



McLean County Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) June 2026 Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Time: 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Location: Via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/96709486019>)

Attendees:

1. Cat Hays, McLean County ROSC
2. Grace Irvin, Logan/Mason ROSC, Livingston ROSC, BASE Logan/Mason SUPS
3. Yolanda Wallace, Mothers' War on Violence Ministry NFP
4. Shelley Smith, Oxford House
5. Jo Salata, Bridgeway
6. Olivia Brownlee, Home Sweet Home Ministries
7. Caitlyn Cline, Bloomington Public Library
8. Olenka Moss, BloNo Helps
9. Emily Rieker, Safe Families for Children
10. Emily Weber, Gateway Foundation
11. Erika Hahn, Illinois Human Performance Project
12. Abby Anderson, McLean/Logan/Ford County CASA
13. Marsha Zanders, Breaking Barriers Collectively ROSC
14. Wendy Klinkner, Allies Against Trafficking
15. Andrea Kindseth, LIFE CIL

Agenda Items:

- I. **Welcome & Attendance**
- II. **Community Resource Spotlight: Safe Families for Children – facilitated by Emily Rieker – Reference PowerPoint Slides**
 - a. Safe for Families Video
 - i. [Partnering with Safe Families in the Community | Videos & Movies on Vimeo](#)
 - b. Service Area
 - i. Safe for Families operates across the U.S. and has international presence in the United Kingdom, Canada, Hong Kong, and the Philippines.
 - c. Peoria-Bloomington Chapter
 - i. Safe Families for Children currently has over 70+ host families in the Central Illinois area.



- ii. They support families in McLean, Livingston, DeWitt, Peoria, Knox, Bureau, Marshall, Woodford, and Tazewell Counties.
- iii. 2025 Impact:
 - 1. 206 hostings
 - 2. Served 34 children and their families
 - 3. 1870 bed nights
 - 4. 16 family friends assigned
- d. Sources of Crisis
 - i. Homelessness
 - ii. Lack of childcare
 - iii. Unemployment
 - iv. Incarceration
 - v. Hospitalization of parent or child
 - vi. Substance use or mental health treatment
 - vii. Lack of social support
- e. Safe Families Model: A Circle of Support
 - i. The Safe Families Model is a community-based, preventative support system designed to help families in crisis without involving foster care. Families voluntarily receive short-term support from trained volunteers so they can stabilize their situation while keeping full custody of their children.
 - ii. Key Roles:
 - 1. Family in Crisis – parent(s) seeking temporary help
 - 2. Host Families – provide short-term care for children
 - 3. Family Friends – offer mentorship and emotional support
 - 4. Resource Friends – provide practical help like dropping meals or diapers
 - 5. Family Coach (paid staff) – help parents set and achieve goals
 - 6. Safe Families for Children Church – congregation with a Safe Families for Children Ministry
 - 7. Ministry Lead – individual in charge of leading a Safe Families for Children Ministry at their church
- f. Things to Know
 - i. Safe Families is NOT a foster or adoption agency
 - ii. Parents maintain full custody of their child(ren) and can request their return at any time
 - iii. Volunteer families are extensively screened with background checks, reference checks, and home study
 - iv. Volunteers receive no compensation and serve out of the belief of loving others
 - v. Children ages 0-18 can be hosted



- vi. Children can be hosted for as short as a couple of days to as long as a few months (depending upon volunteer availability)
- g. What Parents Agree To
 - i. Participation is 100% voluntary
 - ii. Show proof of identity and proof of insurance for child(ren)
 - iii. Sign a consent allowing short-term Power of Attorney for healthcare
 - iv. Retain legal custody of their child(ren) and can have their children returned at any time
 - v. Maintain contact with SF Family Coach
 - vi. Understand that Safe Families cannot guarantee availability of host family
- h. FAQs
 - i. *Reference PowerPoint Slides*
- i. Referral Process
 - i. Intake
 - 1. Referral Line – (309) 750-4568
 - 2. Direct Intake Line – (773) 653-2200
 - 3. Email – peoria@safefamilies.net
 - 4. Cognito Form via Website - [Request Support - Safe Families for Children](#)
 - 5. Refer through IRIS
 - ii. Provide a brief description of the crisis at hand, ages of your child(ren), expected length of stay, and when help would be needed
 - iii. Safe Families intake staff calls to complete intake paperwork, consents, and answer any questions
 - iv. The ask to volunteer would go out and if help is found, SF will coordinate the transition of children to host family care
 - v. Staff continue to check in with both the placing parent and host family throughout hosting, provide additional resources and referrals as needed, and facilitate the return of children to the placing parent

III. Community Resource Spotlight: BloNo Helps – facilitated by Olenka Moss

- a. Overview of BloNo Helps
 - i. Started in February 2026 by Olenka Moss in response to ICE presence in Minneapolis, MN
 - ii. BloNo Help is a grassroots mutual aid organization
 - iii. The working philosophy of BloNo Helps is “community helping community”, based on solidarity, not charity
- b. Mission & Approach
 - i. BloNo Helps provides free, no-barrier support to anyone in need
 - ii. BloNo Helps focuses on dignity, accessibility, and rapid response



- iii. BloNo Helps uses a horizontal structure, operating from a community-driven approach with no hierarchy of power or influence
- c. Core Services
 - i. Basic Needs Supports
 - 1. Grocery delivery and food assistance
 - 2. Hygiene kits (delivered anywhere)
 - ii. Support for Unhoused Individuals
 - 1. Tents and shelter supplies
 - 2. Transportation (i.e. appointments)
 - iii. Support for Individuals Without Benefits
 - 1. Help people who either don't qualify for benefits due to too much income or who have lost benefits recently (i.e. SNAP)
 - iv. Mobile Food Pantry
 - 1. Pop-up pickup truck food pantry
 - a. Food (including fresh items like produce and eggs)
 - b. Diapers and formula
 - c. Clothing and toys
- d. Community Impact (as of June 2026)
 - i. About 200 families served since launch
 - ii. Supporting about 20-30 individuals and families per week
- e. Group Structure
 - i. Core volunteer team consists of about 10-20 community members
 - ii. There is a broader network of volunteers of up to 50 community members
 - iii. Group structure emphasis is on community participation and shared ownership of the work
- f. Upcoming Partnerships & Initiatives
 - i. McLean County ROSC
 - 1. Community naloxone training
 - 2. Naloxone distribution in the community
 - ii. Collaboration with AB Hatchery
 - 1. School shoe drive
 - iii. Collaboration with Home Sweet Home Ministries Bridge Shelter Village
- g. How People Can Access Help
 - i. Requests and any communication can currently be made
 - 1. Email: blonohelps@gmail.com
 - 2. Message via Facebook Page: [BloNo Helps | Bloomington IL | Facebook](#)
 - ii. Website is in development

IV. National Recovery Month Initiatives Sign-Up

- a. Recovery Month 2026 Planning Initiative #3 – Paint the Town Purple



- i. Help solicit and collect donations – drop off to McLean ROSC (now until September)
 1. Emily Weber knows the owner of Bobzbay and will contact regarding donations for prize baskets for Paint the Town Purple
 2. Olenka Moss said she would help with soliciting donations from Downtown Bloomington
 3. Wendy Klinkner has connections with Garlic Press and will reach out to ask for donations for prize baskets for Paint the Town Purple
 4. Tasha Davis is a member of the City of Refuge Church and will ask her church about potentially purchasing some donations for prize baskets for Paint the Town Purple
- ii. Recruit businesses/agencies to participate in the initiative
 1. Grace Irvin has contacts at Bloomington Center for Performing Arts and will send contact info to McLean ROSC team
 2. Emily Weber knows the owner of Bobzbay and will reach out regarding setting up a small display for National Recovery Month
 3. Olenka Moss has connections at the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal and will reach out regarding creation of a display for National Recovery Month
 4. Tasha Davis is a member of the City of Refuge Church and will ask her church about setting up a display for National Recovery Month

V. Community Updates and Announcements

- a. Caitlyn Cline, Bloomington Public Library – Library Partnership Opportunity
 - i. Bloomington Public Library invites organizations to co-host programs: [Presenter Program Proposal | Bloomington Public Library](#)
 - ii. Benefits:
 1. Bloomington Public Library handles marketing and promotion
 2. Events become official library programs
 - iii. The fall schedule is being finalized soon, while future opportunities remain open
- b. Wendy Klinkner, Allies Against Trafficking – Hidden Risks: Drug-Endangered Children and Family Human Trafficking Training
 - i. Monday, June 29th



- ii. 9 am – 12 pm
- iii. Lincoln Memorial Hospital, 200 Stahlhut Dr, Lincoln, IL 62656
- iv. Event Registration: [Drug Endangered Children Training](#)
- c. Grace Irvin, Logan/Mason ROSC, Livingston ROSC, BASE, Logan/Mason SUPS – FREE Training on How to Tell Your Story
 - i. Tuesday, June 23rd
 - ii. 1-3 pm
 - iii. Hope on 5th, 200 5th St, Lincoln, IL 62656
 - iv. Event Registration: [How to Tell Your Story Training Registration Form Survey](#)
- d. Yolanda Wallace, Mothers' War on Violence Ministry NFP – Community Healing Plant to Remember Event
 - i. Sunday, June 21st
 - ii. 8:30-11:30 am
 - iii. John Buckley Memorial Garden – a trauma-informed healing space with a lending library
 - 1. Located behind Riverplex in Peoria
 - iv. \$10 donation to plant a flower in remembrance of lost loved ones
 - 1. Plants, garden tools, and markers will be provided.
 - 2. Open to anyone honoring loss or healing
- e. Emily Weber, Gateway Foundation – Drop the Beat Bingo
 - i. Saturday, June 20th
 - ii. 12-2 pm
 - iii. Gateway Foundation Peoria Outpatient Location, 4812 N Sheridan Rd, Suite A, Peoria, IL 61614
 - iv. Jam through hits from every era with a decade style bingo game. Enjoy pizza, laughter, and high energy vibes as you sing along and win prizes. All are welcome!
 - v. RSVP by 6/17: [Peoria/Bloomington: Alumni Event | Gateway Foundation](#)
 - vi. Contact Taylor Williams with any questions:
 - 1. Email: twilliams@gatewayfoundation.org
 - 2. Phone: (217) 836-6712

VI. McLean ROSC Updates & Successes

a. Upcoming Community Trainings

- i. Words Matter, Outcomes Change: Evidence-Based Stigma Reduction for Co-Occurring Disorders
 - 1. Presented by Faces and Voices of Recovery
 - 2. Thursday, June 25th, 12-1:30 pm
 - 3. Virtual via Zoom



4. To register, please visit:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wAMrAM7yRXy7swffn_zfqaA#/registration

b. Planning Committee Update

i. Next meeting

1. Friday, June 22nd, 2-3 pm, Hybrid
2. IN-PERSON: Bloomington Public Library Board Room on 2nd Floor, 205 E Olive St, Bloomington, IL 61701
3. Virtual via Zoom:

ii. For more details or if interested in joining, please contact Cat Hays via email: Cmhays@chestnut.org.

VII. Next Meeting – July 2026 (3rd Tuesday)

- a. Tuesday, June 21st
- b. 3:30-4:30 Via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/96709486019>)

VIII. Contact Info

- a. Kari Knapp, Associate Director of Community Health – kmknapp@chestnut.org
- b. Cat Hays, Community Health Specialist for Recovery Supports – cmhays@chestnut.org
- c. Barb Brumleve, Community Health Specialist – bdbrumleve@chestnut.org
- d. McLean County ROSC Team – McLeanCountyROSC@gmail.com