

Effingham County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 23rd, 2026

Time: 1:00-2:00 pm

Location: 104 Blohm Ave, Effingham & Zoom

Meeting Facilitator: Samantha Hicks

Attendees:

In person:

Jenn Galvan (Family Resource Advocate, Family Resource Center)

Justin Carter (Illinois Department of Human Services)

Kasey Kemme (U of I Extension Office Director)

Samantha Hicks (Effingham County ROSC Coordinator)

Tommy Alsobrooks (Senior Outreach Coordinator, Oxford House)

Zoom:

Carrie McKinzie (Professional Relations Manager, Gateway Foundation)

Chelsea Kinkelaar (Wound Center Program Director, HSHS St. Anthony's Hospital)

Emelia Saber (Technical Assistance Specialist, Opioid Learning and Response Collaborative, Prevention First)

Heather Greenwood (Southeast Illinois Area Health Education Center at Wabash General Hospital, team lead for the Partners for Progress Deflection Initiative)

Jenna Hay (Hour House ROSC Program Supervisor)

Katlyn Johnson (Case Manager, Effingham County Probation)

Kelly Buscher (Effingham County Case Management, Effingham Public Library)

Madison LeMay (Effingham Co Probation Program Manager)

Maggie Gouchenouer (Investigative State Case Analyst for IL State Police SEIDTF)

Nathan Nichols (Mobility Manager for CEFS, Central Illinois Public Transit, Effingham County Public Transportation)

Rebecca Moore (CADC professional, Evolve Counseling)

Richard Kulich (Marion Illinois VA)

Samantha Widener (Early Childhood and Special Projects Director for the Effingham and Clay County Health Departments)

Minutes

Introductions

Council meeting attendees introduced themselves and the agencies they represent or explained why they were attending. Samantha stated Effingham Transport was supposed to be the speaker for today's meeting but they were unable to come.

Committee Updates

Samantha H. states that the Road to Recovery committee had a meeting with Beth at CEFS to discuss their transportation to treatment facilities outside Effingham County. CEFS is able to do so but barriers of availability of drivers and cost exist with this resource.

Samantha, Madison, and Jeannetta Workman from Wright Choice Counseling conducted a presentation for about 10 pastors where they explained what ROSC is and mentioned compiling a volunteer transport list from their congregations.

For the next Roads to Recovery meeting, Samantha will reach out to Pastor Mike at St. John's Lutheran Church to get specifics about the questions the congregation will have before volunteering. Madison is creating waivers for the volunteers to sign. Nick Phillips is contacting a Lyft driver and Susan from FISH Human Services to discuss utilizing their volunteers for transportation to treatment facilities.

Madison mentions that for FISH to transport, the person must be a resident of the county for 3 months and many people who need transport are considered homeless so they do not qualify. Heather adds that in the northern part of the state, Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) are providing training or certificates to community health workers for medical transport.

Samantha H. says that for the next Healing Families committee meeting, an Al-Anon member is coming to answer questions for the committee.

Samantha H. states that she is pivoting the People with Lived Experience committee to identify agencies who work with PLEs to help her identify the barriers that people in recovery face. She stated the members of the PLE committee have since gone on to other things so she's needing help with using PLE voices to drive the Council's work. She asked attendees who would be willing to ask their clients a list of questions about the struggles they've faced while in recovery. She wants to create a unified list of questions for data purposes.

Justin will help create questions.

Tommy and **Madison** will ask the questions at their agencies.

Jenn can ask the questions during a parenting group that starts on March 3rd.

Rebecca and **Kelly** will also ask clients the questions.

Samantha H. notifies the attendees that the Pathways to Peer Support committee is being discontinued for now. She states this project will take a long time & needs help identifying agencies who would benefit from a peer support specialist—hospitals, counseling agencies, jails, etc.

Council Meeting Engagement Discussion

Samantha H. asks the attendees if it is clear to them what ROSC is trying to work toward, if the meetings flow and make sense, and if it appears that ROSC is making progress.

Justin mentions trying to focus on short-term milestones instead of the long-term objective.

Nathan agrees that completing little milestones every 1-3 months will help build ROSC and keep people engaged. He adds that the success doesn't have to be displayed as statistics, but more of a comparison to when ROSC first started to show how far the program has come.

Heather mentions finding a "poster child" once the success stories from the Deflection Initiative come out to try and find more people to join ROSC.

Member mentions that anything could be considered a success, so maybe just highlight a positive outcome at each meeting.

Samantha asks if members would like a ROSC Newsletter that can highlight success stories. She also asks if the current format of the meeting minutes is good.

Members agree that a newsletter is a good idea, but not so often that people quit reading them. They agree that a quarterly newsletter would be good. They like the current meeting minutes but would like a section for short-term and long-term goals if possible.

Samantha W. mentions she uses a locked SharePoint folder for the Effingham Health Coalition that people can view and download whatever they want out of it by sending them a link.

Jen also uses a SharePoint folder at the Family Resource Center and loves it.

Samantha H. asks the members for their thoughts on increasing the council meeting duration. Heather mentions one hour is good, but having an hour and a half meeting once quarterly could be beneficial.

Nathan says it would be a good idea to get through all meeting objectives within an hour, notify people they can leave, and then leave extra time for extended conversation.

Open Discussion

Nathan notifies the members that the medical transport coordinator at CIPT (Paula) has stepped down but medical transportation can still be booked through dispatchers.

Carrie notifies the members that Gateway Foundation still provides referrals for St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, but there is no representative present there on a day-to-day basis. She also mentions an upcoming training on gambling awareness, substance use, and problem gambling. She will send the information to Samantha.

Rebecca discusses free training opportunities to obtain continuing education units for CPRS/CRSS certifications for topics like ethics, substance use prevention, alcohol prevention, teen & women substance use prevention, and women with Prevention First, Quantum Units Education, and PESI.

Next steps after the meeting

Samantha & Justin will compile questions for PLEs

Samantha will send them to **Tommy, Madison, Jenn, Rebecca, & Kelly**

Samantha will reformat agenda to include short term goals for priority projects & success stories

Samantha will create a quarterly newsletter

Samantha will contact **Carrie M.** about protocol at HSHS St. Anthony & Gateway

Upcoming events

- **Partners for Progress Deflection initiative:** March 3rd @ 12:30pm-4:00pm @ Flora Church of the Nazarene, Flora
- **National Drug & Alcohol Fact Week:** March 22-28th; table with SRO Cody Hartke @ EJHS & EHS
- **2nd Annual Recovery Roll Bowl:** TBD; probably April; *wanting local family serving organizations to be a part of the event @ Silver Dollar Lanes, Effingham*
- **Tails & Trails:** Month of May (Mental Health Awareness month); *wanting MH agencies & animals shelters to be a part of the event @ Ballard Nature Center, Altamont; ALSO OPEN TO DIFFERENT IDEAS FOR THIS MONTH*
- **2nd Annual S.U.R.E. (Substance Use Resource & Education) Symposium:** August 11th from 9am-4pm @ Oil Belt Christian Service Camp, Flora
- **Invisible Victims: Drug-Endangered Children & Human Trafficking Training:** September 24th from 9am-12pm @ Clay County Health Department, Flora

****NEXT ROSC COUNCIL MEETING****

Date: Monday, March 16th, 2025 @ 1:00-2:00PM

Where: 104 E. Blohm Ave, Effingham & Zoom

Contact emails:

ROSC Coordinator: Samantha Hicks; samanthah@hourhouserecovery.org

ROSC Recovery Navigator: Stephanie Mercer; stephanieme@hourhouserecovery.org

ROSC Program Supervisor: Jenna Hays; jennah@hourhouserecovery.org

Where to find past meeting minutes: <https://www.govst.edu/Recovery-Support/South-Central-IL-ROSC/EFCRC-ROSC-Council/>



Effingham County ROSC Facebook page

