

SI SUPRT Meeting Minutes
Gallatin/Saline County
November 5, 2025
12:00 via Zoom

In Attendance:

Chris Dennis, EHD
Danielle Camp, EHD
Lizz Cooley-Questelle, U of I Extension
Ernie Fowler, EHD
Katie Unthank, EHD
Vincent Falzone, ISP Drug Task Force
Theresa Oxford, EHD
Amy Oxford, Senator Fowler's Office
Kiesha Fromm, EHD
Sherry Reichert, TASC
Drew Donelson, EHD
Shyla Wagner, EHD
Brent Van Ham, SIU School of Medicine
Mark Elliott, Wayne County Health Department
Jerrie Baxley-Brown, EHD
Hailey Parker, EHD
Matt Shaffer, EHD

Standing Coalition Business:

- Minutes from the October meeting were approved unanimously. Motion made by Kiesha Fromm, seconded by Drew Donelson.

New and Standing Coalition:

- Lizz Cooley-Questelle introduced herself to the council. Lizz attended on behalf of the U of I Extension office. Amy Oxford introduced herself on behalf of Senator Dale Fowler's office.
- Lizz Cooley-Questelle (U of I Extension) spoke on behalf of food insecurities in our region. She presented slides on the new "Find Food IL" website. She shared many informational slides, including the following statistics.

Food Insecurity Saline County

Overall Food Insecurity Rate: 15.60%

Child Food Insecurity Rate: 18.80%

Total Food Insecure Individuals: 3710

Total Food Insecure Children: 960

Food Insecurity Gallatin County

Overall Food Insecurity Rate: 16.30%

Child Food Insecurity Rate: 20.60%

Total Food Insecure Individuals: 810

Total Food Insecure Children: 220

She explained the true definition of Food Insecurity as the following;

Low Access

Distance from a supermarket, super-center, or large grocery store.

Vehicle availability.

Food Deserts

Lack enough healthy food sources

Are low income

Are low access

She educated the council on the user-friendly information found on the “Find Food IL” website. Users can easily input information based on their location and be directed on where to find:

Pantry Staples Food Drive

Soup and Boxed Meals Food Drive

Fresh Food

Protein Power Food Drive

Snack Attack! Food Drive

Breakfast Food Drive

It's Personal! Food Drive

Holiday Food Drive

Slides will be sent to the council for further details and information.

- Amy Oxford (Senator Fowler's office) updated the council on the latest changes at Heaven's Kitchen of Harrisburg. As of November 4th, the pantry will be located at its new location on 404 Seright Street in Harrisburg. Heaven's Kitchen will continue to give away a free bag of groceries from 5:00pm-6:00 pm every Tuesday night. Additionally, they will be hosting special holiday events for the community. On Tuesday, November 18th, from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm, they will be throwing a "Thanksgiving Block Party". This will include a ribbon cutting in celebration of the new location, as well as a variety of vendors, giveaways, and free food. Participants will also be receiving a free frozen turkey along with all the holiday fixings. Limit is one per household and while supplies last. Heaven's Kitchen will also be hosting a free "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, December 13th from 9:00 am-11:00 am. This family event will take place at the New Hope Christian Academy located at 540 N. Commercial. Kids will be provided with breakfast, a free gift and an opportunity to have their picture taken with Santa.
- The council is encouraged to share these events on social media as well as clients, family and friends. It is the hope of this organization to provide groceries at no cost to those in need in our community.
- Amy shared the opportunity for council members to go online at www.registertoring.com to sign up to "ring the bell" for our local WADI office. Funds raised by this outreach will stay in our community and be used to aid those facing eviction as well as those needing assistance with utility bills.
- Vincent Falzone (ISP Drug Task Force) shared information from the State Wide Terrorism Center. Vincent informed the council that their focus is to keep track of the latest drug trends and spikes in use. It is their hope that those incarcerated receive treatment rather than repeatedly being returned to the system through arrests. Vincent was asked to put together a presentation for the council for our next meeting.
- Drew Donelson (EHD) gave Naloxone numbers for the month of October.
 - 1, 715 kits distributed
 - 170 test strips distributed
 - 410 people trained

She added that access to Narcan has been limited currently and has lowered their numbers.

- Jerrie Baxley-Brown (EHD) added that there is now a blessing box located in Carmi. Also, there is an event planned to hand out coats to those in need in the community.
- Chris Dennis (EHD) reminded the council that we are still looking to have community surveys completed. Currently, there have been 46 responses received with a goal of 500. The survey contains 20 brief questions and is available online, as well as hard copies. The council is encouraged to help us reach our goal of 500 surveys to be completed, and can help by sharing the survey.
- Chris Dennis also shared information about the Statewide ROSC Collaborative held in Effingham. Both he and Kiesha Fromm were in attendance and reported presentations were made reflecting the activities and outreach done by the ROSC across the state, as well as the growth from 2018 to present. They added that there has been a large growth in the faith-based avenue of recovery.
- Lastly, Chris reminded the council that there has been a change in policy in regards to Oxford Houses. Recovery houses can now be located in homes owned by landlords. There are regulations, of course, and questions can be directed to Michelle Buckley at the Oxford House.
- Motion was made by Theresa Oxford to adjourn the meeting, with Kiesha Fromm seconding the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3rd at 12:00 via Zoom.