

ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: December 19, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Facilitator: Rick Zehr

Attendees: Eric Zehr, Sarah Hanson, Andrea Parker, Angel Cruz, Jeff McFadden, Kelsey Staley, Brittany Oelze, Johanna Gonzalez, Lynn Moore (partial), Donna Crowder, Kami Garrison, Kevin Hardesty, Aloysia Mitchell.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Rick welcomed attendees and asked for new members to introduce themselves.
 - New Members:
 - Andrea Parker – Carle Health, School Health, Hult Center.
 - Angel Cruz – Reentry Case Management, Peoria County Jail.
 - Special Announcement:
Jeff McFadden introduced as new SUD ROSC Coordinator starting January 5, 2026. Jeff shared his experience coordinating ROSC for 4+ years and his vision for Peoria ROSC.
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2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- November 21 meeting minutes approved without changes.
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3. Community Survey Results

Presenter: Sarah Hanson

Overview:

- Distribution: 10,000 surveys sent across Peoria, East Peoria, Tazewell County, Woodford County.
- Responses: 63 completed surveys.
- Demographics:
 - Gender: 34 women, 22 men, 4 prefer not to say.

- Ethnicity: Majority White.
- Income: 55% reported \$50,000–\$100,000+.
- Age: Most respondents were 65+, few between 25–54.

Key Findings:

- Respect for Individuals:
 - *People who use drugs deserve respect*: Over 60% agree or strongly agree.
 - *People with mental illness deserve respect*: 80–90% agree or strongly agree.
- Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR):
 - Mixed responses; many selected “Neither agree nor disagree,” suggesting lack of awareness.
 - Indicates need for community education on MAR and its effectiveness.
- Access to Services:
 - Questions on availability of MAR, harm reduction services (Narcan, syringe programs), and mental health treatment showed high “Neither agree nor disagree” responses—suggesting limited knowledge of resources.
- Government Funding:
 - 48% strongly agree that funding for mental health and SUD treatment should increase.
- Stigma & Support:
 - Strong agreement that family members of people with SUD need support and resources.
 - 90% agree or strongly agree that recovery requires support and is possible for everyone.
- Law Enforcement & Harm Reduction:
 - Overwhelming support for police carrying Narcan (52% strongly agree, 26% agree).

- Community Education:
 - Majority agree that education reduces stigma (23% strongly agree, 38% agree).
- Areas for Improvement:
 - Education on MAR and harm reduction services.
 - Outreach to younger demographics and diverse income groups.

Action Point:

Survey results will inform the Strategic Plan due January 15, 2026, (extension granted) focusing on education, stigma reduction, and equitable access.

4. Strategic Plan Discussion

Key Focus Areas:

- Communication Plan:
 - How to inform the public about ROSC activities and resources.
 - Suggested channels:
 - Local radio (e.g., WPNV) and TV segments for health-focused programming.
 - Social media platforms (Trillium website, Facebook, LinkedIn) and community partner pages.
 - Resource fairs and community events.
 - Faith-based outreach through churches and organizations.
 - Brittany Ott (Trillium media specialist) proposed as lead for Carle-side communications, ensuring compliance with organizational rules.
 - Discussion on leveraging affiliates' social media and websites as a workaround for Carle's restrictions.
- Education Needs:
 - Address gaps revealed in survey (high "Neither agree nor disagree" responses).
 - Prioritize education on:

- Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR) and its effectiveness.
 - Harm reduction services (Narcan, syringe programs).
 - Available mental health and SUD treatment resources.
- Outreach to medical community to reduce stigma and train providers on non-stigmatizing language.
- Faith-Based Engagement:
 - Challenges noted in reaching faith-based organizations.
 - Proposed strategies:
 - Partner with Adult & Teen Challenge and Celebrate Recovery (Christ-based programs).
 - Promote Certified Recovery Congregations training through the Center for Community Engagement.
 - Engage ministers via Carle's Community Health Focus Committee for buy-in and advocacy.
- Outcome Measures:
 - Promote MAR and other evidence-based practices.
 - Ensure equitable access to services across the region.
 - Reduce stigma through education and community engagement.
- Data & Evaluation:
 - Need for measurable objectives and outcome tracking.
 - Suggestions:
 - Recruit a part-time support person with data skills.
 - Explore partnerships with local health departments or UIC statisticians for survey analysis and metrics.

Action Items:

- Develop communication plan with clear responsibilities and frequency of outreach.

- Identify education priorities and create materials for MAR and harm reduction.
 - Formalize faith-based engagement strategy.
 - Draft outcome measures and evaluation framework.
 - Begin job description for part-time support/data role.
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5. Upcoming Events

- Peoria County Jail Resource Fair:
 - Date: January 30, 2026, 9:00 AM–12:00 PM.
 - ROSC Council invited to attend; Trillium reserved 4 tables.
 - Focus: Provide resources for women reentering community.
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6. Additional Notes

- Explore social media options via Trillium or partner organizations.
 - Consider outreach to medical community for stigma reduction.
 - Johanna Gonzalez offered support and resources for ROSC education.
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Next Steps & Deliverables

- Strategic Plan due January 15, 2026.
 - Communication plan development.
 - Confirm participation in January 30 resource fair.
 - Sarah to share survey data and ROSC resource links.
 - Andrea and Johanna to connect for ROSC orientation.
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Closing Remarks: Rick thanked members for collaboration and emphasized momentum with Jeff joining as coordinator.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.