



## MERC Meeting Summary

March 19, 2026

### **Council Members in Attendance:**

Angella Holloway-CHS

Ashley Ramos-Gateway Foundation

Bev Holland- CHS Southern Region TA

Cheyney Evan-CHS/Director of Outreach

Cora Hughes- United Congregation of Metro East

Conswala Jones- CHS/St. Clair County ROSC

Dustin Percy- Oxford House

Dusty Hanner- CHS

Elbert Jennings- IL State Police Community Engagement/Outreach

Elyse Schoen-Macoupin/Montgomery County ROSC

Gregory Santori-TASC

Jaci S- AMARE Coordinator

Jason Farley- NAMI Southwest IL

Jen Nagel-Fischer- Porchlight Collective SAP

Joe Jackson- St. Clair County 708 Mental Health Board

Kathy Kehrer- CHS

Katie Wilson-ROSC Coordinator

Kristen Anderson-CHS

Lindsey McCoy-Family Connections Coordinator/AMARE

Lindsey Minor-St. Francis Way Clinic

Mark Knott-ROSC Coordinator

Meghan McClassen-IRC

Mike Luther-CHS OEND/DOPP

Morgan Hempen-CHS

Patrick Small-HSHS

Paul Fischer- Porchlight Collective SAP

PD Van Klavern-5<sup>th</sup> St Renaissance

Stephanie Everheart-CHS

Ty Bechal- Sona Lake Recovery Center

Ty White- Community

Tracy Dones- CHS/Faith and Recovery Collaborative

Tisha Lancaster- IDHS

Violette Book- CHS

**Guest in attendance**

Olivia Johnson- (Guest Speaker) – Blue Wall Institute

Shannon McMahon/Jodan Reifschneider – Update on Warm handoff Grant

**Presentation from guest speaker:** Olivia Johnson from The Blue Wall Institute shared information about a pilot program starting in St. Clair County called Illinois Cares, a statewide public health initiative uses Fatal 10 aligned research to predict risk before it manifests. prediction before it becomes a illness, injury, crisis or death. This blue print uses early measurable impacts: suicide risk indicators, substance misuse initiation and escalation, maternal complications, preventable ED visits and emotional regulation skills & risk literacy among caregivers, educators, clinicians, and first responders. This system would have benefits such as fewer crisis interventions, measurable healthcare costs avoidance. Olivia's contact information email: [olivia@bw-institute.com](mailto:olivia@bw-institute.com) and phone 618-791-9146 if you would like to contact her for more information.

**Workgroup updates:**

Attendance at workgroup meetings has been low (thanks so much to those who have attended!). If you have volunteered in the past to participate in one of the workgroups, please connect with Mark/Katie to confirm you're still able to participate or if things have changed and you're no longer available. New members are also needed.

**Announcements/upcoming events:**

Please see all attached flyers for the upcoming events

**MERC Upcoming Zoom Meeting**

**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 9am/ Target group meeting TBD we will send a zoom link the day before the meeting**

**Metro East Recovery Council (MERC) Vision:**

A community system that nurtures and supports individuals and families seeking or maintaining recovery for themselves or a loved one.

**Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) Mission:**

Collaborating to build and empower communities of recovery.