

**Date:** Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

**Time:** 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

**Location:** LifeSpan Center Auditorium & Zoom

**Facilitator:** Skylar Miller, Coles County ROSC Council Coordinator

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### **Welcome & Introductions**

**Skylar** welcomed attendees. During introductions, Skylar asked everyone to answer the ice breaker question which was: What song do you have on replay? Everyone shared & wrote each other's favorite song down to listen to.

She then stated the meeting purpose- The Coles County ROSC Council brings together community partners, individuals with lived experience, & organizations to strengthen recovery-oriented supports in our community. This meeting will focus on council updates, priority projects & collaborative next steps.

#### **In-person attendees:**

**Skylar Miller** (Coles County ROSC Council Coordinator), **Megan Ballard** (Coles County ROSC Council Recovery Navigator), **Ayla Holford** (Build, Amplify, Support, Empower Recovery Navigator), **Gary Stephens** (Wingman Ministries), **Stephanie Mercer** (Effingham County ROSC Council Recovery Navigator), **Brandy Schlanser** (Community Outreach & Recovery Support Recovery Navigator), **Stephanie Burton** (Dial-A-Ride Program Assistant)

#### **Zoom attendees:**

**Carrie McKinzie** (Heritage), **Toni Randall** (Statewide ROSC Region 4 Technical Assistant), **LaSienna Burton** (Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department), **Andy Brandenburg** (Community Outreach and Recovery Support Program Coordinator), **Whitley Grayson** (Coles Cumberland Drug Court Recovery Navigator), **Camille Gordon** (HOPE Director of Outreach and Prevention), **Samantha Hicks** (Effingham County ROSC Council Coordinator), **Leanna Morgan** (Build, Amplify, Support, Empower Program Coordinator), **Jenna Hays** (ROSC Supervisor)

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### **Medication-Assisted Recovery & Common Misconceptions**

To take the place of a speaker this month, **Skylar** showed a video on MAR. Before she began she asked council members to share their first thought when they hear about Medication-Assisted Recovery.

Many shared their personal bias & how their perspective has changed with education. Some shared some negative experiences & concern because some medications are being used to treat disorders that they are not meant for. Others shared that they support it but they do not agree with the length of time people are prescribed the medication.

When the video ended, **Skylar** asked the council to share something they learned that they did not know before. One council member shared that they did not know the science behind the medication & attending a recent panel provided a lot of education & clarification.

**Skylar** reminded everyone that MAR is a big part of one of the ROSC Council goals & we will be having a panel on these topics as well.

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### **Committee Updates & Recovery Navigator Updates**

**Skylar** gave a summary of the meeting minutes from the Transportation Committee Meeting & the Housing Committee Meeting.

Overall, both committees discussed the usual barriers that we all find for housing & transportation, as well as actions steps that are to be taken before the next meetings on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### Housing

- Criminal backgrounds
- Stigma
- Waitlists
- Negative experiences

#### Action Steps

- Conversing with sober-living homes in & out of the area
- Reviewing landlord list that another agency provided
- Looking over incentives for landlords & ways to end stigma on renting to people with criminal backgrounds

#### Transportation

- Funds
- Rural area & lack of resources
- Liability & Safety Precautions

#### Action Steps

- Getting with Dial-A-Ride for more information on vouchers and transportation schedules
- Researching medical Uber & Lyft options
- Reaching out to recovery community for future volunteer list

**Megan** did not have any changes to discuss on her recovery navigator work. **Skylar** mentioned that **Ayla** & herself met to discuss partnering on future events. Skylar told Megan that Ayla had the idea to work together on an education group for both children & adults. Both agreed to get together to work out those details.

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### Progress toward ROSC goals

**Skylar** gave an update on the progress made toward our priority project goals.

#### **Goal 1: Strengthen transportation and housing recovery support services in Coles County by June 30th, 2026.**

- Reach out to at least 10 recovery champions to assess interest in supporting transportation needs by February 28th, 2026.
  - *Skylar has begun the process of reaching out to recovery champions about their willingness to be on a volunteer transportation list. Her & Megan did ask those that signed into their recent event if they were willing to discuss volunteer transportation and there were 2 people interested so there will be follow up.*
- By April 30th, 2026, host a speaker or educational session focused on housing access, tenant rights, or recovery-supportive housing models.
  - *This will be discussed at the next committee meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>.*
- By April, 30th 2026, create a list of faith-based organizations to outreach to explore transportation assistance partnerships.

- *Have a few churches we know we want to outreach to but we need to add more to the list and have a clear ask before we approach them with partnership ideas.*

**Goal 2: By June 30, 2026, collaborate with key stakeholders—including the County Sheriff’s Office, jail administration, local healthcare providers, probation, the State’s Attorney’s Office, and persons with lived experience—to explore the feasibility and implementation requirements for offering MAR within the local jail system.**

- By February 28th, 2026, meet with Coles County Jail Administrator to discuss MAR and identify barriers to implementation.
  - *We still have not had the opportunity to meet with the Jail Administrator. **Skylar** did note that the jail is looking to hire a Jail Administrator so that may also be part of the delay. She will reach out again to see where they are at with this.*
- By March 31st, 2026, develop MAR educational materials for county-wide distribution.
  - ***Skylar** created a MAR pamphlet that she has already begun to distribute at Coles County Drug Overdose Prevention Program Sites.*
- Create a localized MAR resource list aligned with the Illinois Helpline and local providers.
  - *It was mentioned that we have all kinds of different resource lists/guides so **Skylar** thinks it would be great to create something very simple or edit something that has already been done.*

**Goal 3: By June 30th, 2026, enhance Recovery Capital in Coles County through increasing CPRS and CRSS positions.**

- By June, 30th, 2026 create and maintain a master directory of CRPS/CRSS in Coles County, including their expertise, availability, and services, ensuring it is regularly updated and accessible to community partners.
  - *There has not been progress on this goal.*
- Schedule a one-on-one meeting with Lakeland College to support coordination between ICB.
  - ***Skylar & Samantha** met with Madison Dailey, the Health & Human Services Program Facilitator together because their counties are working on a similar project. LLC has already been in contact with ICB for their newer CADC program. She has looked into CPRS/CRSS program requirements and she plans to do more research. She did mention that this may be something that their Adult Education Program could do to make it more cost effective for students who were interested in the certification. Madison will continue to communicate any progress to **Skylar & Samantha**.*

## Events

### Recovery Unplugged

- 26 people were present at this event.
- We had a community member perform a rap song, a local band played, **Skylar** & her kiddos sang a song, and her daughter sang with another community member.
- A lot of resources & recovery literature were shared with attendees & crafts were available.
- The employees at the JAC were supportive & added to the amazing vibe the event had.

**Megan** mentioned that she thinks people enjoy the opportunity to hangout and fellowship outside of a recovery meeting/group & suggested we could try to do more events like it.

### Summer and/or Spring Event

- **Skylar & Ayla** met to discuss ideas on BASE & ROSC partnering for upcoming events. Ideas that they came up with were: Tie-dye, food trucks, movies at Lytle Park, Mandala Meditation Walk/creation, Butterfly Houses @ Butterfly Fest, face-painting, etc.

#### Laundry Day

- **Skylar** expressed the great need for a Free Laundry Day sponsor & asked the council for suggestions or connections if they had any.
- **Stephanie Burton** mentioned that some of the larger places like Sarah Bush Lincoln and Rural King have a lengthy application process & at times are pushed out into the next fiscal year.
- Places that Skylar has reached out to so far:
  - KC Summers (no response, will reach out again)
  - Drake Homes (no response, will reach out again)
  - Diepholz (no response, will reach out again)
  - Get it Gone (They want us to provide more information & believe they would be able to help out in their busier season)
  - Half Moon Décor (Cannot sponsor at this time)
  - Charleston Discount Grocery (Cannot provide monetary assistance at this time but would love to help in any way that they can) **Gary** suggested they could collect funds for laundry day.
  - Furry Overhead Doors (No answer yet)
  - Other places suggested during the meeting were Pilson's, Walmart, Pro Mow

#### Next Steps & Closing

**Skylar** reminded members of the upcoming transportation & housing committee meetings on March 9<sup>th</sup>. She closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their support & attendance.

#### Contact emails:

**Coles County ROSC Council Recovery Navigator**

*Megan Ballard- Meganb@hourhousercovery.org*

**Coles County ROSC Council Coordinator**

*Skylar Miller- skylark@hourhousercovery.org*

**ROSC Program Supervisor**

*Jenna Hays- jennah@hourhousercovery.org*

Where to find past meeting minutes: <https://www.govst.edu/ROSC-GSU/ROSCC>

Coles County ROSC Council Facebook Page:



**Next Coles County ROSC Council Meeting\*\***

**Date:** April, 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Time:** 12:00pm to 1:00pm

**Where:** LifeSpan Center or Zoom