

Ogle/DeKalb ROSC Meeting Minutes

Date: November 19, 2025

Meeting Type: ROSC Meeting

Location: virtual

Minutes Taken By: Not applicable (meeting recorded)

Attendees

- Jake Albers
- Gerald Lott
- Ben Rudolph
- Penny Stark
- Brandi O'Rorke
- Sydney Ayala

Notes: Shannon Tully was out sick; meeting was recorded.

Agenda & Discussion

1. Greetings and Position Held

- Introductions by attendees.

2. Updates

Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery

- Documentary showing of *Anonymous People* had about **35 attendees**.

- RecoverCon in **October** had **about 200 attendees**.
- Haunted Haven event had **about 30 attendees**. **Making some traction**, but struggling with **low attendance at events**.
- Discussions with the state regarding **changing focus**: considering shifting toward **supporting people in our house** instead of chasing outside participants.
- Current **investor interested** in partnering to expand to **75–100 beds**.
- Initial goal: coaching the community, but **Sinnissippi and others already provide community support**; may **focus more on internal participants**.

Generation Found (Documentary on Recovery High Schools)

- Gerald received a call from a peer: **Regional Office of Education** wants her to **lighten workload to focus on recovery high school**.
- Study **what a recovery high school would look like** and **report back in January**.
- **Goal:** establish a recovery high school in our building in **Rock Falls**.
- **Regional Office of Education partnering** for the **Generation Found showing**.
- Working on distributing **community survey**.

Staffing Updates

- Added **Sydney** and other staff; additional hires under consideration.

Recovery Friendly Workplace Program

- Started working on the **Recovery Friendly Workplace program**.
- **Penny received a manual** from the **Recovery Friendly Online community** with resources to assist.
- **Meetings scheduled**: with the National group and another collaborative meeting.
- **Strategy**: learning from **Hamilton County** to develop a local plan.

- **Flexible implementation:** pick and choose elements, may **incorporate coaching**.
- **Need support** from **ROSC community, community, and employers**.
- **Top reasons for relapse:** 1) Housing, 2) Employment.

Upcoming Plans

- **November:** limited activities planned.
- **December:** planning to come back stronger.

Upcoming Meetings / Events

- **All Recovery Meeting:** every other Thursday at **Hope of Ogle County**, 10:00 AM
- **Music Group:** Mondays at 1:00 PM at **Rochelle Recovery Center**
- **SMART Recovery (Online):** last Tuesday of the month
- **NA for Inmates – DeKalb County Jail:** every other Wednesday, 2:00–3:00 PM
- **Virtual Grief Group:** same day as ROSC meetings at 5:30 PM

Community Engagement / Observations

- Current meetings **underattended**.
- Opportunity to **better utilize community resources** and **increase outreach**.

Staff Involvement

- Staff encouraged to **participate in other boards**.
- **Jake Albers** joined the **Rochelle Area Community Foundation board**.
- **Penny Stark** invited to **Advisory Board for Women in Leadership at Rockford University** and **plans to take the course**.

Program / Staff Development

- **Adding curriculum on AI usage** and exploring **how staff and programs can benefit from AI**.