

EDGAR COUNTY ROSC Council

MEETING MINUTES

February 24th, 2026
5:15 PM

Paris Hospital Conference Room A and on Zoom

Attendance in-person: Nicki Hanks, Jessica Parrill, Doug Cochran, Norm Wilson, Cory Hanks, Nate Alexander, Jack Hoffman, Rick Cook, Debbie Cook, Jacqui Miller, Bill Stidham, Mary Morgan Ryan, Katrisha Stapp,

Attendance on Zoom: Marlyn Frey, Bethany Wagoner, Kyra Graham, Jenna Hays, John Brandonburg, James Sanders, Lexanna Strader, Tony Randall, Michelle Hibbard, Susan Tybon, Issy Kelly, Josh Forbes, Annie Blaudow

Spot Light Speaker

During the meeting, Issy Kelly, Chair of the Wabash Valley Recovery Alliance, spoke about the critical importance of using language that reduces stigma surrounding substance use disorder, mental health challenges, and homelessness. She emphasized the value of person-first language, encouraging attendees to say “person experiencing homelessness” rather than “the homeless,” and to use terms such as “died by suicide” instead of “committed suicide,” and “survived a suicide attempt” rather than “failed attempt.” Issy shared that the way we speak directly impacts how individuals view themselves and whether they feel safe seeking treatment. She highlighted statistics demonstrating the significant gap between those who need treatment and those who receive it, noting that stigma remains a major barrier to access. Issy also reflected on her personal recovery journey, explaining how she is mindful of how she identifies herself in different settings and how empowering, respectful language has played a role in her healing.

Committee Update

The committee has set a date for the Open Doors Opportunity Second Chance Hiring Fair on April 23rd from 10 to 2 at Lake Ridge Christian Church. Employers and job-related community resources will be present at the event, and the committee is seeking additional help in reaching out to local employers to encourage their participation. Attendees interested in assisting with this effort were invited to the Next committee meeting which will be Held at HRC on March 4th 2026 at 2:00 PM

Nicki stated that the ROSC Council has created a **PLE Subcommittee**. The first meeting is scheduled for **March 23, 2026, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.** at the **Paris Carnegie Library**. She

explained that this committee will focus on better understanding the needs of individuals in early recovery within the community, while also assisting with support efforts and event planning.

Upcoming Events and Brainstorming

Nicki shared that in partnership with the Edgar County Public Health Department and Mayo Middle School, a Hidden in Plain Sight event will be held on April 28th from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at Mayo Middle School. She also reminded the council that the April 28th ROSC Council meeting time has been changed to 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. and will be held at Horizon Health Conference Room A.

Looking ahead, Nicki expressed interest in beginning bi-monthly community outreach nights starting in May. She reflected on the outreach event held in July of 2025, noting that it had strong potential for turnout and successfully served its purpose in connecting community members to resources. The ROSC Council will reach out to local partners and resources to coordinate and schedule a date in May.

Nicki also invited feedback from the ROSC council regarding additional events for FY26. Council members agreed that hosting a bowling night would be a fun and recovery-oriented event to include in the upcoming year's plans.

Agency Updates

Freedom Rally (Jack Hoffman)

Reverend Jack Hoffman shared that the Second Annual Freedom Rally will take place on Thursday, May 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Paris, located at 201 South Central Avenue. He encouraged anyone interested in volunteering to assist with the event to contact him directly at 217-712-0304. Reverend Hoffman noted that approximately 150 people attended last year's rally and shared that the event has contributed to positive growth and engagement within the community.

HRC (Norm Wilson, Susan Tybon)

It was recorded that HRC has hired a new SUD therapist and is very excited for her to attend an upcoming council meeting. HRC also shared that they are continuing the process of revamping their SUD program and related groups to better meet the needs of individuals in the community.

Soup Kitchen (Vicki Dick/ Sue Sheeran)

Nicki stated the soup kitchen isn't just a free meal it is a place of connection, if you would like to volunteer prepping food starts at 9:30 AM Monday through Friday.

One pill can kill (Doug Cochran)

It was shared that Doug will be presenting the "One Pill Can Kill" program at Paris High School this Friday. Due to the government shutdown, representatives from the DEA will unfortunately not be able to attend as originally planned; however, he will still provide all of the educational

handouts and materials from the DEA to ensure students receive the important information and resources associated with the presentation.

Celebrate Recovery (Cory Hanks)

Cory announced the women's group is growing. Celebrate Recovery serves a light meal at 5:30 PM on Wednesday nights at Lake Ridge Christian Church. All Are Welcome!

Doorway to Hope (Nate Alexander)

Nate invited all attendees to the upcoming **Doorway to Hope Community Engagement Meeting** scheduled for **March 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** at **Lake Ridge Christian Church, 122 East Stidl Road, Paris, Illinois 61944**. He shared that the meeting will provide an opportunity to meet the Doorway to Hope Board, participate in an open Q&A, learn more about the organization's mission and current initiatives, and explore available committee opportunities. Nate encouraged anyone interested in getting involved to attend and emphasized that community participation is welcome and valued.

NA Meeting (Jacqui Miller)

Jacqui reported on a new NA meeting that she co-founded with Megan Irwin, which has been meeting weekly on Fridays at 6:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church. Since its launch on January 9th, attendance has been strong and consistent, ranging from 11 to 23 participants each week. She shared that the meeting has been well received and continues to grow, reflecting a strong need for recovery support in the community. Jacqui also shared her powerful personal story of recovery with the council, expressing gratitude for the collective efforts being made to support individuals and families impacted by substance use in our community.

Community Updates

Rick Cook shared that on Friday, March 27th at 7:00 p.m., an event will be held at Horace Baptist Church, located at 13888 East 1700 Road, Chrisman, Illinois 61924. He invited everyone to attend and hear the story of "Rainy Day Miracle," a powerful testimony of God's goodness and grace in the midst of unexpected crises. The evening will feature guest speaker Matt Cheatham, and this event is free of charge. All are encouraged to attend and be part of this inspiring opportunity.

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