented her teen support group "Teens for a Better Future" in Carlinville, which aims to provide support for teens affected by substance use, and discussed plans to expand outreach to other libraries and schools in the area. The meeting focused on organizing support groups for teenagers, with discussions on promoting the initiative through schools, libraries, and local businesses. Participants explored ideas to increase engagement, such as offering food and utilizing social media, and highlighted the need for volunteers and funding.

### **Community Survey and Equity Goals**

Additionally, the ROSC noted the success of their community survey, which received 416 responses in one month, exceeding their goal. The meeting focused on reviewing community survey data, which showed low participation from younger demographics and males, with Carissa noting that the current numbers reflect typical survey demographics. MCPHD discussed plans to target high schools and colleges, particularly Macoupin County high schools, and colleges in our counties such as Lincoln Land and Blackburn, to increase diversity in responses. The group also reviewed fiscal year 26 goals set by the state, including prioritizing equity, reducing stigma, promoting harm reduction, increasing MAR access, and increasing service delivery, with several initiatives already underway such as the MAR program at Carlinville ER and Handle with Care programs in local schools.