

Effingham County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, December 15th, 2025

Time: 1:00-2:00 pm

Location: 104 Blohm Ave, Effingham & Zoom

Meeting Facilitator: Samantha Hicks, note-taker: Maggie G.

Attendees:

In person:

Jenn Galvan (Family Resource Center Advocate of Effingham County)
Justin Carder (IDHS Office Administrator, Olney)
Kaitlyn Johnson (Effingham Co Program Case Manager)
Kelly Buescher (Effingham County Case Management)
Madison LeMay (Effingham County Probation Program Manager)
Maria Deaconesa (Case Managers of Effingham County)
Norbert Soltwedel (Effingham County Board member)
Paul Kuhns (Effingham County Sheriff)
Samantha Hicks (Effingham County ROSC Coordinator)

Zoom:

Beth Hayden (Recruitment and Engagement Specialist, Bethany Christian Services)
David Alvarez (Technical Assistance and Training Specialist, Prevention First)
Deb Beckman (Region 4 Statewide ROSC TA)
Emilia Saber (Technical Assistance and Training Specialist, Prevention First)
Keith Powell (Safe Families for Children)
Maggie Gouchenouer (Investigative State Case Analyst for IL State Police SEIDTF)
Olivia Jenkins (Hour House Prevention program facilitator)
Skylar Miller (Coles County ROSC Council Coordinator)
Susan Kessler (Intact caseworker, Bethany Christian Services)
Tommy Alsobrook (Senior Outreach Coordinator, Oxford House)

Minutes

Introductions

Council meeting attendees introduced themselves and the agencies they represent or explained why they were attending.

Samantha gave an overview of the ROSC concept in Effingham County & what the Council is trying to achieve.

Members discussed what they achieved in the year (personally or agency) and what their goal is for next year.

Sheriff Kuhns: Medicated Assisted Recovery (MAR) program that was started in the jail from the county opioid settlement funds.

Jenn: Family Resource Center had their first parenting learning group & they're finishing their last class tomorrow. She also finished her 40 hours of training of domestic violence classes so she can start teaching those classes with FRC.

Justin: His office put on their first job fair since COVID.

Kaitlyn: Taking the job at Effingham County probation & going back to school next year.

Madison: Getting recertified for Problem Solving court & growing participant numbers.

Maria: Having people come to their office and improve their quality of life.

Kelly: Having funding through this year and until April of next year.

Olivia: Successfully having another baby and juggling teaching and life in general.

Susan: Progressing & learning being an intact caseworker rather than a permeance worker, having an internship left and then her Masters in Human Services will be done.

Keith: Getting a call from his old elementary school and helping place a child with a 72-year-old couple and getting to see that dynamic.

David: Having their first networking event and having 11 counties participate.

Maggie: Finishing her Bachelor's degree & hopefully getting accepted into a Master's program next year.

Deb: Going from being the Clinton county ROSC Coordinator to the Region 4 Statewide ROSC TA position.

Emilia: The networking event & also planning for their next one which will probably be sometime in March.

Tommy: Being recently promoted to Senior Outreach Coordinator for the state of IL for Oxford House.

Skylar: Juggling 4 job titles within ROSC for the past 2 years.

Samantha: Getting her Master's in Human Services & having a hand in getting recovery housing (Oxford House) come to Effingham County.

ROSC Updates

Samantha referenced the program at Lake Land College for substance abuse. The name will be changed, which is great because substance "abuse" is not first-person language. It is usually used when there is a victim involved. A representative from the program will attend the ROSC Council meeting sometime in the spring to discuss the program.

Keith asks if Samantha can infer about internships in the program.

Samantha says she will, but she thinks there will be internships due to the requirements to get a CADC, CPRS, and CRSS certification. She says she's not entirely sure about the requirements to get a CADC certification but the ladies who will be coming will be able to answer the Council's questions.

Committee Updates

Samantha explains the goals of the Roads to Recovery committee.

Madison provides the update for Roads to Recovery. She says the committee plans to reach out to Crossroads Church and Cornerstone Church for volunteers, and Sam will reach out at

meetings. There is a tentative meeting at Journey Church on January 17th. The committee is also working on liability waivers, de-escalation techniques, and the risks of transportation.

Norbert has spoken with Beth (director) at CEFS about providing more transportation assistance for treatment or counseling services. He states that the city of Effingham has made contributions to the buses around the county, but there is an issue with providing drivers due to the cost. He mentions the state funding match has changed from 65% to 80% which will be beneficial since only 20% needs to be matched to get another 0.80 on the dollar. He says there is a lot of specifications that go into the public transportation but would be beneficial for the Council to try to utilize the existing county transportation.

Samantha asked if Norbert could facilitate an introduction with Beth. Norbert agreed.

Samantha clarified that the 80% match is for contracts that are signed between CEFS and the organization to provide transportation services exclusively for that organization on set days and times. **Norbert** confirmed.

Member asked if the buses go out of county. Yes, it is currently \$1/mile to go out of the county which is a large barrier to individuals in recovery.

Member mentions a donation pile at the churches for funds to pay for the buses to drive people to treatment could be a good idea.

Samantha explains the Pathways to Peer Support committee and then provides the update. She's had meetings with the SIU School of Medicine about their curriculum and setting Hour House up as an apprenticeship site for their program. The community and other agencies will need to get on board with employing peers and paying them what they deserve. She adds that Kat O'Brien from the Gateway Foundation no longer has a position at HSHS St. Anthony's, so it would be beneficial to have CRSS and CPRS positions there.

Samantha mentions Sam at Grace Counseling has interns from EIU, and Rebecca at Evolve Counseling is a CPRS and is getting her CADC. She said there needs to be a larger organization to support these peer support positions.

Jenn asked if Heartland Human Services would be interested. Samantha stated ROSC has gone a couple of times to present and had a 1:1 with Morgan Henry, but nothing substantial at this time.

Kelly mentioned Family Care Associates since they have behavioral health.

Samantha updates the council on the Healing Families committee, saying they need to determine a specific route. She includes that Safe Families for Children fills a unique gap for individuals with substance use. Safe Families for Children needs host families in Effingham and Clay County.

Keith explains that Safe Families for Children provides a safe place for children to go while the parent is going through a variety of issues.

Samantha mentions the #4 reason from the community survey results for "not seeking treatment and support with substance use" is due to family responsibilities.

Madison mentioned that she had someone from probation not willing to seek treatment because they didn't want to lose their kid.

Community Survey Results

Samantha states we'll go over the survey more in-depth next month because we are out of time, but there were 323 responses to the survey, which is about 1% of the community. The age groups were split close to even, and there were way more male responses this year. There were also more Hispanic or Latino responses compared to the year prior, but results were still predominantly white.

Keith asks how the survey parallels the county's demographics. Samantha pulled up the FY26 Strategic plan and compared--- it does parallel to county's demographics.

Samantha mentions Kasey Kemme from the U of I extension office has been reaching out to local schools to host a "health day" that ROSC will be helping with for the spring hopefully.

The next ROSC Council meeting will be on Zoom ONLY on January 19th because the health department will be closed due to MLK day.

****NEXT ROSC COUNCIL MEETING****

Date: [Monday, January 19th, 2025 @ 1:00-2:00PM](#)

Where: [Zoom ONLY \(MLK Day\)](#)

Contact emails:

ROSC Coordinator: Samantha Hicks; samanthah@hourhouserecovery.org

ROSC Program Supervisor: Jenna Hays; jennah@hourhouserecovery.org

Where to find past meeting minutes: <https://www.govst.edu/Recovery-Support/South-Central-IL-ROSC/EFCRC-ROSC-Council/>



Effingham County ROSC Facebook page

