

Perry/Jackson ROSC Council

Meeting Minutes

4/15/26 @ 1:00pm (Virtual)



Attendees:

Sherry Smedshammer – Crisis Resource Developer, Centerstone
sherry.smedshammer@centerstone.org

Beverly Holland- TA Statewide ROSC, Chestnut
bgholland@chestnut.org

Jessica Marczewski- ROSC Coordinator, CPRS, Take Action Today
jessicam@takeactiontoday.net

Valerie Stewart- Peer Recovery Specialist, Take Action Today
valeries.takeactiontoday.net

Kelsey Driskell- House Supervisor, Take Action Today
kelseydriskell@takeactiontoday.net

Teneshkia Write- Coordinator, Carbondale Warming Center
coordinator@cwcentered.org

Danielle Kroger- BASE Program, Take Action Today
daniellek@takeactiontoday.net

Jaz Katz- Mental Health Advocate, Carbondale Police Department.
jkatz@carbondale.gov

Shara Bloodworth- Franklin / Williamson ROSC Coordinator, Take Action Today
sharar@takeactiontoday.net

Sherry Reichert- CTP reentry support for individuals on parole
Sreichert@tasc.org

Torie Patton: Harm Reduction Specialist, Take Action Today
toriep@takeactiontoday.net

Leighanna Browning- Recovery Service Program Manager, Take Action Today
leighanna@takeactiontoday.net

Tea Farrell- BASE Program Coordinator, Take Action Today
teeaf@takeactiontoday.net

Michael Lynd- Wellness Couch, Fellowship House
Michael.lynd@centerstone.org

Milissa Aaron- Outpatient Sub, Centerstone
melissaaaron@centerstone.org

Samantha Bandy- Franklyn/Williamson ROSC Support Specialist, Take Action Today
samanthab@takeactiontoday.net

Madison Odum- Community Resource Coordinator, Meridian Health Care
madison.odum@mhplan.com

Leigh Caldwell- Practice Manager, Deaconess Illinois
Leigh.caldwell@gmail.com

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Jessica Marczewski Perry/Jackson ROSC Coordinator

Presentation: Leigh Caldwell

Leigh Caldwell Presented on the danger of nitrous oxide abuse, which is what her sister Meg passed away from. Leigh was 22 years older than her sister. Her sister recreationally used nitrous in college. Over time it affected her physical and mental health. Eventually it led to psychosis, her body failed, she became completely incontinent and had temporary paralysis. After her doctor warning her that her use of nitrous oxide going to kill her Megs response was, I'm buying it legally and because of that it was not that dangerous. November 2024 she was found dead behind a smoke shop from an overdose.

- The rising misuse of nitrous oxide is increasing among young people because it is easily available in stores and online and has led to a surge in health emergencies related to the substance including paralysis, brain damage, and even death.
- Nitrous Oxide can be found in kitchens in aerosol canned Whipped cream.

- Trending 20-39 years old
- And found in grocery stores and smoke shops
- Between 2019 and 2023 Michigan alone saw 4-5x increase in poison center calls, emergency room visits, and ambulance calls related to nitrous oxide. Last June FDA issued a warning against recreational use due to serious health risks, including asphyxiation, paralysis, and even death.
- Because abuse was new to these doctors and they had to research it to learn more about it.

Leigh advocated for legislation to ban the sale of nitrous oxide for recreational use, Meg's Law passed both the Florida House and Senate unanimously. It's a step towards protection others from similar fates. This makes it illegal to sell nitrous smoke shops and convenient stores. Similar passed in Louisiana Advocating for it in Illinois which is where she is originally from. They have also filed a class action lawsuit against manufacturers and smoke shops selling this to prevent further tragedies.

This lawsuit is about removing the product from shelves, not seeking damages.

Community Program Updates:

Leigh Caldwell-Discussed ongoing advocacy for stronger Smoke Shop regulation
Introduced Fig and Vine, a nonprofit mental health counseling agency

Valerie Stewart- Provided updates on harm reduction efforts: Narcan distribution, Drug testing kits, Announced upcoming initiatives: New support group: "Hope and Healing"

Teea Ferral- Shared updates on Southern Illinois Youth Empowerments work in schools, Announced upcoming Back-to-School Prevention Day

Kelsey Driskell- Reported on Carbondale services: Highlighted link between homelessness and substance use recovery

Michael Lynd- Presented overview of Fellowship House's: Integrated Care Outpatient Program, offering comprehensive outpatient services

Collaboration and Resource Sharing:

Members discussed: Sharing resources across organizations, supporting each other's events and outreach efforts and Increasing community engagement and coordination

Action Items:

Valerie Stewart / Torie Patton -Finalize and distribute Hope and Healing flyer, Coordinate donation boxes for June 20 – Humanity First Essentials Day and Provided event updates and confirmed venue

Teea Ferrell / Danielle Kroeger -Coordinate vendors and donations for July 18 Back-to-School/Prevention Day, Share event updates and vendor participation

Jessica Marczewski- Collect and distribute updated agency flyers, shared ROSC flyers and resource guides

Michael Lynd- Shared contact information and Centerstone Integrated Care flyer

8. Adjournment

- Meeting concluded with continued discussion on upcoming events and collaboration opportunities.

Next Meeting: 5/18/26 @ 1:00pm
Zoom Only

<https://zoom.us/j/92445073407pwd=RkRCV2NWR05jVVhENzdgRDdJR0w1QT09>