

EDGAR COUNTY ROSC Council

MEETING MINUTES

May 26th, 2026
5:15 PM

Paris Hospital Conference Room D and on Zoom

Attendance in-person: Nicki Hanks, Jessica Parrill, Nate Alexander, Jacqui Miller, Bill Stidham, Mary Taylor, Cindy Spencer, Dennis Eveland, Cory Hanks, Amanda Thompson, Michelle Creech, Mary Morgan Ryan, Janice Watson, Vicky Dick, Mariah Witmer, Jenny McMahan

Attendance on Zoom: Toni Randell, James Sanders, Victoria Leitch, Julie Metcalf, Kyra Graham, Johanna Gonzalez, Lexanna Strader

Spotlight Speaker – CJ Rollings

CJ Rollings shared her powerful personal journey through addiction and recovery, explaining how she nearly lost her life before entering recovery and achieving almost seven months of sobriety. She spoke openly about the struggles she faced during active addiction and reflected on the community resources that provided support during that time, including local soup kitchens and the Living Room program through Human Resource Center of Edgar & Clark Counties. CJ also highlighted ongoing gaps in services within the community, particularly for women experiencing domestic violence and substance use challenges. She emphasized the importance of creating safe, supportive spaces specifically for women in recovery and discussed her personal frustrations with the legal system regarding enforcement of protections against her abuser, who was reportedly ordered to stay away from the area but continues to make contact with her. Her testimony sparked meaningful discussion among council members about barriers to safety, recovery support, and the need for stronger community resources and advocacy for vulnerable populations.

Recovery Month Brainstorming

Nicki led a discussion regarding ideas and planning for September's National Recovery Month activities. She shared a vision of renting the amphitheater near the jail to host a community recovery event featuring live music, food trucks, and recovery testimonies from individuals representing multiple pathways of recovery. Nicki emphasized the importance of showing the community that recovery is possible and reminding individuals that they are not alone in their journey. She also announced that the ROSC Council will once again partner with Human Resource Center of Edgar & Clark Counties for the annual Recovery Picnic and Wellness Walk, with the first planning Zoom meeting scheduled for June 8th. Jessica Parrill, the ROSC Recovery

Navigator, suggested partnering with Rolling Cold Creamery to explore creating a special purple ice cream flavor for the month of September in recognition of Recovery Month and overdose awareness initiatives. Another council member suggested collaborating with local schools during Recovery Month to help spread awareness and reduce stigma among youth and families. The council agreed this would be a valuable opportunity, and the PLE (People with Lived Experience) Committee will continue brainstorming ideas and discussing potential school involvement at their next meeting.

Committee Updates

Nicki reviewed the upcoming committee meeting dates and encouraged council members and community partners to get involved in ongoing ROSC initiatives. The Second Chance Hiring Committee will meet in person on June 10, 2026, from 2:00–3:00 PM at 502 Jasper Street in Paris. The Hospital-Based Warm Hand-Off Committee will meet in a hybrid format on June 17, 2026, from 2:00–3:00 PM, allowing both in-person and Zoom participation. The next PLE (People with Lived Experience) Committee meeting will be held Thursday, May 28, 2026, from 1:30–2:30 PM in person at 502 Jasper Street. Nicki shared that anyone interested in participating in a committee or requesting a Zoom link is encouraged to contact her directly at 217-549-7599 for additional information.

Priority Projects for FY27

Nicki asked the council to begin brainstorming Quarter One goals for FY27 surrounding the council's three priority projects: the Hospital-Based Warm Hand-Off Program, strengthening Second Chance Hiring Opportunities, and expanding community access to harm reduction resources and education through stigma reduction, increased Narcan and fentanyl awareness, and continued partnerships with local organizations and DOPP sites. During discussion, council members emphasized the importance of increasing overdose prevention efforts due to the recent rise in overdoses throughout Edgar County. The council discussed the idea of visiting local recovery meetings throughout the community to offer Narcan trainings and provide education on overdose prevention, harm reduction resources, and community support services. Members agreed that proactive outreach and education are critical to ensuring individuals and families impacted by substance use have access to lifesaving resources and support.

Upcoming events

The ROSC Council reviewed several upcoming community events and outreach opportunities planned throughout the summer and early fall. Members were reminded of the Community-Wide Narcan Training scheduled for June 11, 2026, from 4:00–5:00 PM, which will provide overdose prevention education and Narcan training to community members. The council also discussed the upcoming “Strike Out the Stigma” Bowling Night on June 13, 2026, from 5:00–7:00 PM, aimed at bringing the community together to promote recovery awareness and reduce stigma surrounding substance use and mental health. Additionally, members reviewed plans for the next Free Laundry Day on June 19, 2026, from 9:00 AM–1:00 PM, continuing the council's efforts to meet basic community needs while building connections and providing resources. The council

also discussed preparations for the Candlelight Vigil for Overdose Awareness Day, which will be held on August 31, 2026, from 6:00–7:00 PM. The event will honor lives lost to overdose, celebrate recovery, and provide hope and support to families and community members impacted by substance use.

Agency Updates

Right To Life (Mary Taylor)

Mary Taylor thanked Jessica Parrill for her vision and dedication in helping organize the “Breaking the Silence: A Woman’s Day of Hope and Healing” event. She also passed out letters and event information to council members to share details and highlights from the event.

HRC (Michelle Creech)

Michelle Creech announced plans to begin offering a 16-week “Invitation to Change” support group for family members, friends, and loved ones of individuals struggling with substance use. The group will be open to the public and is intended to provide education, support, and tools for those impacted by a loved one’s substance use. Michelle shared that the program will begin in Edgar County first, with plans to later expand into Clark County. Additional details and information will be shared as they become available.

Soup Kitchen (Vicky Dick)

Vicky shared that the meal program continues to serve around 100 meals daily and expressed gratitude for the strong community support, donations, and dedicated volunteers who continue helping sustain the program.

Doorway to Hope (Nate Alexander)

Doorway to Hope announced an upcoming community workday at 504 East Jasper Street in Paris and invited volunteers to come help with yard work, cleaning, and other projects to support the space and ongoing community efforts.

Narcotics Anonymous (Jaqui Miller)

The Narcotics Anonymous meeting continues to grow and remain strong within the community.

Next Meeting: June 23rd, 2026, 5:15 – 6:15 PM at Paris Hospital Conference A Room/Zoom.