

DeWitt ROSC Meeting Minutes

DeWitt Piatt Bi-County Health Department

February 23rd, 2026, at 1 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89687542272?pwd=qqtW3ON51ZBVMhNb3NBjR1tPe6Hwa.1>

Meeting ID: 896 8754 2272

Passcode: 174201

1. **Attendees – Maggie Memmott (DeWitt County ROSC Coordinator); Tia Schum (PCMHC); Tony Kirkman (PCMHC); Cory Baxter (Heritage Behavioral Health); Sharon Mills (DeWitt County Mental Health Bord); Teagan Skull (Heritage Behavioral Health); Lisa Cook (DrPH, LCPC); Tristan McGrew (DART); Kami Garrison (Region 4); Katy Arnold (Clinton High School Counselor); Victoria Dahman (Medical Assisted Treatment); Jamie Porter (PCMHC); Brandon Vaner (Dart); Tedd Lowers (DWHP); Kimberly Bateson (PLE); Kelsie Hall (PLE); Kelly Burton (Warner Hospital); Tony Harrison (DW); Ben Lowers (Chief of Police); Kristen Davis; Linda Coleman (Advocate); Lexis Grotjan (PLE); Scott Alwood (PLE), Ashlyn Burris (DOVE); Johanna Gonzalez; (STATE); Bradon Becker; (PLE); Toni; (REGION 4) Paul Kowarn (WHSS); Megann Andreae (Heritage); Michelle Akman (Heritage);**

Introductions and Community Building

- The meeting began with introductions, including a lighthearted sharing of what we like about spring fostering a sense of community among in-person and remote attendees.

Naloxone Training and Harm Reduction

- Discussion focused on expanding naloxone (Narcan) training locations, including outreach to dealerships, factories, schools, hotels, and libraries.
- The group celebrated the installation of an outdoor naloxone box, and the second one will be going up this week at the County Side Apartments
- Harm reduction efforts were emphasized, including the importance of reducing stigma and supporting people with substance use disorders.

Support Groups and Recovery Resources

- Updates were given on train-the-trainer sobriety groups, with 3 individuals celebrating one-year sobriety milestones.
- 3 new people are attending the ROSC groups.

- There is a new NA meeting starting up on March 5th at the First Christian Church on Thursday nights.
- Between ROSC, NA, and AA, DeWitt County has 5 meetings

The group reviewed progress on strategic plan goals:

- Working on the outside Naloxone box up in the community and upcoming events in the community. Continuing education and stigma reduction in DeWitt County, including successful events or being a guest speaker. We spoke or did Narcan training at Weldon Library and Wellness Centers
- Enhancing harm reduction and community enrichment, with ongoing events and resource sharing.

Upcoming events include: Business Expo, Naloxone training at The Trinity Church, Speaker Jam

Community Updates and Collaboration

- Attendees shared updates from their organizations, including school-based prevention programs, mental health and substance use services, and community surveys to assess needs.
- The impact of the no-cash bail system on addiction and crime cycles was discussed, with concerns about reduced opportunities for intervention.
- Positive outcomes from DARE and school resource officer programs were noted, emphasizing the value of law enforcement's engagement with youth.

Guest speaker: For Brandon, the journey didn't start with a substance; it started with a void. Growing up, the air in his home felt thin, colored by family struggles and a deep, aching desire to simply be seen. He didn't just want to exist in his parents' world—he wanted to be accepted by it.

When he discovered marijuana, it felt like he had finally found the "secret code" to belonging. He didn't want to be the person sitting in the corner; he wanted to be the life of the party. He chased the spotlight, believing that if he was the center of attention, the feeling of being "not enough" would finally disappear. But as the substances escalated, the spotlight grew dim, and the "belonging" he felt was just a hollow reflection in a crowded room.

The Quiet of the Turning Point

As the years passed, Brandon built a life that looked beautiful on the outside. He had a family—a "beautiful family" that should have been enough to anchor him. But addiction is a storm that doesn't care about the view from the window. Eventually, the weight of the mask became too heavy to wear.

The breakthrough didn't come from a place of strength, but from a place of surrender. Brandon entered rehab, not just to stop using, but to finally address the young boy who was still trying to fit in. He traded the loud, chaotic validation of the party for the quiet, honest work of recovery.

A New Kind of Belonging

Today, Brandon's life looks nothing like the one he once chased. He is no longer performing for an audience; he is serving a community. He has taken the pain of his past and turned it into a roadmap for others who are still lost in the woods.

He is a living reminder that the "way out" isn't a door you kick down—it's a path you find when you finally stop fighting and start listening.

The Next Chapter

Brandon is continuing his mission by launching a new Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meeting on March 5th. It is a space designed for anyone who is still struggling, still longing to belong, and ready to learn the power of surrender.

"There is a way out. You just have to be willing to stop running."

Closing and Next Steps

- The meeting concluded with reminders about upcoming coalition meetings, encouragement to complete community surveys, and suggestions for new support group formats (e.g., open accountability groups).
- There was a strong emphasis on continued collaboration, reducing stigma, and making resources more accessible to all community members.

Adjournment – Next Meeting: March 16th @ 1 PM