

EDGAR COUNTY ROSC Council

MEETING MINUTES

January 27th, 2026
5:15 PM

Paris Hospital Conference Room A and on Zoom

Attendance in-person: Nicki Hanks, Doug Cochran, Amanda Thompson, Norm Wilson, Cory Hanks, Nate Alexander, Jack Hoffman, Jennifer Hudson, Susan Tybon,

Attendance on Zoom: Michelle Creech, Chris Darling, Marlyn Frey, Bethany Wagoner, Kyra Graham, Kristin Davis, Camille Gordon, Jenna Hays, John Brandonburg, James Sanders, Lexanna Strader, Lindsey Erye, Deb Beckman, Michelle Hibbard, Abby Horn

Committee Update

The committee has set a date for the Open Doors Opportunity Second Chance Hiring Fair on April 23rd from 10 to 2 at Lake Ridge Christian Church. Employers and job-related community resources will be present at the event, and the committee is seeking additional help in reaching out to local employers to encourage their participation. Attendees interested in assisting with this effort were invited to stay after the meeting for further details. Nicki concluded the conversation by thanking HRC's ISP Program for their collaboration and hard work on this project.

Spot Light Speaker

The meeting covered updates on the CORS program, which provides services to individuals with substance use disorder and the unhoused, as well as youth affected by substance use issues. Andy introduced the program's unique features.

New Committee Launch

Nicki stated that the ROSC Council has created a **PLE Subcommittee**. The first meeting is scheduled for **March 23, 2026, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.** at the **Paris Carnegie Library**. She explained that this committee will focus on better understanding the needs of individuals in early recovery within the community, while also assisting with support efforts and event planning.

FY26 Strategic plan Next steps

The group then reviewed strategic plan goals, including developing a hospital-based warm handoff program in Edgar County, strengthening second-chance hiring opportunities, and expanding community access to harm reduction resources. Next steps for these goals were outlined, with particular focus on engaging local employers, conducting training sessions, and increasing awareness about fentanyl and Narcan. The conversation ended with a discussion on the low community turnout for a recent fentanyl awareness training, with suggestions to improve participation through school-based programs and social media campaigns.

Agency Updates

ECPHD

Abby Horn introduced herself as the new Director of Emergency Preparedness, replacing Connor Dotson.

Neighborhood Watch

Continues to grow new members.

HRC

Michelle Creech stated that HRC will be hosting an Adult Mental Health First Aid training on Friday, January 30, 2026. She also shared that planning is currently underway to offer a Youth Mental Health First Aid training at a later date.

Jennifer Hutson also discussed that HRC is enhancing the SUD Program.

Additionally, HRC's Peer Support Team will be visiting the local soup kitchen on a monthly basis to assist individuals in need with completing homeless ID applications, SNAP applications, and connecting them to any additional resources they may need.

Soup Kitchen (Vicki Dick/ Sue Sheeran)

Nicki stated the soup kitchen isn't just a free meal it is a place of connection, if you would like to volunteer prepping food starts at 9:30 AM Monday through Friday.

Trafficking Training/ One pill can kill (Doug)

Doug shared that he has had success providing human trafficking training in two different schools in Edgar County over the past month. He noted that he is always looking for additional schools, organizations, or community groups where he can offer human trafficking training.

Doug also provided an update that the *Handle with Care* program is still ongoing, with SIU School of Medicine having taken over coordination of the program.

Celebrate Recovery (Cory Hanks)

Cory announced the women's group is growing. Celebrate Recovery serves a light meal at 5:30 PM on Wednesday nights at Lake Ridge Christian Church. All Are Welcome!

Doorway to Hope (Nate Alexander)

Nate invited all attendees to the upcoming **Doorway to Hope Community Engagement Meeting** scheduled for **March 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** at **Lake Ridge Christian Church, 122 East Stidl Road, Paris, Illinois 61944**. He shared that the meeting will provide an opportunity to meet the Doorway to Hope Board, participate in an open Q&A, learn more about the organization's mission and current initiatives, and explore available committee opportunities. Nate encouraged anyone interested in getting involved to attend and emphasized that community participation is welcome and valued.

Next Meeting: February 24th, 2026, at Paris Hospital Conference Room A and on Zoom.