

## **Sangamon County ROSC Council- Monthly Meeting**

3/24/26, 9am

Location: Zoom

### **Attendees:**

- Whitney Devine, Sangamon Co. ROSC Council / Family Guidance Centers, Inc.
- Austin Dambacher, Sangamon Co. ROSC Council / Family Guidance Centers, Inc.
- Toni Randall, Statewide ROSC
- Donna Reeves, Central Counties Health Center
- Sharon Helms-Commer, Envision Unlimited
- Mercedes Kent, Gateway Foundation
- Galia Cossyleon, Memorial Health
- Jeffrey Isbell, Meridian Health Plan
- Jeanné Hansen, SIU School of Medicine Survivor Recovery Center
- Rebecca Murphy, SIU School of Medicine Survivor Recovery Center
- Julie Plunk, Springfield Fire Department
- Audie Prange, Sangamon Co. Sheriff's Office (Investigative Division)
- Malik Perry, Springfield Urban League
- Alex Schneider, HSHS Community Outreach Worker (Southern Region)
- Debra Joseph, HSHS Community Outreach Worker

### **Agenda:**

- Introductions
- Featured Speaker: Springfield Urban League (Malik Perry)
- Council Member Open Forum: Updates, Wins, Needs & Support Requests
- Membership Update
- ROSC and Community Events + Training opportunities
- Strategic Plan Updates

### **Meeting Notes:**

#### **1.Introductions:**

- See attendee list

#### **2. Featured Speaker: Springfield Urban League (Malik Perry, Data Compliance & QA)**

- Founded 1910; in Springfield since 1926; major civil rights, community-based organization
- “One-stop shop” serving ~21,000 people annually across Central IL
- Focus areas: education, workforce development, health, civic engagement, justice
- Provides support from Early Head Start (infants) through adulthood
- DHS-certified for SNAP & TANF assistance
- Core Work:
  - Education: truancy, literacy, summer enrichment

- Economic: job training, digital literacy, support for unemployed/returning citizens
- Health: mobile services, addressing health deserts, reducing access barriers
- Key Programs
  - Head Start/Early Head Start: serves low-income families; parent-led governance
  - Freedom School: free K–8 summer literacy & leadership program (starts June)
  - Empowerment Program: workforce support (case management, skills training)
  - Wellness on Wheels: mobile health services in underserved areas
- Involved in East Side revitalization (Cultural District, Housing Survey)
- Day of Social Action: Date TBD

### **3. Council Member Open Forum:**

- [Members share updates]
- Central Counties Health Center (Donna Reeves)- In need of book donations for lobby
- Memorial Hospital (Galia Cossyleon)- hired CRSS for ER warm-handoff (ROSC will connect Galia with Family Guidance Centers Outreach program manager)
- Memorial (Galia Cossyleon)- mental health training May 4<sup>th</sup>- flyer forthcoming
- Memorial Behavioral Health Training
  - Wed. 3/25, 8:30am-4:30pm at Memorial Learning Center
  - Peer Support and Clinical Collaboration: Integrating Lived Experience to Improve Outcomes- presented by Trenda Hedges, CRSS, CPRS, founder of Peer Power LLC
  - Registration required (see flyer in PowerPoint for details)
- Envision Unlimited (Sharon Helms-Comer)-Community Garden event update
  - April 18<sup>th</sup>, Finalizing details and flyers
  - Gardening event to help people learn grounding exercises, benefits of gardening, understand how fruits and veggies can help MH
  - In need of organizations to host resource tables
  - Possibility of eventually adding micro pantry
- Springfield Fire Department (Julie Plunk)- shared that the department recently purchased an ambulance that will be for first response / crisis intervention for SUD / MH (ROSC will connect Julie with Family Guidance Centers Outreach program manager)
- NAMI Champaign- Garden of Gladness
  - Sun. 3/29 from 2pm-4pm at OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center (1400 W. Park St., Urbana, IL)
  - Gardening event will feature trivia, potting plants, creating cards, games and giveaways, and snacks and drinks

- o RSVP required by 3/28, scan code on flyer in PowerPoint to register
  - o \*ROSC is now a part of NAMI Champaign, as we work towards bringing a NAMI chapter to Springfield!
- Feeding Springfield One Lasagna at a Time- Easter Extravaganza
  - o Sat. 3/28 from 11am-1pm at Kumler United Methodist Church (back parking lot- 600 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Springfield, IL)
  - o In need of easter basket donations (pre-wrapped preferred)
  - o Contact ROSC for more information
- Community Collaboration Fair
  - o Wed. 4/29 at 9am- Elizabeth Packard Mental Health Center (901 Southwind Rd, Springfield, IL)
  - o PMH overview, leadership meet-and-greet, cross-agency networking across all sectors to strengthen coordination of care and to promote collaboration
  - o RSVP required by April 15, 2026 (contact: [Andy.Lee@Illinois.gov](mailto:Andy.Lee@Illinois.gov))
- Solid Rock Youth Transitional Services- Bright Futures Brunch-
  - o Sat. 6/13 from 12pm-3pm at UIS Student Ballroom (2251 Richard Wright Dr., Springfield, IL)
  - o Annual event raising awareness and support for young adults experiencing homelessness and aging out of foster care
  - o Community gathering with stories, music, and networking; showcases programs (housing, life skills, employment, mentorship) and supports youth transitioning to stability and independence.
  - o Tickets available on website: [www.solidrockyts.org/events](http://www.solidrockyts.org/events)
- Mr. Lasagna's Closet of Hope
  - o Seeking men's clothing donations to help individuals who are transitioning into sober living
  - o Contact ROSC for more information
- Mr. Lasagna's Closet of Hope- Donation drive for sober living house fire
  - o One of the local Oxford houses suffered a house fire this past weekend
  - o Collecting hygiene items (new), men's clothes
  - o Contact ROSC for more information
- Heartland Housed- Welcome Home Basket Initiative
  - o Collecting baskets with home goods, hygiene supplies, etc. To help those transitioning from being unhoused into housing
- Family Guidance Centers, OTTAC, and Prevention First: Free clinical supervision hours
  - o Offering free clinical supervision for those seeking licensure / certification in Illinois
  - o Contact [hwang@fgcinc.org](mailto:hwang@fgcinc.org) for more information / to schedule

#### **4.Membership Update**

- 1 new members since last month

- 29 active members / organizations
- Sector growth needed in: Judicial, media, youth-serving organizations, volunteer / civic organization, state / tribal / local government, law enforcement sectors
- Next New Member Orientation: Friday, 4/17/26, at 1pm via zoom (zoom link available via website- [www.sangamoncorosc.org](http://www.sangamoncorosc.org))

## 5. ROSC Events

- Recap: Relax & Recover Windchime Workshop
  - Hosted at Springfield Art Association in collaboration with Fifth Street Renaissance. Approximately **20 attendees** enjoyed food, made windchimes out of seashells and other craft items donated by community members. Narcan was available as well as other treatment and community resources
- Wellness In The Woods: Hiking Meetup (ROSC)
  - Sat. 4/18 at 9:30am- Lincoln Memorial Gardens (2301 E. Lake Shore Dr., Springfield, IL 62712)
  - ROSC will be hiking at Lincoln Memorial Gardens with others in recovery (kids are welcome with supervision) to learn about how nature can support mental well-being, practice grounding exercises, and to expand recovery network
- Mind & Wellness Family Day (Springfield Community Health Council)
  - Sat. 5/9 from 11am-2pm (location TBA)
  - Join Springfield Urban League, Birth to Five Illinois- Region 51, and ROSC (along with other member organizations of the Springfield CHC) for a **free** event for the whole family
  - Mental health resources, activities for children, spotlight speakers, health screenings, giveaways, and food
  - We are currently looking for organizations to host resource tables; contact ROSC if interested
- Fresh Start Forum & Breakfast (ROSC & Visions 1908)
  - Sat. 6/27 from 10am-12pm at Visions 1908 (801 S. 11<sup>th</sup> St., Springfield, IL 62703)
  - Join ROSC, Visions 1908 (Second Chance Program) for a keynote speaker Toy Beasley (Illinois Coalition to End Permanent Punishment) on Illinois' recently passed Clean Slate Bill
  - Resources for people moving forward after justice / legal challenges
  - Free breakfast sponsored by IHOP (Wabash location)
  - Flyer forthcoming

## 6. Strategic Plan Progress Updates (*Deferred to next meeting due to time constraints*)

- Resource Bundles for Individuals Exiting Incarceration:
  - ROSC has worked with the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office to define eligibility and distribution for resource bundles. Individuals with MH or SUD automatically

- qualify; other resources (transportation, hygiene items, ROSC guides/QR cards) are provided based on expressed need.
- A PDF of the ROSC guide has been provided to jail and will be available on jail kiosks. Bundles include 12-step meeting lists and other support groups, shelters, Oxford Houses, Heartland Housing Helpline, Helping Hands, MAR, and other local treatment resources.
  - ROSC has secured a donation of 500 bus tokens from SMTD for transportation needs- Sangamon Co. Sheriff's office will be working in collaboration with ROSC to track dispersal of tokens

**7. Next Steps:**

- ROSC will continue to assemble resource bundles for individuals exiting incarceration- and will touch base with Sherrif's office regarding delivery / pick-up
- ROSC will connect Galia Cossyleon (Memorial) and Julie Plunk (Springfield Fire Department) with Family Guidance Center's Outreach program manager for coordination efforts
- ROSC will disseminate flyers for Springfield Community Health Council's Mind & Wellness Family Day, ROSC's Fresh Start Forum & Breakfast event (once approved)

**Meeting Adjourned**



# Sangamon County ROSC Council

GENERAL MEETING  
3.24.26



# ROSC Program Manager

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Whitney Devine

[wdevine@fgcinc.org](mailto:wdevine@fgcinc.org)

Family Guidance Centers, Inc.

2924 Stanton Street

Springfield, IL 62703

Cell: 217.891.7627

# ROSC Coordinator

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Austin Dambacher

[adambacher@fgcinc.org](mailto:adambacher@fgcinc.org)

Family Guidance Centers, Inc.

2924 Stanton Street

Springfield, IL 62703

Work: 217.441.6529 ext.8230

# Agenda

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Introductions

Council Member Open Forum

Membership Update

ROSC Events, Community Events, & Trainings

Strategic Plan Updates

Featured Speaker: Springfield Urban League



# Introductions

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- Name
- Agency/organization/affiliation
- How long have you been with ROSC?
- What's the weirdest "normal" thing humans do that aliens would question immediately?

# Council Member Open Forum

UPDATES, WINS,  
NEEDS, & EVENTS

Memorial Behavioral Health presents  
**Peer Support and Clinical Collaboration**  
 Integrating Lived Experience to Improve Outcome



This free training aims to strengthen collaboration between peer and clinical roles by grounding peer support in evidence, clarifying how it enhances clinical work and equipping participants with practical, relationship-centered strategies they can use immediately.

- Understand how peer support enhances and informs clinical work without replacing or duplicating clinical roles.
- Recognize common barriers to peer >< clinical collaboration and apply strategies to reduce them.
- Learn concrete actions participants can take in their role to strengthen peer >< clinical partnerships.



Wednesday | March 25, 2026



8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



M.G. Nelson Family Auditorium  
 Edgar J. Curtis Memorial Learning Center

**AUDIENCE**

This free event is open to Memorial Health colleagues, as well as other healthcare professionals and community members.

**REGISTRATION**

Register by scanning the QR code.



To receive continuing education contact hours, attendance is required at the entire event as well as completion/submission of evaluation form. None of the individuals who can control the content for this educational activity have a relevant financial relationship to disclose with an ineligible company. Memorial Health is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the Montana Nurses Association, an accredited approval with distinction by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Memorial Health is approved as a sponsor by the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation to award continuing education hours for: Physical Therapy License #216.000136 Occupational Therapy License #224.000110.D | Speech Language Pathology/Audiology License #202.000195 | Respiratory Care Practitioner License #195.000022 Social Worker/Clinical Social Worker License #150.000302 | Dietitian/Nutrition Counselor License #195.000118 | Professional Counselor License #197.000015

Join us for our ANNUAL  
 "March Gladness" EVENT

**"Garden of Gladness"**  
 Sunday, March 29, 2026  
 2:00- 4:00 PM

OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center  
 1400 W Park St, Urbana, IL  
 \* Enter thru the ER Door in back



Join us for an afternoon of:

**Team Trivia**

**Games & Giveaways**

**Potting Plants**

**Snacks & Drinks**

**Creating Cards**

**Visiting NAMI  
 Friends & Family**

Please RSVP by 10pm, 3/28 with this link or use this QR code:

<https://tinyurl.com/NAMI-MarchGladness-3-29-RSVP>



# FEEDING SPRINGFIELD EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

**JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FAMILY FUN!**

**Easter Bunny**

**300 Easter Baskets**

**Touch-A-Truck**

**30 Bikes Giveaway**

**Photos & Memories**

**Bubble WonderLand + Cotton Candy**

**Food for Families**

**Sweet Treats**

**Story Time with Granny Bee**

**Community Resource Tables**

MEET A FIREFIGHTER!

♥ Engine 1 on-site 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
♥ Fire hats for kids - Photo opportunities

\*May leave if called to serve

SPECIAL GUESTS:

- Chatham Police Department  
Officer Leach & Squad Car
- Sangamon County Sheriff's Office
- SMTD Bus
- INB Bee Mascot

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & RESOURCES:

- ♥ The Outlet
- ♥ Black Lives Matter
- ♥ Springfield (BLM SPI)
- ♥ Safe Families for Children
- ♥ United Way
- ♥ Sangamon County Department of Community Resources

- ♥ Memorial Mental Health
- ♥ ROSC  
*Recovery Oriented Systems of Care*

EVENT DETAILS:

📍 Kumler United Methodist Church  
Back Parking Lot  
600 N 5th St, Springfield, IL

🚗 Additional Parking:  
401 E Carpenter St (1st Floor)

📅 Saturday, March 28, 2026

🕒 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**OUR MISSION:**  
*No One Goes To Bed Hungry*  
*Changing Lives, One Person at a Time* ♥

THANK YOU  
TO OUR AMAZING SPONSORS:

FOOD & TREATS

- Pease's at Bunn Gourmet
- IHOP (Wabash Ave - Renee)
- Crave Cookies
- Scoop Du Jour

EVENT EXPERIENCES

- Foam & Flight - Bvonderland
- Sugar Fire - Gourmet Cotton Candy

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Ray the Bike Guy

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- The Washer Guy / GT O'Brien
- Stadium Smokehouse Bar & Grill
- INB (Bee Mascot)

COME MAKE MEMORIES WITH US!

# FINAL PUSH!

## WE NEED YOU, SPRINGFIELD! ♥

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Easter Baskets
- Candy & Goodies
- Resource Tables
- Touch-a-Truck Vehicles

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- ✓ Basket Assembly
- ✓ Event Setup
- ✓ Helping Kids & Families
- ✓ Runners / Floaters / Extra Hands

LET'S MAKE THIS DAY UNFORGETTABLE  
FOR OUR KIDS!

DONATE • VOLUNTEER • SHARE

◆ Feeding Springfield One Lasagna At A Time ◆  
◆ No One Goes To Bed Hungry ◆

V Venmo

@LasagnaLady

SCAN TO DONATE

P PayPal

LasagnaLady

SCAN TO DONATE

\$ Cash App

\$LasagnaLady81

SCAN TO DONATE

f Beth Rees

f Beth Rees

SCAN TO DONATE

## Community Collaboration Fair

# MANY VOICES ONE MISSION

Join local service agencies as we coordinate client care.

WEDNESDAY  
APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> 2026

TIME: 9:00 AM

ELIZABETH  
PACKARD  
MENTAL  
HEALTH  
CENTER

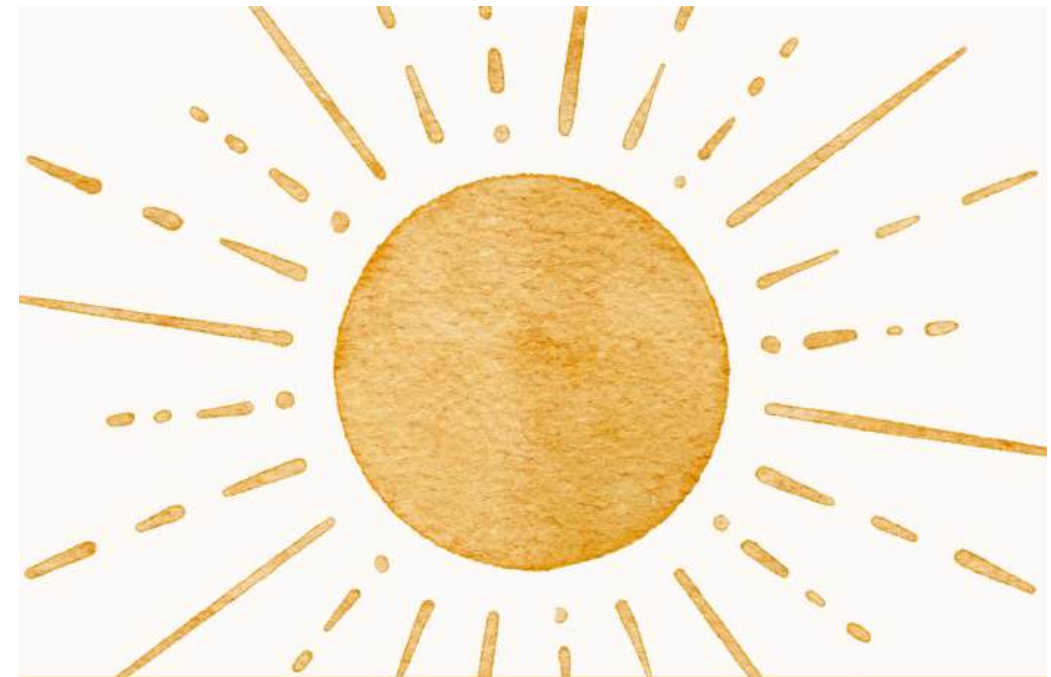
901 SOUTHWIND RD  
SPRINGFIELD, IL



- Learn about Packard Mental Health's services and mission.
- Meet with PMH Leadership
- Familiarize yourself with other agencies and their programs.
- Network with other healthcare, housing, behavioral health, prescription assistance, energy assistance, sober living, recovery, case management, and other local social service agencies.

The event is accessible to everyone. We welcome individuals of all backgrounds and abilities. Please let us know if will be needing any accommodations.

Please R. S. V. P. by April 15th 2026 tp [Andy.Lee@Illinois.gov](mailto:Andy.Lee@Illinois.gov) to attend.



# SOLID ROCK

Youth Transitional Services

# BRIGHT FUTURES BRUNCH

JUNE 13



12PM - 3PM

THE UIS STUDENT BALLROOM  
2251 Richard Wright Dr, Springfield, IL 62703

# Mr. Lasagna's CLOSET OF HOPE

Supporting Individuals Transitioning Into Sober Living

## — DONATIONS NEEDED —



Men's Clothing (all sizes)

Men's Shoes



Hygiene & Personal Care Items

Towels & Bedding



Laundry Supplies

*New or Gently Used Items Welcome*

## — DROP-OFF LOCATION —

Donation Tote by the Side Door

📍 2412 North Peoria Road  
Springfield, IL



— Changing Lives, One Person at a Time —



🚨 URGENT HELP NEEDED 🚨



Feeding Springfield

ONE LASAGNA AT A TIME

# OXFORD HOUSE FIRE

One of our local Oxford Houses has experienced a devastating fire, and the men living there have lost many of their belongings.

We are asking our community to come together and help them rebuild.



## ❤️ ITEMS NEEDED:

- 👕 Men's Clothing (all sizes)
- 🧦 Socks & Underwear (new preferred)
- 🧥 Coats, Hoodies, Jackets
- 🧼 Hygiene Products (Toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, shampoo, etc.)

## 📞 HOW TO HELP:

Contact Beth –  
Feeding Springfield

📞 217-904-0643

Drop-offs & coordination  
available

❤️ LET'S SHOW UP FOR THEM

Together, we can make a difference when it matters most.



# The Welcome Home Basket Initiative

Each month, 20 to 30 households transition from homelessness into stable housing. Many move in without the basic essentials needed to manage a home.

**You can help by donating essential household items!**



Heartland HOUSED can provide the laundry basket! Whether you contribute a single item, a partially filled basket, or a fully stocked one, every donation makes a difference! Our team will ensure that each basket is complete to greet our newly housed neighbors! Please only include items in good condition.

## WHAT ITEMS ARE NEEDED?

- Pots and Pans Set
- Dishes (2 plates, 2 bowls)
- Cups (2 coffee mugs, 2 cups)
- Silverware / Knife Set
- Cooking Utensils
- Can Opener
- Oven Mitts
- Dish Towels
- Dish Soap and Sponge
- Food Storage Containers
- Comforter, Sheets, Pillow (Twin)
- Bath Towels and Washcloths
- Shower Curtain and Plastic Liner
- Hygiene (Hand Soap, Shower Gel)
- Toilet Paper
- Handheld Broom and Dustpan
- Trash Bags
- Cleaning Chemicals

Contact us at (217) 801-9033 or [staff@heartlandhoused.org](mailto:staff@heartlandhoused.org)



## Clinical Supervision Hours Offered!

For individuals pursuing behavioral health licensure or certification in Illinois

Objectives:

-  Provide free of charge individual and group clinical supervision from licensed experts (LCSWs).
-  Support applicants preparing for certifications and licenses including PRS, CADC, LCSW, LCPC, and other behavioral health roles.
-  Help interns and applicants build skills in clinical conceptualization, therapeutic interventions, psychosocial assessments, casework, and community-based services
-  Offer documented supervision hours (virtual via Teams/Zoom) to meet Illinois licensure and certification requirements.

PREVENTION FIRST 



Family Guidance Centers is partnering with Prevention First to offer **free** clinical supervision to individuals pursuing behavioral health licensure or certification in Illinois. This includes licensures including PRS, CADC, LCSW, LCPC, and other behavioral health roles.

Sessions available Mon-Fri

Formally documented hours

Eligible to individuals pursuing licensure or certification in IL

*Opioid Training and Technical Assistance Center (OTTAC): Funding for this training is provided in whole or in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Behavioral Health & Recovery through the Opioid Remediation Trust Fund.*

 Please email [hwang@fgcinc.org](mailto:hwang@fgcinc.org) to schedule clinical supervision hours or if there are any questions!

# Membership Update

**+1 new members since our last meeting**

Membership as of January: 29 Members

Of registered members:

28 unique organizations

1 individual (not org-affiliated)

# Membership Representation: Sectors

ROSC Sectors (n = 28 people, can choose more than one sector)				
Person with lived experience <b>13</b>	Recovery supports <b>12</b>	Faith-based groups <b>4</b>	Family <b>7</b>	Service providers <b>7</b>
Volunteer/civic organizations <b>1</b>	Education/schools <b>2</b>	Youth-serving organizations <b>1</b>	Media <b>1</b>	Business <b>3</b>
State/local/tribal government <b>2</b>	Substance use treatment organizations <b>4</b>	Healthcare <b>6</b>	Law enforcement <b>2</b>	Judicial <b>0</b>

# Collaborating Community Organizations



# New Member Registration & Process

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If you are interested in becoming a member OR need to re-register this year, please complete the survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/V1Fr6F3eeN>


Next new member orientation is April, 17 2026 at 12pm

Join the Zoom Meeting at:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83128095681?pwd=cXD4pw0kUyGH  
SIPumrDmBjxaDUtRre.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83128095681?pwd=cXD4pw0kUyGH<br/>SIPumrDmBjxaDUtRre.1)

Meeting ID: 831 2809 5681

Passcode: 133659



# ROSC Updates: Community Events & Training opportunities



# Wellness in the Woods: Hiking Meetup

**APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

**@ LINCOLN MEMORIAL GARDENS**

**2301 E LAKE SHORE DR, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62712**

A chance to connect in nature—  
with others in recovery and their families.

CHECK ROSC WEBSITE OR FB PAGE FOR ANY WEATHER RELATED UPDATES

[WWW.SANGAMONCOROSC.ORG](http://WWW.SANGAMONCOROSC.ORG)



## Wellness in the Woods – 4/18

- Saturday, April 18th 2026
- 9:30 AM
- Open to all ages [Kids must be accompanied by guardian]
- Lincoln Memorial Gardens
- Be sure to wear sunscreen, bug spray, and wear layers according to weather!
- Bring your own water to drink.

SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

# MIND + WELLNESS FAMILY DAY

FREE EVENT FOR THE WHOLE  
FAMILY!

11 AM-2 PM

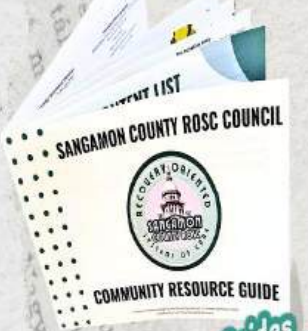
LOCATION  
TBA

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES  
ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN  
SPOTLIGHT SPEAKERS  
HEALTH SCREENINGS  
GIVEAWAYS  
FOOD



## Mind & Wellness Family Day

- Hosted by Springfield Urban League, Birth to Five Illinois- Region 51, and Sangamon Co. ROSC
- Saturday, May 9th (Mental Health Month), 11am-2pm
- We will be in need of organizations and agencies to host a resource table!
- More details to come once location has been secured; stay tuned!



3,785 Resource Guides Distributed over 12 mos



# Sangamon County ROSC

Presented gaps and strategic plan to Massey Commission, Mental Health Commission, and Youth Whiteboard.

Featured in NPR & Illinois Times, highlighting gaps in care from ROSC FY25-FY26 Needs Assessment.

ROSC attended 36 external meetings/events in FY26, strengthening community partnerships.

Digital Resource Guides added to Sangamon County Jail kiosks.

Hosted 17 events (to date, since 2024) 707 attendees [All Ages]



Kenniebrew-McNeese Forum: Mental health speaker panel engaging citywide health systems.



**Parent Café Agreements**

1. Speak from your own experience and "I" statements
2. Listen actively (avoid interrupting other speakers)
3. No judgment (feedback optional)
4. Do not give advice
5. Confidentiality (what is shared here stays here)
6. Full Presence (make sure you are fully present and engaged)

©© WE ALL AGREE TO THESE AGREEMENTS!



## 1. Youth SUD Services – Gaps & Progress

**Gap:** Limited, fragmented youth SUD services with low awareness and few youth-centered resources

**Progress:**

- Participating in and helping plan an interagency mental health event for youth and families.
- Mental Health Board officially passed in Sangamon County- which should lead to more supports (more detailed breakdown at upcoming ROSC meeting)
- ROSC now a **NAMI Champaign Affiliate**: assisting with launching youth and family support groups in Springfield

## 2. Reentry Support – Gaps & Progress

**Gap:** Significant barriers to treatment, continuity of care, and recovery after incarceration

**Progress:**

- ROSC resource guides made available on **jail kiosks (PDF)**
- **Ongoing donation of bus tokens secured** to aid transport from jail to supportive re-entry resources when needed.
- Partnering with Visions 1908 and the Illinois Coalition to End Permanent Punishment to host an educational resource event, featuring a keynote on the **Clean Slate Bill** and connections to community resources. Date: **June 27, 2026 (Flyer coming soon)**
- **Physical bundle distribution begins in March**



# Featured Speaker

**SPRINGFIELD  
URBAN LEAGUE**

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**MALIK PERRY**



**Springfield**  
Urban League Inc.

*Empowering Communities.  
Changing Lives.*



# SPRINGFIELD URBAN LEAGUE

**ADVANCING EQUITY &  
OPPORTUNITY**

**THE IMPACT OF UNITED WAY  
OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS**

**Malik Perry**  
Data Compliance & Quality  
Assurance Specialist  
March 24, 2026

# The National Urban League Movement

Established in 1910, the National Urban League (NUL) is the nation's oldest and largest community-based civil rights organization

## Five Empowerment Pillars



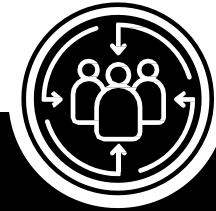
Education &  
Youth



Economic &  
Workforce  
Development



Health &  
Quality of Life



Civic  
Engagement  
& Leadership



Civil Rights &  
Justice

Ninety-Three (93) affiliates across 36 states and D.C., serving 6.3M people annually

# The Springfield Urban League Movement

- Founded in 1926, Springfield Urban League Inc. (SUL) is a direct-service, nonprofit civil rights and human service organization.
- Serves **21,000+** annually in Central Illinois across job training, computer literacy, economic development, health, and youth initiatives.



## MISSION

To assist struggling and disadvantaged individuals in achieving social and economic self-sufficiency.



## VISION

To be a leading human and social service corporation, providing equitable quality of life opportunities for all



## VALUES

Quality  
Respect  
Teamwork  
Empowerment  
Leadership



*"The best part of working here is seeing changes in families lives that I've impacted."*

SHERRI BAILEY  
Home Visitor



*I would recommend other students to attend the HBCU tour just to get the experience and the exposure of what's out there! I think it's really cool just to get that exposure.*

DAIJA LOTT  
HBCU Tour Attendee  
G.B. Winston Scholar  
Spelman College Freshman



# All Springfield Urban League Programs by Focus Area

## Education

**Preparing all children for economic self-reliance in the 21st century.**

- **Head Start & Early Head Start**
- Wee-Grow Learning Center
- Camp Nkiru
- **CDF Freedom School**
- **HBCU College & Cultural Tour**
- **Project Ready**
- Brandon Outreach Program
- **ABE Robotics Club**
- **G.B. Winston Scholarship Program**
- Teen REACH

## Workforce

**Advancing individuals through job training, homeownership, and wealth-building.**

- RESTART SNAP & TANF Job Placement
- Community Empowerment Program (CEP)
- Financial Opportunity Center (FOC)
- Community Technology Training Center (CTTC)
- Climate and Equitable Jobs Act Workforce Hub
- Energy Efficiency Empowerment Initiative (E3)
- Illinois Energy Efficiency Jobs Board
- Empowerment Program
- Illinois Youth Investment Program

## Health

**Eliminating disparities and ensuring access to healthcare.**

- Communities of Color Special At-Risk Population Program
- Wellness On Wheels
- African American AIDS Response Act (AAARA)
- Community Health Training Center (CHTC)
  - Chicago Office
  - Springfield Office
- Get Covered Illinois – Health Navigation
- **EmpowerHER - Maternal Health Program**

## Civic Engagement

**Supporting voter education and leadership development.**

- Reclaim Your Vote (Civic Engagement)
- Whitney M. Young Leadership Conference

## Justice

**Advocating for equal participation in all aspects of society.**

- Juvenile Redeploy Illinois (JRI) (Justice)
- Empowerment Program – Violence Prevention (Justice)
- Emergency Assistance

# Why These Programs Matter in Springfield, IL



## EDUCATION

- **42% of District 186 students are chronically absent** (vs. 26% IL avg).
- Only **30% of Black 3rd graders** meet reading proficiency.
- 1 in 3 students lack **consistent summer enrichment** or literacy support.



## Financial Stability

- **Black unemployment is 2.5x higher** than white unemployment in Springfield
- Nearly **1 in 3 Urban League clients** earn under \$25K/year
- Digital & financial literacy gaps persist among returning citizens & disconnected workers



## Health

- **Sangamon County ranks 78/102 in health outcomes statewide**
- Springfield ZIP codes 62703 & 62702 are classified as **health deserts**
- Barriers like **transportation and stigma** prevent access to care and mental health services



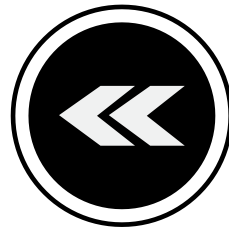
# Head Start & Early Head Start

- **Families in Need:** Head Start serves families at or below the poverty line, foster children, homeless families, families who receive TANF
- **Federal Head Start Act:** The federal Head Start grant program serves 700,000+ children each year
- **Health Assistance:** Head Start provides, vision, hearing, & dental screenings as well as free physicals for families.
- **Familial Engagement:** All decisions run through our parent led policy council.

## Why Is It Important?

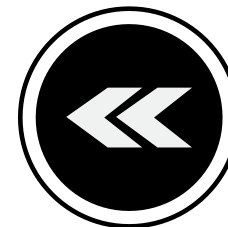
### Provides the “Head Start” Needed to Succeed

Nationally, Head Start graduates are more likely to complete high school and continue their education post graduation (University, Trade)



### We Catch Children Before they Slip Through The Cracks

Diagnosing children with learning delays and disabilities, setting up IEP's early so that they have the confidence to learn and develop with their peers going into elementary



### Builds Future Scholars

Instills independence, comprehension, and social emotional development in young children.





## UWCIL Featured Program

Children's Defense Fund

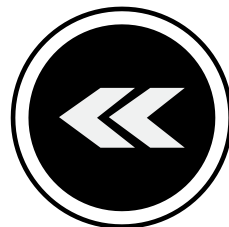
# Freedom School

- **Summer Literacy & Leadership:** Operates each summer at the Brandon Outreach Center with high-quality enrichment.
- **United Way Partnership:** United Way helps serve 100+ youth annually with literacy and parent engagement.
- **Academic Equity:** Only 30% of Black 3rd graders in Springfield meet reading proficiency—Freedom School helps reverse this.
- **Cultural & Civic Engagement:** Builds strong reading skills, leadership identity, and civic awareness in underserved youth.

## Why Is It Important?

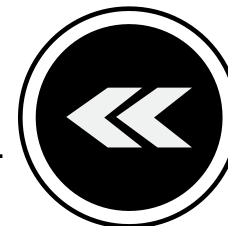
### Learning Loss Across Illinois & Springfield

Provides proven curriculum that halts or reverses summer slide and boosts reading/math performance 📖



### Centers Cultural Identity

Promotes pride, confidence, and cultural awareness among Black youth.



### Builds Future Leaders

Instills civic values, leadership, and advocacy in young scholars.



Illinois Times 2024: Best Kids' Events/Day Camps – Springfield Urban League CDF Freedom School

# UWCIL Featured Program Empowerment Program



- **Workforce Development:** Supports unemployed and underemployed residents with case management and skills training.
- **Wraparound Supports:** Integrates digital literacy, soft skills, and holistic services to ensure stability.
- **United Way Investment:** United Way funding expands access and impact across Springfield.
- **Addressing Racial Job Gaps:** Black unemployment in Springfield is 2.5x higher than white—this program helps close the gap.

## Why Is It Important?

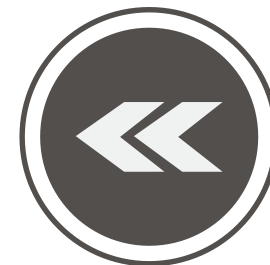
### Closes Employment Gaps

Targets Black unemployment, which is 2.5x higher than white unemployment locally.



### Wraps Around the Whole Person

Integrates case management, digital skills, and financial empowerment.



### Promotes Economic Mobility

Helps families move from crisis to stability and self-sufficiency.



# WELLNESS ON WHEELS



## UWCIL Featured Program **Wellness On Wheels**

- **Mobile Health Access:** Delivers COVID testing, NARCAN, vaccines, and screenings directly to communities.
- **Service to Underserved ZIPs:** Reaches health deserts across Central IL, reducing care and transportation barriers.
- **Health Equity Impact:** Sangamon Co. ranks 78/102 for outcomes—WOW improves access where it's needed most.

### Why Is It Important?

#### **Increases Access to Care**

Reaches residents in Springfield's health deserts with lifesaving services.



#### **Reduces Barriers**

Overcomes transportation, stigma, and cost through mobile delivery.



#### **Improves Health Equity**

Supports communities where health outcomes rank among the lowest in the state.



# Day of Social Action

## Central East Cultural District

# Housing Stock Survey

- **Volunteer Partnership:** United Way volunteers partnered with SUL for a Housing Stock Survey
- **Technology Training:** Volunteers trained by IHDA and deployed using ESRI Field Maps
- **Strategic Outcome:** Results informed revitalization planning and strategic investment



Informs  
Community  
Development



Supports  
Grant  
Applications



Validates  
Resident  
Needs



# THIS IS WHAT PARTNERSHIP LOOKS LIKE



**Funds the vision.**

**Brings the  
Community  
Together**

**United Way drives  
systemic change.**



**We operationalize it.**

**We deliver direct  
services to those who  
need them most.**

**We build trust on the  
ground and lift  
families toward  
stability.**





**THANK  
YOU**

**SPRINGFIELD  
URBAN LEAGUE**

**THE IMPACT OF UNITED WAY  
OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS**