

EDGAR COUNTY ROSC Council

MEETING MINUTES

May 28th, 2026

3:15 PM

Paris Hospital Conference Room D and on Zoom

Attendance in-person: Nicki Hanks, Jessica Parrill, Doug Cochran, Nate Alexander, Jack Hoffman, Jacqui Miller, Bill Stidham, Lisa Foster, Scott Foster, James Sanders, Abbey Horn, Lexanna Strader, Susan Tybon, Sue Sheeran, Mary Taylor

Attendance on Zoom: Marlyn Frey, Dennis Eveland, Michelle Hibbard, Amanda Thompson, Toni Randell, Kristin Davis, Lindsey Erye, David Alvarec,

Spot Light Speaker – Lindsey Eyre, Illinois Coalition for Community Services (ICCS)

Lindsey Eyre, provided an overview of the organization and the services they offer. ICCS is currently serving 18 communities across Illinois, working to support youth and families through crisis intervention, prevention services, after-school programming, and connection to community resources. The organization is licensed and trauma-informed, with a strong focus on reducing truancy and violence while also improving job opportunities for youth. Their approach emphasizes long-term solutions, helping individuals build independence rather than reliance on short-term assistance.

Lindsey shared that ICCS offers a variety of services including counseling, shelter, and family reunification, primarily operated through their crisis services program, CCBYS (Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Services). They also offer the Teen REACH program, which is currently available in Charleston, with hopes to expand into additional communities, potentially including Paris, in the next grant cycle. Additionally, Lindsey highlighted the CYS (Comprehensive Youth Services) program, which focuses on connecting youth to resources, preparing them for future success, and building confidence through skill development and support.

She emphasized that while ICCS may not be able to solve every challenge facing youth today, their goal is to equip young people with the tools they need to succeed and to strengthen communities so they can better support their youth. Lindsey also shared that ICCS has a wide range of resources available and is willing to support local events, youth groups, and community initiatives. She provided Paris-specific resources and encouraged attendees to reach out for collaboration or support.

Committee Updates

Nicki shared that a total of 43 participants attended the recent job fair, making it an overall success. One employer has already expressed interest in moving forward by interviewing two participants and has also indicated plans to refer individuals to other employment opportunities within Edgar County.

Nicki extended her sincere appreciation to everyone who helped make the event possible, including those who assisted with setup, provided valuable resources, and participated throughout the day.

Additionally, the Edgar County ROSC Council Recovery Navigator announced that the next PLE Subcommittee meeting will be held on May 28, 2026, from 1:30–2:30 PM at 502 Jasper Street, Paris, Illinois 61944.

Priority Project Updates

Nicki provided updates on the council's priority projects. For **Goal 1**, supporting the development of a hospital-based warm handoff program, she shared that a Google Form has been distributed to help schedule the first committee meeting. Council members and community partners interested in joining are encouraged to complete the form to determine the best date and time. Participation in this committee is greatly appreciated as the council works to strengthen connections to care and support recovery across the community.

For **Goal 2**, strengthening second chance (fair chance) hiring opportunities in Edgar County, Nicki reported that the next step is to develop a second chance employment brochure to distribute at events and include in resource bags. This effort will help increase awareness and provide valuable information to job seekers. She will also continue reaching out to local employers to expand fair chance hiring opportunities. Plans are already underway to host another job fair next April. Anyone interested in joining the committee or getting involved is encouraged to contact Nicki for more information.

For **Goal 3**, expanding access to harm reduction resources and education, Jessica and Nicki have created harm reduction kits and are making them available for community distribution. Those interested in receiving kits are encouraged to reach out. Additionally, two Narcan trainings are planned: a pop-up training at the upcoming community outreach night and a full presentation on June 11th 4:00–5:00 PM at the Paris Carnegie Public Library. This training will be open to the community, and members are encouraged to help spread the word and continue supporting harm reduction efforts.

Membership Protocol Review

Nicki shared that she has updated the membership protocols, which were reviewed by the council during the meeting. The group revisited the key working definition, as well as the ROSC Council's values and guiding principles, to ensure alignment and shared understanding. ROSC Council members also reviewed membership expectations and agreed to include participation in

speaking engagements as a formal expectation. The ROSC Council reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining an inclusive and welcoming membership approach. In addition, members discussed the importance of onboarding and education, and agreed to implement quarterly ROSC Council orientations beginning in FY27 to help new members better understand the ROSC Council's mission, purpose, and role within the community.

Upcoming events

The council was reminded of several upcoming community events and engagement opportunities. The ***Hidden in Plain Sight*** event will take place tonight from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at Paris Mayo Middle School, aimed at raising awareness for parents and grandparents, with small giveaways available. Members were also informed about the upcoming ***Pirate's Fest Parade*** on May 9th at 2:00 p.m., with lineup on a first-come, first-served basis. Nicki shared that she plans to arrive at 1:15 p.m., and those interested in walking in the parade are encouraged to provide their phone numbers to be included in a group chat for coordination. Donations of candy for the parade were also requested and greatly appreciated. Additionally, the next **Community Outreach Night** is scheduled for May 11th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at First Christian Church parking lot, following the same setup as last year, with participants asked to bring their own tables and canopies. Weather conditions will be monitored, and the event will be rescheduled if necessary. Lastly, the next Free Laundry Day will be held on May 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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.

Right To Life (Mary Taylor)

Right to Life announced its Safe Haven awareness event and provided printed materials from the Department of Child and Family Services for state safe haven resources, offering copies for attendees.

HRC (Susan Tybon)

Representatives from the Human Resource Center of Edgar and Clark Counties shared updates on their current outreach efforts, including their newsletter and newly developed brochures. They provided sign-up sheets to ROSC Council members and partners to assist with distribution, helping ensure these materials reach a broader audience within the community.

Soup Kitchen (Sue Sheeran)

The soup kitchen reported serving 131 and 123 meals on recent days and over 600 meals during the prior week, emphasized allowing second meals and take-home portions, described strong volunteer support, and credited community donations and school drives for funding and supplies.

One Pill Can Kill (Doug Cochran)

The Kansas Police Department is offering free trainings including active shooter response, human trafficking awareness, “One Pill Can Kill” DEA training, and Handle with Care, though most requests are coming from outside the county. Attendees noted a statewide rise in human trafficking, with the state moving from 10th to 9th nationally and increased activity linked to organized criminal groups in southern Illinois.

Doorway to Hope (Nate Alexander)

Nate shared that a property has officially been purchased for Doorway to Hope, marking a significant step forward in the project’s development. He noted that the effort has already generated a strong community response, with many new volunteer opportunities emerging. The team is currently working on compiling a volunteer list to support upcoming efforts. The first phase of the project will focus on establishing a community center, with the long-term goal of developing a structured shelter to further serve individuals in need.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) (Jaqui Miller)

The Narcotics Anonymous meeting continues to grow and remain strong within the community. Jaqui announced that a new NA Big Book Study will be starting on Saturdays, with additional details to be shared in the near future.

Community Updates (Jessica Parrill)

A reminder was shared about *Breaking the Silence: A Women’s Day of Hope and Healing*, taking place on Saturday, May 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church. This event is open to all women, including those in recovery, those impacted by substance use, pregnant women, and individuals working toward reunification and support. The message emphasized that while our past may be part of our story, it does not define our future. The event will provide a safe, supportive space where healing can begin, and will include guest speakers, resources, support, and lunch. Attendees are encouraged to RSVP to 765-828-1818 to help ensure there is enough food available.

Next Meeting: May 26th, 2026, 5:15 – 6:15 PM at Paris Hospital Conference A Room/Zoom.

