

Ford County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 24th, 2025, at 8:30 AM (via Zoom)

Definition of ROSC: A Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) is a coordinated network of community-based services and supports that is person-centered and builds on the strengths and resilience of individuals, families, and communities to experience recovery and improved health, wellness and quality of life for those with or at risk of substance use and/or co-occurring conditions. The central focus of a ROSC is to create an infrastructure, or “systems of care”, with the resources to effectively address the full range of substance use and/or co-occurring disorders within communities.

Our Mission: Bring the community together to build a recovery support system to improve health, wellness and quality of life, through education, stigma reduction, and access to resources.

Attendance:

1. Frankie Ward (Chestnut Health Systems, Recovery Specialist)
2. Kari Knapp (Chestnut Health Systems - Associate of Community Health)
3. Barbara Brumleve (Ford County ROSC - McLean County ROSC, Chestnut)
4. Dave King (Carle Addiction Recovery Center – Community Outreach)
5. Kami Garrison (Chestnut Health Systems, Statewide ROSC Region 3)
6. Tim Nuss (Ford County Board)
7. Betty Kay Benningfield (Ford County Public Health Department)
8. Melissa Watson (Birth to Five)
9. Christine P. (Carle Outreach)
10. John Schneider (Community Member and Livingston ROSC)
11. Sandra Beecher (Gateway)
12. Clint Perzee (Iroquois Sheriff)
13. Odette Hyatt-Watson (East Central Illinois Community Action Agency)
15. Mariah Brown (Paxton Headstart)
16. LaSienna Burton (Champaign Health Department)
17. John Schneider – (RESTORE Ministry Recovery)
18. Lauren Erickson – (Chestnut Health Systems, Community Outreach & Training Specialist)
19. Rachel (Community Member)

Agenda:

- **Welcome & Introductions**
- **Faith-Based Organizations**
- **Group Discussion**
- **Available Trainings**
- **Agency Updates**

The Ford ROSC Team welcomed everyone to the March Ford ROSC Council meeting and Barb Brumleve asked everyone to introduce themselves. The council welcomed one new member and Barb then introduced the council to Frankie Ward to discuss the intersection of ROSC and the faith-based sector.

Topic: ROSC and the Faith-Based Sector

Frankie Ward shared that today's focus is on strengthening partnerships with faith-based organizations in Ford County, recognizing their vital role as trusted, first points of support for individuals and families. These organizations already provide essential services such as food, clothing, transportation, mentorship, emotional support, and recovery-related spaces, making them deeply embedded and influential within the community.

By connecting faith-based organizations more intentionally with the Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC), their impact can be expanded through improved coordination, shared resources, collaboration, and reduced service gaps. In turn, faith-based partners strengthen ROSC by offering front-line insight, amplifying stigma-reduction efforts, connecting individuals to resources, and supporting events, trainings, and outreach.

A key strategy for building these connections is the second phase of the Reframing Recovery box rollout, which will focus on faith-based organizations. This effort aims to reduce stigma, provide critical resources such as naloxone and recovery guides, and engage a sector that has been underrepresented in recovery planning. Overall, the goal is to build a more connected, inclusive, and recovery-ready Ford County by partnering with faith-based organizations and working together to support community well-being.

Group Discussion

Frankie explained this discussion is going to help us better understand where faith-based organizations are already showing up in the Ford County, where there may be opportunities to build connections, and how we can approach the Reframing Recovery box rollout in a way that is thoughtful and effective.

Question #1: What faith-based organizations are you seeing in Ford County that are actively supporting basic needs like food, clothing, or bill assistance?

- Melissa shared that she reached out to several faith-based organizations in the area and the Bible Church in Gibson City was very receptive. Christine P and BK both had contacts for **Randi and Bonnie Errands**.
- Shepherd's Closet
- John shared Gibson Area Food Pantry is now organized by Gibson Hospital, volunteer-based and distribute food Friday and Saturday. They allow small packets of information to go in with the food, they serve approximately 160 families every other week. Matt Reynolds is the director for the food pantry and works at the hospital.
- Living Word Church – Bi-monthly food pantry – serves 75 families every other week.
- Food pantry in Paxton – Hands of Christ Catholic Church – Cara Fitton
- Odette shared ECIAA can help, however, there are requirements regarding income.
- Methodist Church in Gibson City – AA meeting
- Paxton Church – AA meeting
- Start Reframe Recovery Boxes with churches associated with recovery meetings.
- Odette asked “why not” have an “ask?” Can we offer trainings for congregations, etc.
- CCE Faith-Based free trainings (4)

Question #2: What barriers might be preventing partnerships between ROSC and faith-based organizations?

- A lot of stigma
- Go to board meetings and offer education
- Tim Nuss noted he has had success by searching out groups that meet at a church. Women's groups, bible study, meals, etc. Go thru the congregation as opposed to a board.
- Would AA pair up with ROSC to give out information/work on breaking stigma
- There is a lot of alcohol use, can ROSC educate on that as well as opiotes

Question #3: Who here already has connections to faith-based organizations, and how can we leverage those relationships to deliver and engage them with Reframing Recovery boxes?

- Go to other groups such as chamber of commerce
- Melissa noted pregnancy resource centers would be a good place
- Living Alternatives in Champaign and Mercy's Refuge, a home for ladies with or without children. A lot of Ford County pastors go to things like this.
- RESTORE Minististry
- Ambulance/PD/Fire Depts – vending at fire depts

RESET Team Update:

Join us at our next meeting this Friday, March 27th at 9am.

Reframing Recovery Campaign Update (April-June)

Next Phase Launch (April)

- Continued rollout of the Reframing Recovery campaign
- New focus: Reducing stigma around Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR)
- Refresh of campaign messaging and materials

Awareness & Outreach (April-June)

- Ongoing social media content highlighting MAR stigma reduction
- Email blasts to partners and stakeholders
- Consistent messaging to reinforce understanding and acceptance

Reframing Recovery Box Deliveries (May-June)

- Expansion of Reframing Recovery Kit distribution
- Delivered to faith-based organizations

Reframing Recovery Video (June)

Community Engagement: Pop-Up Photo Frame (Date TBD)

- Introduction of a large, branded "pop-up" photo frame
- Rotating placement throughout the community
- Encourages participation, visibility, and social sharing
- Promotes positive, normalized conversations around recovery

AVAILABLE TRAININGS:

- Center for Community Engagement (CCE): [Substance Use & Mental Health - Training & Seminars | CCE Illinois](#)
- Illinois Alliance for Drug Endangered Children : Tuesday, MAY 12, 2026 9 am – 4 pm Memorial Learning Center 228 W. Miller Street Springfield, IL 62702
 - Registration Form: [DEC Conference Registration 2026.pdf](#)
- Addiction Recovery Series 12 pm April 16th – Flyer to come

AGENCY UPDATES:

- **Tim Nuss** extended an invitation to anybody and everybody to join the Ford County Board Meetings. They meet on the **2nd Monday of every month at 7pm in the basement of the Sheriff's office**. You'll always have a platform!!
- **Drug take back day is in April**
- April 16th, **Addiction Recovery Series** at noon – part 2, all panel discussions with medical providers and healthy beginnings program. Dave to send flyer.
- Birthright **Community Conversation**- Flyer attached
- Frankie announced that **All Awareness Day** is set for Saturday, July 18th, 12-3 pm.
- **John Schneider** had a successful first RECOVERY meeting – **RESTORE Ministry** at Living Word in Roberts, IL, starting March 18th. Join us at **6pm for dinner and at 6:45pm the RESTORE meeting** will begin(every Wednesday). **RESTORE** is a Christ-centered recovery and discipleship ministry created for those seeking hope and healing. Whether you're walking through addiction, past wounds, or simply longing for renewal- Christ meets us here. Hope. Purpose. Renewal!!! Ford County & Beyond is Beyond Grateful 😊

CONNECTION IS KEY!!!

We look forward to seeing you at the next ROSC council meeting, **via Zoom, on Tuesday, April 28th at 8:30am.**

As always, please reach out if you have any questions, ideas for collaborations, etc.

