

# Recovery Oriented System of Care



## Hardin/Pope ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**Location:** Online at [www.bit.ly/HardinPopeROSC](http://www.bit.ly/HardinPopeROSC)  
In-Person at 125 Market St., Golconda, IL

### Meeting Attendance

#### In-Person

1. Cammy Duggins, Hardin/Pope ROSC Council Coordinator
2. Dave Griswold, Community Member
3. Jennifer Worthen, Southern Seven Health Department

#### Online/Teams

1. Emily Middleton, Senior Program Director – Prevention and Advocacy
2. Jessica Atkinson, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
3. Kim Thorwegen, Siteman PECA
4. Haley Hopkins, Prevention First
5. Megan Edmondson, Prevention First
6. Daniel Bell, Community Member
7. Rachel Chruszczyk, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
8. Bunny Lee, Community Member
9. Amber Mulkins, Arrowleaf/STOP
10. Heather Rash, CASA of Southeastern Illinois
11. Jordan Strong, MCDAC
12. Melissa Smith, Arrowleaf/SUPR-SAFE Coordinator, Community Member
13. Christina Ancira, IDHS
14. Lasha Vincent, MCDAC
15. Bev Holland, ROSC Region 5 TA
16. Johanna Gonzales, ROSC

## Welcome and Introductions

### Arrowleaf ROSC Vision

- A community system that supports and encourages individuals and families seeking or maintaining recovery for themselves or a loved one

### Arrowleaf ROSC Mission

- Collaborating to build, foster, and empower communities of recovery

### Old Business

- Cammy opened the meeting asking council members to share their thoughts on the ROSC Mission and Vision. Responses included:
  - Building stronger, healthier communities through partnerships
  - Helping each other to be aware of resources out there
  - Really trying to create communities where stigma is not a barrier
- Mike Deno with The House of Care Ministries in Brookport Presentation
  - The House of Care Ministries is a community active faith-based public charity serving hope to high-risk populations. It is based out of Brookport, Illinois in Massac County. The organization provides various programs and projects including Addy's Closet Clothing Ministry, Bands of Hope, a Clothing Voucher Program, and more.
  - [Click to view the program's slides for more information.](#)
- Community Survey
  - Council members reviewed the status of the completion of the Community Survey, which will close on December 19<sup>th</sup>. As of today's meeting, a total of 12 online responses have been completed, representing 7 of the 10 target sectors. Sectors still needed include Teacher, Individual Using Substances, and Administrator.
  - The group suggested placing the flyer in the teacher's lounge at the local schools and encouraging staff to participate. Other suggestions included placing paper surveys and the flyer at the hospital and local health clinics. It was also planned for the survey to be provided to substance use providers to share with individuals seeking treatment. It was acknowledged that not all individuals using substances are seeking treatment, and the group discussed the need to target more community members in an effort to obtain feedback from individuals using substances who may not be in treatment.
  - The group reiterated their target goal of 50 responses across all 10 sectors and agreed to attempt to get 3 people to take the survey per council member.

## Discussion Topics

- Community Survey Review
  - The group reviewed the existing results for the Community Survey. As of today, all requested sectors have been reached. Dave had several paper copies of surveys for the law enforcement sector.
    - Assets:
      - Strong belief that recovery is possible (4.5/5) and understanding that trauma correlates with substance use and mental health disorders (4.3/5)
      - Respect for those struggling with mental health (4.45/5) and substance use (4.02/5) remains high.
    - Gaps Highlighted:
      - Awareness and Navigation: Residents reported low confidence in knowing where to find help: People in our community know where to go for help related to mental health (2.88/5); People in our community know where to go for help related to substance use (3.01/5); Treatment options for people who use substances are publicized within our community (3.11/5); and recovery support options for people seeking or maintaining recovery are well publicized within our community (3.01/5) Harm Reduction and Medication Assisted Recovery (MAR) Confidence:Belief that harm reduction resources are accessible is very low (2.9/5), and confidence in MAR effectiveness is moderate (3.6/5). This suggests a need for education and increased visibility of harm reduction and MAR services.
      - Persistent Barriers: Stigma (66%), finances/insurance (65%), lack of awareness (59%), transportation (58%), and privacy/legal concerns (41% each) remain top obstacles to care.
  - Strategic Planning
    - In review of the Community Survey results, the group discussed potential goals and objectives to update in the ROSC Council Strategic Plan. The group discussed and settled on two priorities for goal setting:
      - i. Stigma
      - ii. Awareness of Resources
    - The group discussed opportunities for communication planning to increase the community knowledge of resources, reduce stigma, and expand the reach of the council efforts. The finalized Strategic Plan will be submitted

at the end of this month and reviewed with council members at the January meeting.

## Announcements

- SMART Recovery – Open Door online recovery meetings ([see flyer](#))
  - Meeting Thursdays from 6 PM – 7 PM
- Past Events Reports
  - Tablings - ROSC Volunteers Welcome
    - Christmas in the Country Craft Fair – Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> (Golconda Golden Circle) - made contact with 39 people, gave several survey flyers and 1 Narcan with training
- Upcoming Events
  - Tablings - ROSC Volunteers Welcome
    - No tablings are scheduled at this time.
  - Collaborating with various agencies to plan Child Abuse Prevention events in April for Hardin and Pope Counties as well as other southern Illinois counties.
  - Collaborating with SIRN (Southern Illinois Recovery Network) to help plan and participate in at Southeastern Illinois College on May 22, 2026.
  - Other upcoming events of ROSC members and partners
- Other Announcements
  - Community Survey is open until December 19<sup>th</sup>! Participants will get a chance to win a \$20 gift card!
    - [www.bit.ly/ArrowleafROSCSurvey](http://www.bit.ly/ArrowleafROSCSurvey)
  - Hardin County Sheriff's Department reports their drug drop off container is overflowing and they aren't sure how to go about getting it picked up. Emily and Cammy will help review and reach out to get this addressed.

## Next Meeting

- **Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** from 11:30AM to 12:30PM
  - 125 Market St., Golconda, IL or [www.bit.ly/HardinPopeROSC](http://www.bit.ly/HardinPopeROSC)