

St. Clair County ROSC

Monthly Council (Lunch & learn) Meeting Minutes

- Date: 7/15/26
- Time: 10am-12pm
- Location: In-person, East. St. Louis City Hall
301 River Park Dr, E. St. Louis, IL 62201



Attendees

- Lead ROSC Agency
 - Angella Holloway
 - Conswala Jones
- Statewide ROSC
 - N/A
- Members: Via In-person, E. St. Louis site
 - Alexa Plant, Metrolink team, CHS
 - Angela Nelson, LINC Inc.
 - Bonnie Forker, St. Clair County
 - Chris "Kit" Stanford, Deflection/TASC Inc.
 - Cora Hughes, United Congregation Metro East
 - Daryl Rice, Comprehensive Behavioral Health Ctr.
 - Delisha Richards, Urban League, Save our Sons + Sisters
 - Ebonye Hudson, Deflection/TASC, Inc.
 - Greg Santoni, Deflection/TASC, Inc.
 - Joe Jakson, St. Clair Co Mental Health Board
 - Jovana Herron, Metrolink team, CHS
 - Marva Rucker, Urban League, Save our Sons + Sisters
 - Megan Hall, Violence Prevention Center
 - Ramone Collins, United Congregation of Metro-East
 - Tracy Dones, Faith & Recovery Collaborative, CHS
 - Quinella Pernermon, Problem Gambling/TASC, Inc.
- **Guests/Visitors:**
 - Andrew Young, GEO Reentry Services
 - Anthony Pettiford, Pastor/House of Prayer church
 - Bryan Jackson, Youth/E. St. Louis Summer Leadership program
 - Christopher Belt, IL State Senator

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- Cordella Johnson, EMBRACE, E. St. Louis PD
- Daizjah Reese, Urban Strategies
- Debra Tidwell, City Clerk support, E. St. Louis City
- Deedra Mager, Violence Prevention Center
- DeVonte Lewis, Youth/E. St. Louis Summer Leadership program
- Diandra Hall, Brightpoint Services
- Ellen Mossman, Safe Families for Children
- Germitrious Dixon, Urban Strategies
- Jason Blackmon, E. St. Louis Fire Dept.
- Jennifer Bagwell, Jewel Ride
- John Howell, Pastor/St. Luke AME
- LaChelle Gillespie, EMBRACE, E. St. Louis PD
- LaKetia Beasley, EMBRACE, E. St. Louis PD
- Lawrence Brazil, EMBRACE, E. St. Louis PD
- Lawrence Salley, IT consultant/Chapter 8 Studio
- Logan Gardner, Marshmallows Hope
- Marilyn Green, IL Dept of Public Health
- Rachel Walker, B2H project, TASC, Inc.
- Reginald Slaughter, Fathers and Family Support Ctr.
- Renae Bauer, Grand Canyon University
- Ron Wilkerson, Deflection, TASC, Inc.
- Shannon Crews, B2H project, TASC, Inc.
- Stavonte Thomas, KT Sky IT Solutions
- Tammy Bush Hamilton, GEO Reentry Services
- Taylor Shy, Comprehensive Behavioral Health Ctr.
- Terri Hatter, SIHF, Inc.
- Tina Montgomery, Molina Healthcare of IL
- Tori Mathews, EMBRACE, E. St. Louis PD
- Tracy Everett, Health Navigator, Chestnut Health Systems
- Will Sullivan, Recovery Dharma

Agenda Items/Next Steps:

1. **Welcome: Who's New?** We welcomed/introduced Council/new Community friends/EMBRACE team members. Each partner introduced themselves, represented agency and agency mission statement. Thanked current council members and community partners for supporting the council and attending today's Lunch & Learn!

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2. **ROSC updates:** Provided information on the Impact report (see below), Q4 summary and community events for month. We discussed how impactful the ROSC has been within the year and ways to increase efforts with council/ACTION teams' participation and youth presence for upcoming year; will discuss program goals/objectives once Strategic Plan and confirmed goals have been updated/confirmed and will update council on Impact report at next meeting.



Impact Report-FY26

Mission: "Build and empower recovery ready communities"

Vision: "A community working together to embrace recovery and connecting with those who seek it."

Community feedback: *"Our voices are being heard since the ROSC have formed. We can connect with community partners from a far but still feel close due to the continued efforts of this ROSC- thank you for this platform!"*

Community surveys: 564 collected

Key Performance Indicators/Measures:

Community sectors represented on council: 15

ACTION Teams: 13

PLE's: 7

Average Attendance: 14 to 45- 30% increase

Events Attended: 54

Goals/Priorities

Increased awareness/reduce stigma connected to harm reduction and use of MAR supports:

The ROSC conducted (8) Resource distribution events that promoted available recovery support, collected **564** responses from community survey, completed **(6)** ACTION team meetings to assess gaps in services and gain perspectives on needs, progress and strengths promoted within local agencies. In addition, we collaborated with the local Overdose Education Naloxone Distribution (OEND) team to provide training and supplies to (7) agencies. Educate law enforcement (IL State Police, BV, FH, O'Fallon PD), funeral homes (Kurrus/Officer), and healthcare providers (SIHF, Touchette Hospital, Gateway Foundation) on the effectiveness of harm reduction and how to make "warm handoffs" to treatment centers. Provide training to supportive transitional areas and shelter providers on how to offer harm reduction services, removing barriers to care for vulnerable populations.

Address gaps in awareness of MH/SUD and recovery supports: Community feedback: *"The impact is putting people in a room who are collaborating in ways that we have and would not currently. This ROSC is a glue that did not exist. This is how the system is changing."*

The ROSC worked with PLEs, ACTION teams, local health fairs, town halls, and recovery-focused events to distribute educational materials and share their stories to foster community understanding. Introduced mental health and wellness information into various school settings; i.e., Go! International, BV/Cahokia Heights/E. St. Louis school districts, SWIC Adult Ed program, SIUE Workforce Development seminar, and McKendree University, to encourage peer empathy, coping skills and recovery.

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3. *Who's Who...Updates...Let's "table/teams" talk!* The ROSC team inquired about safety plans within agencies to ensure families/communities are safe when services are provided when attending appointments in medical/health buildings. Community partners shared tips/suggestions to ensure safety and how to contact emergency entities when needed. ROSC team/council partners reported how safety plans/emergency numbers/routes are posted and ways to access during an emergency. Encourage each agency to conduct quarterly meetings to ensure team members are knowledgeable of processes and how to respond when emergencies occur.

Speaker, Dr. Laketia Beasley, Program Director of EMBRACE, introduced team members and provided an overview of services and referral processes. The EMBRACE program receives referrals from Law Enforcement/First responders, community and walk-ins. The program operates under the East St. Louis Police Department, where they provide crisis intervention and wrap-around services to individuals impacted by crime who also have behavioral health needs. The team shared examples; i.e., connecting with community partners, using crisis entities to assist with calls, and utilizing other emergency measures, the EMBRACE program has increased in exposure for families to seek assistance during emergencies.

Speaker, Tracy Dones, Faith & Recovery Collaborative/CHS, discussed how important self-care is needed when supporting mental health/substance abuse in communities. Tracy provided a list of healthy ways to incorporate tips daily, record activity and assign an accountability partner/friend, to ensure self-care is prioritized. Council members shared how they include these tips and ways they can help co-workers and family gain healthier habits; i.e., practice mindfulness, deep breathing/short meditation and setting clear work boundaries. Tracy provided a description of the Mental Health/First Aid, Faith & Recovery based and substance use training sessions; provided contact information to follow-up for services.

Speaker, Renae Bauer, Development Counselor, Grand Canyon University, presented educational resources, financial information and enrollment process for new/returning students. Renae provided a copy of the current certification/degree plans for reference. Council/EMBRACE team had an opportunity to ask questions and receive feedback re: community members who are seeking GED/H Diploma and

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testing support while in transition/unhoused or receiving limited income. council members, to explain their program, summer plans and future goals.

4. **Community partners: “Share out” upcoming events/training opportunities:**

Each council member provided (1) update re: their program, staff changes or self-care regimen for group. Council reported changes in staffing, and recent grant funding cuts to SNAP/medical benefits, housing rates from state and trauma-informed care training. Council discussed the impact of these recent cuts and how SU/MH issues may be on the rise, if communities are lacking access, funding and transportation. Provided council/guests with updated housing options and point of contact for agencies who are present in meeting. Encouraged council/guests to exchange information for follow-up.

5. **Closing remarks/thank you:**

Reminded council to find time to connect and follow up with community friends when time permits. Requested council to continue reporting on their meeting takeaways to “share out” at the beginning of each meeting.

Due to end time, we thanked the members for attending and assured them that we would follow-up with meeting minutes and community updates for July/August; council members were encouraged to network, eat, share resources and exchange contact information with new partners for continued collaboration, next steps, and increase community awareness.

Final thoughts:

Next meeting date will be **August 19th at 10am, hybrid (BV-CHS office) or via Teams!** We will continue to update the committee on program changes as we continue to grow.

Thank you for attending and staying engaged!

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