

Lee/Whiteside ROSC Meeting Minutes

Date: November 19, 2025 Time: 3:00 pm

Attendees

- Kourtnee Mezo
- Gerald Lott
- Jacon Albers
- Brandi O'rourke
- Sydney Ayala
- Jordan Keene
- Melanie Marrandino
- Ben Rudolph
- Lauren Metzler
- Whitney Miller

Agenda

1. Updates from SVVOR
2. Committee updates and ROSC initiatives
3. Upcoming events and opportunities
4. Transportation and Recovery Friendly Workplace discussion

Discussion Notes

SVVOR Updates

- Kourtnee Mezo noted that good people are hard to find; Amboy should be fully staffed next week, but Dixon is struggling.
- Both houses are currently full, with an okay wait list. It is difficult to retain women on the wait list.
- 31 intakes were completed last month.
- Gerald Lott wrote a book; half of the proceeds go to SVVOR. Available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc.
- Hosted a Haunted House last month with 28 attendees.
- November documentary showing featured "Anonymous People" with ~35 attendees; next showing "Generation Found" on December 4th at 7:30 PM (free).
- Ongoing discussions with the Regional Office of Education about a feasibility study for a recovery high school.
- "Recovery Lives Here" campaign running with ads, radio spots, and a bus station sign in Dekalb.
- No events this month; roller skating planned for December.
- Cledy's House currently houses ~16 women; performing extremely well.

- Community survey ongoing; efforts needed to increase participation.
- Furniture and clothing available for peers moving into new places.
- Kourtnee expressed interest in becoming more involved in ROSC after limited recent participation due to staff issues.

Committee & ROSC Updates

- Jake provided update on Recovery Friendly Workplace initiative; joined online chat group and received valuable resources. Follow-up meeting scheduled for Dec 3.
- Initiative in early stages; open to anyone wanting to join.
- Discussions about potentially moving ROSC meetings due to low energy in second meeting of the day; considering 3rd Thursday at 11 AM.
- Lauren and Gerald want to meet council members personally to improve engagement.
- Gerald, Jake, Lauren, and Shannon collaborating across counties; aim to join other boards to influence and have a voice.
- Jake joined Rochelle Area Community Foundation and is being considered for the Family Services Board.

Programs & Meetings

- Grief group: Wednesdays 5 PM. Whitney noted low new participation; looking for ways to become self-sustainable.
- SMART Recovery: 4th Tuesday 12-1 PM.
- Music group: Mondays 1 PM at Rochelle Recovery Center (jam session).
- All recovery meeting: every other Thursday 10 AM at HOPE of Ogle County.
- NA meetings at Dekalb County Jail: Wednesdays 2-3 PM.

Transportation & Recovery Initiatives

- Significant lack of affordable transportation affects women's home, Amboy, and Dixon; no solution yet.
- Considering opening a recovery café with Sinnissippi, membership-based.
- Whitney suggested incorporating transportation solutions into the Recovery Friendly Workplace program.
- Ben looking into TGP transportation grant funding.

Decisions Made

- Consider moving ROSC meetings to 3rd Thursday at 11 AM.
- Explore potential integration of transportation solutions with Recovery Friendly Workplace.
- Continue evaluating Grief Group sustainability.
- Pursue transportation grant opportunities (TGP).

Action Items

Task	Owner	Due Date
Explore transportation integration with Recovery Friendly Workplace	Whitney / Team	TBD
Explore transportation grants	All	Ongoing
Promote community survey participation	All	Ongoing
Prepare for December documentary showing (Generation Found)	SVVOR Team	Dec 4, 2025
December roller skating event	SVVOR Team	December 2025

Minutes prepared and formatted for distribution.