

ROSC Meeting Minutes – Ogle / DeKalb

Date: January 21, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM

Meeting: ROSC

Location: Zoom

Attendees

- Gerald Lott – Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery (SVVOR)
- Penny Stark – Recovery Community Alliance (RCA)
- Deanna Cada – DeKalb County Mental Health Board
- Steven McBride – SVVOR
- Shannon Tully – SVVOR
- Jenna Borg – RSAC
- Toscha Bradford – AID
- Alexis Hecker – Sinnissippi Centers
- Ben Rudolph – ROSC Council Technical Assistance
- Marta Jarka – Ben Gordon Center
- Andy McFarlane – Kishwaukee United Way

Agenda Items & Discussion

Opening and Introductions

- Meeting opened with greetings and introductions.

SVVOR Program Update

- Report on current activities at SVVOR.
- Over past 5 years, focus has been on individuals 0–3 years into recovery.
- Previous efforts spent on individuals not ready to engage; now refocusing.
 - Continue treatment/support access.
 - Long-term case management only for engaged individuals.
 - New focus: individuals in recovery and their families (reduce enabling, support families).

Program Highlights and Data

- 9 intakes in December.
- Screening of *Tipping the Pain Scale* had ~20 attendees.
- Fewer people seek help during holidays; some activities paused.
- Music group active; grief group going well.
- Recovery Lives Here campaign progressing.
- Bill Kepel featured as Person in Recovery.
- Acknowledged loss of Walter Divers to overdose.

Events and Activities

- Sober Night Out: Mardi Gras Lanes, DeKalb, Friday, Jan 6–8 PM.
- Movie night skipped this month; resumes in March.

Strategic Planning and Council Engagement

- FY26 Strategic Plan reviewed (needs assessment included).
- ROSC encouraged to shift from spectator to working council.
- Penny Stark overwhelmed with Recovery Friendly Workplace initiative.
- Request for participation from other ROSC councils.
- Penny requested help with PowerPoint presentations.
- Steven McBride excited to be back with SVVOR and DeKalb community.

Decisions Made

- Refocus SVVOR efforts toward engaged individuals and families.
- Increase council participation and shared responsibility.

Minutes prepared by: Shannon Tully