

EDGAR COUNTY ROSC Council

MEETING MINUTES

March 24th, 2026

5:15 PM

Paris Hospital Conference Room A and on Zoom

Attendance in-person: Nicki Hanks, Jessica Parrill, Doug Cochran, Norm Wilson, Nate Alexander, Jack Hoffman, Rick Cook, Jacqui Miller, Bill Stidham, Katrisha Stapp, Tony Randall, Megan Erwin, Lori Carroll, Lisa Foster, Scott Foster, Doug Cocran, Rick Cook, Cindy Spencer, Janice Watson, Jack Metcalf

Attendance on Zoom: Marlyn Frey, Bethany Wagoner, Kyra Graham, Jenna Hays, John Brandonburg, James Sanders, Lexanna Strader, Michelle Hibbard, Susan Tybon, Abbey Horn, Vicki Dick, Jenna Hays, Joe Trotter

Spot Light Speaker

It was shared that Jessica Parrill is honored to partner with Right to Life for the upcoming event, *Breaking the Silence: A Woman's Day of Hope*. This event is being thoughtfully created to provide a safe, compassionate, and supportive space for mothers to come together and begin releasing the shame and guilt many carry. The purpose of the day is to foster healing by encouraging open conversations around past addictions, trauma, and difficult life experiences that are often held in silence.

Discussion emphasized that many women, particularly mothers, carry the weight of past struggles alone—especially when those experiences involve pain, regret, or seasons they wish they could forget. This event aims to gently break that silence by creating an environment where women feel safe to share their stories, confront shame and guilt, and begin the healing process through connection, faith, and mutual understanding. It was noted that when individuals speak their truth, isolation is replaced with support, and participants can begin to recognize they are not alone in their journey.

The event will focus on promoting hope, healing, and restoration while empowering women to release shame, embrace grace, and move forward as healthier individuals and mothers. Organizers highlighted that breaking silence is a powerful first step toward healing and that this event seeks to create meaningful impact within the community.

Final event details were confirmed as follows: *Breaking the Silence: A Woman's Day of Hope* will be held on May 2, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at First Baptist Church. Attendees are asked to RSVP to Jessica Parrill by April 25, 2026, at 765-828-1818.

Committee Update

An update was provided on the **Second Chance Hiring initiative**, including progress on the upcoming *Open Doors to Opportunity* Job Fair. The event is scheduled for April 23 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Lake Ridge Christian Church. Planning efforts are moving forward successfully, with several employers already confirmed to participate. Current employer commitments include Staff Quick, Car Quest, Paris Family Restaurant, Human Resource Center (HRC), Dirt Poor Lawn Care, and Express Employment.

In addition to employer participation, a strong lineup of community resources will be available at the event to support attendees. The Human Resource Center (HRC) will be present to provide information on DUI evaluations, while peer support specialists will be available on-site to assist individuals with obtaining homeless identification, as well as accessing Medicaid and SNAP benefits. Land of Lincoln Legal Aid will offer information regarding sealing and expungement services. The Illinois Coalition for Community Services will present on job readiness, helping individuals prepare for employment opportunities. Additionally, The Homeless Project will provide work clothing and interview outfits to help participants feel confident and prepared.

An update was also shared regarding the **PLE (People with Lived Experience) Committee**. The first committee meeting was held recently and was described as very informative and productive, with valuable insights gathered from participants. Full meeting minutes from this session will be distributed along with the upcoming council meeting minutes. It was also noted that there will be a change to the meeting day and time for the PLE Committee, with updated details to be shared soon.

ROSC Council Engagement Discussion

Nicki asked Council members to reflect on what they are gaining from the meetings and what additional information or topics they would like to see incorporated into future council discussions. Council members shared that, since the beginning, there has been a significant enhancement in their knowledge of available resources within the community. Several members also noted that the current meeting date and time work well with their daily schedules, allowing for consistent participation. One member specifically highlighted the value of gaining a deeper understanding of recovery as a whole.

The ROSC Council also discussed ideas for future spotlight speakers. Suggestions included inviting individuals who are new in recovery to share their experiences and speak about their immediate needs, as well as individuals with long-term recovery to share their journeys and provide hope and perspective. Additionally, there was interest in inviting the HRC team to present on trends and needs they are observing among youth in the community.

During the discussion, one Council member suggested implementing name tags at meetings to help participants better identify one another and understand each person's role within the

community. This was noted as a simple but beneficial way to strengthen connection and collaboration among attendees.

Priority Project Updates

An update was provided on the priority project focused on supporting the development of a Hospital-Based Warm Handoff Program. It was shared that a dedicated committee will be formed to move this initiative forward, with a Google Form to be distributed for individuals interested in participating and taking action steps. The first committee meeting is planned for June, where members will begin researching implementation strategies, developing presentation materials, and identifying potential grant funding opportunities to support the program. Additionally, ongoing communication has taken place with Gateway regarding the implementation process at Sarah Bush, and this information will be presented and discussed further during the initial committee meeting.

Progress was also shared on efforts to strengthen second-chance hiring opportunities in Edgar County. A two-week communication campaign is currently being developed leading up to the Second Chance Hiring Fair, with a focus on highlighting success stories and reducing stigma. Council members were encouraged to share any individuals who may be willing to tell their stories as part of this campaign. It was also reported that six local employers have agreed to support second-chance hiring initiatives. In addition, a growing list of local employers who are open to second-chance hiring is being compiled, with plans to create and distribute a resource flyer to peers in the community following the job fair.

Updates were also provided on the priority goal to expand access to harm reduction resources and education by reducing stigma, increasing awareness of Narcan and fentanyl, and strengthening partnerships with local organizations and DOPP sites. The council continues to maintain a log of all Narcan distributed throughout Edgar County via DOPP sites. Efforts are underway to assemble harm reduction kits that will include Narcan, fentanyl test strips, and xylazine test strips. A pop-up Narcan training is being planned for the May outreach night to further increase community awareness and access. Work is also in progress to organize a countywide training focused on the different types of stigma and their impact on individuals in recovery. Additionally, the formation of the PLE (People with Lived Experience) subcommittee was noted as an important step in incorporating lived experience into ongoing efforts. Lastly, it was reported that one new DOPP site has been established this quarter, further expanding access to life-saving resources within the community.

Agency Updates

Freedom Rally (Jack Hoffman)

Reverend Jack Hoffman shared details regarding the upcoming Second Annual Freedom Rally, which 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 invited community members and council participants to attend and encouraged those interested in volunteering to support the event to contact him

directly at 217-712-0304. It was also noted that the event will include resource tables featuring local organizations that provide support for individuals in recovery, offering attendees access to valuable information and community connections.

HRC (Norm Wilson, Susan Tybon)

HRC 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)

Vicki expressed her sincere gratitude to all volunteers and community donors for the overwhelming outpouring of help and generosity shown at the Helping Hands Soup Kitchen.

One pill can kill (Doug Cochran)

Doug shared that he recently presented the *One Pill Can Kill* presentation to teachers at Paris High School. He expressed hope that this presentation will also be delivered to students in the near future to increase awareness and prevention efforts among youth.

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, located at 122 East Stidl Road in Paris, Illinois. He shared that the meeting will provide an opportunity for community members to meet the Doorway to Hope Board, participate in an open Q&A session, learn more about the organization's mission and current initiatives, and explore available committee opportunities. Nate encouraged anyone interested in getting involved to attend, emphasizing that community participation is both welcomed and valued.

Additionally, Nate shared an exciting update that Doorway to Hope is currently in the process of closing on a property. He explained that the project will be developed in phases, with the first phase focusing on establishing a community center, followed by a second phase that will include the development of a shelter.

Community Updates

Norm Wilson shared that the First Vermilion United Methodist Church is currently in the process of installing washers and dryers within the church facility. This initiative is intended to provide free laundry services to individuals in need within the community. He highlighted this effort as an important step in addressing basic needs and supporting individuals and families who may not have access to reliable laundry facilities.

Next Meeting: April 28th, 2026, 3:15 – 4:15 PM at Paris Hospital Conference Room/Zoom.

EDGAR COUNTY ROSC Council PLE Committee

MEETING MINUTES

March 23th, 2026
1:00 PM
Paris Carnegie Library

Attendees: Nicki Hanks, John Brandburg, Jessica Parrill, Ruth Anthony, Steve Remo, James Sanders, Millissa Witherspoon, Megan Erwin, Jaqui Miller, Bill Stidham

The meeting began with introductions and discussion around each member's motivation for joining the subcommittee. Members shared that they are driven by a desire to help others, stay connected to community resources, and use their lived experience to support recovery efforts. There was a shared understanding of the importance of staying up to date on available services and continuing to build connections within the community.

The group then engaged in a discussion about recovery in the community and identified several key barriers. Members highlighted challenges within systems such as city government and the judicial system, noting a need for increased compassion and reduced stigma, particularly for individuals experiencing homelessness. Concerns were raised about housing availability and policies such as the "one-year no record" requirement, which can limit access to stable housing. Additionally, participants noted a general lack of awareness about available resources and emphasized that individuals are often judged too quickly rather than supported.

The subcommittee discussed ways the ROSC Council can help bridge these gaps. Suggestions included bringing in guest speakers to provide education and insight, particularly around co-occurring disorder training. Members also expressed interest in creating more inclusive and blended groups that meet people where they are in their recovery journey. There was a strong emphasis on being more person-centered and recognizing that not everyone is ready for traditional recovery groups, highlighting the need for flexibility and understanding in service delivery.

Overall, the discussion reinforced the importance of meeting individuals where they are, increasing education and awareness, and continuing to build a compassionate, informed community response to substance use and recovery

Next April 23, 2026 1:00 PM at Paris Carnegie Library