



Grundy County R.O.S.C. Council Meeting Minutes Nov.25, 2025

Attendees: Carol Kilgallon; Dr. Ashley Kuhl Piwowarski; Michelle L. Pruim; Benjamin Rudolph; Sara Grunden; Ginni Demko; Tiffany Staab; Jeremy Werstler; Magdalena Campos, Neesha Stringfellow, Tarcia Leak; Celeste Fonseca

Notes

- **Overview of Grundy County R.O.S.C.:** Neesha Stringfellow explains that the Grundy County Ross is a network of resources and support systems for mental health, substance use disorder, unemployment, and unhoused individuals. The network links individuals to resources and supports school districts in identifying gaps and needs. A survey is available for attendees to report their needs to the Illinois Department of Human Services. The Grundy County ROSC covers Grundy, Kankakee, and Will Counties and partners with various organizations to provide support. Which is funded in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Behavioral Health Division.
- **Overview:** The HLM Recovery Grundy County Council Meeting discussed the closure of the county's behavioral health department, affecting low-income residents' access to medication and services. Solutions include telehealth and community clinics in Oak Park and Chatham, which accept Medicaid. Neesha Stringfellow emphasized partnerships and outreach, mentioning a December 18 open house and recovery care packages. Dr. Ashley Kuhl Piwowarski detailed Hartgrove's Schoolhouse Counseling Center, offering in-person and telehealth services for mental health, including psychiatric evaluations and medication monitoring. The program serves students, families, and staff, with a focus on accessibility and community integration.
- **Presentation on Schoolhouse Counseling Center:** Dr. Ashley Kuhl Piwowarski presents on the Schoolhouse Counseling Center, a community-based resource for behavioral health services. The mission of the Schoolhouse Counseling Center is to transform access to compassionate behavioral health care for families right where they learn and grow. Discusses the behavioral health landscape for children and teens, highlighting the significant mental health challenges they face. The Schoolhouse Counseling Center addresses barriers to accessing behavioral health services, such as proximity to providers, transportation, and social stigma.
- **Services Offered by Schoolhouse Counseling Center:** The Schoolhouse Counseling Center offers counseling and psychiatric support within school districts. Services include in-person school day counseling, after-school and evening counseling,

and telehealth services. The center also provides professional consultation and presentations on behavioral health topics. The team consists of masters-prepared clinicians, psychiatric providers, and administrative support staff.

- **Operational Details and Partnerships:** The Schoolhouse Counseling Center partners with school districts to establish behavioral health services within schools. The center operates within 30 miles of the hospital and provides in-person services within the district. Marketing and outreach efforts are conducted to inform school staff and families about the services available. Monthly meetings with district administrators are held to monitor the partnership and ensure effective service delivery.
- **Q&A Session and Additional Support:**
 - Michelle Pruim asks for clarification on the addresses for in-person services. Carol Kilgallon and Dr. Ashley Kuhl Piwowarski provide details on the hospital's address and the distance requirements for in-person services.
 - Tiffany Staab shares the challenges faced by Manuka Elementary School District, including behavioral and mental health issues among students.
 - Ginni Demko inquires about psychiatric services for Grundy County, and Carol Kilgallon discusses the availability of services through North Central.

Action items (Updates from Council Members and Partners)

- Share the contact information for the Oak Park and Chatham clinics that offer telehealth psychiatric services and accept Medicaid.
- Mention the telehealth psychiatric services as an option for Grundy County residents at the upcoming BHA day.
- Reach out to Jeremy to discuss the possibility of bringing Peer Support Services to local schools.
- Get the information about NAMI's family programs and the guide for parents of emerging adults and share it with the group.
- Refer students and families to the Schoolhouse Counseling Center services
- Attend the ROSC open house on December 18th

Attendees Contact Information:

- **Carol Kilgallon-** Group Director of Business Development @ Garfield Park Behavioral Hospital & Hartgrove Behavioral Health System. (Carol.Kilgallon@uhsinc.com)
- **Dr. Ashley Kuhl Piwowarski Psy.D.-** Licensed Clinical Psychologist , Executive Director of Outpatient Services @ Hartgrove Behavioral Health System (ashleykuhl.piwowarski@uhsinc.com)
- **Michelle L. Pruim-** Executive Director @ NAMI Will-Grundy (mpruim@namiwg.org) 815-714-8075
- **Benjamin Rudolph-** Region 2 ROSC Technical Assistance @ Chestnut (berudolph@chestnut.org)
- **Sara Grunden-** Omni Youth Services @ the state opioid response grant (sgrunden@omni4all.org)
- **Ginni Demko-** Grundy County Prevention Specialist @ Chestnut Health Systems & co-founder @ Villa ([gdemko@chestnut.org](mailto:gcdemko@chestnut.org)) 630-699-5350
- **Tiffany Staab-** Assistant Superintendent of Student Services @ Minooka Elementary School District (tstaab@min201.org)
- **Jeremy Werstler-** (Jeremy.RSS@namidupage.org) 331-703-6370
- **Magdalena Campos** - Program Coordinator @ HLM (magdalena.hlmrecovery@gmail.com)
- **Neesha Stringfellow** - Exec. Director @ HLM (neesha.hlmrecovery@gmail.com)
- **Tarcia Leak** - Operations Director @ HLM (tash.hlmrecovery@gmail.com)
- **Celeste Fonseca** - Exec. Outreach Admin. Assist. @ HLM (celeste.hlmrecovery@gmail.com)