

EDGAR COUNTY ROSC Council

MEETING MINUTES

August 25th, 2026
5:15 PM

Paris Hospital Conference Room A and on Zoom

Attendance in-person: Nicki Hanks, Doug Cochran, Nate Alexander, Jacqui Miller, Bill Stidham, Lori Carroll, Cory Hanks, Mary Morgan Ryan, Mariah Witmer, Susan Tybon, Victoria Leitch, Jay Carmichael, Kyra Graham, Vicky Dick, Janice Watson, Rick Cook, Dennis Eveland,

Attendance on Zoom: Marlyn Frey, James Sanders, Tori Burns, Tasha Chapman, Crystal Bell, Andy Brandenburg, Toni Randell, Kristin Davis, Jenna Hayes

Spotlight Speaker: Horizon Health

Spotlight Speaker: Jay Carmichael, President & CEO, Horizon Health

Jay Carmichael, President and CEO of Horizon Health, provided the Edgar County ROSC Council with an update on Horizon Health, its strategic priorities, future growth, and opportunities for community collaboration.

Horizon Health Strategic Priorities

Jay shared that his first year with Horizon Health was focused heavily on listening, learning about the organization, identifying strengths and opportunities, and developing a strategic direction. Horizon Health also completed its **Community Health Needs Assessment**, receiving more than 1,000 responses from Illinois and Indiana. Common community needs included access to mental and behavioral health services, food access, transportation, housing, and management of chronic health conditions.

Horizon Health has identified four primary areas of focus:

1. **Developing People and Strengthening Teams** – Investing in employees, developing leaders, and helping build the future healthcare workforce.
2. **Providing Excellent Care and Creating Healthier Communities** – Improving access and outcomes related to physical health, behavioral health, mental health, substance use, and chronic conditions.

3. **Advancing Care Through Innovation** – Expanding specialty services, telehealth, technology, and partnerships to bring additional healthcare services to the rural community.
4. **Financial Stewardship** – Responsibly reinvesting resources into services, facilities, staff, and programs that benefit the community.

Horizon Health's long-term goal is to become one of the top critical access hospitals in the country while continuing to provide exceptional care and creating a workplace where employees can grow and build long-term careers.

Growth and Expansion

Jay discussed plans for a future **surgical expansion project**. The project would provide larger operating spaces, accommodate newer technology and equipment, recruit additional surgeons and specialists, and improve the overall patient experience by creating a more convenient check-in and discharge area. The project is anticipated within approximately the next 12–18 months.

Horizon Health is also exploring additional services and access points in Terre Haute. Jay emphasized that **Edgar County will remain Horizon Health's home** and that the organization will continue investing in Edgar County while expanding its reach to support the long-term sustainability of local healthcare services.

Rural Health Transformation Program

Jay provided information about the **Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)**, a federal initiative providing funding to states to support and transform rural healthcare. Illinois received approximately **\$193 million for the first year**, with funding opportunities focused broadly on areas including chronic disease management, healthcare workforce development, and technology.

Horizon Health is actively pursuing available funding opportunities. Jay explained that grant application timelines have been extremely short and that many funding opportunities require strong community partnerships. Council members and community organizations were encouraged to think about potential projects and community needs that could benefit from collaborative funding opportunities.

One promising planning opportunity focuses on **behavioral health, maternal health, and pediatric care**. Horizon Health is continuing to develop ideas in these areas, including possibilities related to mobile integrated health, behavioral health support alongside first responders, and collaboration around gaps in crisis services.

Community Collaboration

Jay emphasized Horizon Health's commitment to partnering with organizations already doing valuable work throughout the community. Rather than duplicating existing services, Horizon Health hopes to identify opportunities to provide funding, build partnerships, connect organizations with resources, and collaboratively address community needs.

Jay invited ROSC Council members and community partners to continue conversations with Horizon Health regarding potential projects, partnerships, and opportunities to improve health and wellness throughout Edgar County.

FY27 Community Survey

Nicki announced that the **Edgar County ROSC Council Community Survey has been approved** and will be ready for distribution Monday. The Council's goal is to collect **800 surveys**. To make it fun, Nicki introduced **"ROSC Council Road to 800: Every Voice Moves Us Forward."** For every 20 surveys completed, the marker will move forward. Nicki will update the game board every Thursday and share the progress on social media. Council members are encouraged to **share the electronic survey and Facebook post** to help reach the goal. A PDF copy of the survey will also be sent with the meeting minutes.

Recovery Month Updates

Nicki shared that **National Recovery Month begins September 1st**. To celebrate, she has created a **Recovery Gratitude Campaign** featuring five women and five men in recovery. The campaign will share photos of participants with their families, along with three to five things they are grateful for in recovery. By highlighting real people, families, and stories of gratitude, the campaign will help **reduce stigma, celebrate recovery, and show our community that recovery is possible**.

Victoria Leitch the publisher of the local newspaper shared that the newspaper will publish a **special National Recovery Month insert** on the first Friday in September. Local organizations involved in recovery, providing recovery-related services, or wishing to show their support are invited to contribute a few paragraphs about their organization, the services they provide, and what they would like the community to know. Individuals are also encouraged to submit their **personal recovery stories**. Anyone who would like to participate but needs help writing their submission can contact the newspaper representative, who is available to meet in person or by phone to help develop their story or organization's article. Submissions are requested by **midday Friday**, as the completed special edition must be sent to the printer by Monday morning.

Nicki also discussed the **Light Up Purple for Recovery Month 2026** initiative. A total of **48 purple light bulbs were donated** to support the campaign. Community members and businesses are encouraged to display a purple light throughout September to recognize National Recovery Month and show support for recovery. Free purple light bulbs will be

available **while supplies last** following the **Candlelight Vigil on August 31 at New Beginnings Church, 526 Clay Street in Paris**. Council members were encouraged to participate, take a picture of their purple light, and share it on social media.

Nicki shared that the **Community Wellness Walk & Recovery Picnic** will be held on **Saturday, September 12th at Twin Lakes West Park in Paris**. The Wellness Walk will take place from **10:00–11:30 a.m.**, followed by the Recovery Picnic from **12:00–3:00 p.m.** The event will include face painting, tie-dye, door prizes for adults and children, a taco bar, and three recovery testimonies. Nicki also recognized **Michelle and her team at HRC** for being a tremendous help with planning this year's Recovery Picnic and encouraged Council members to thank them when they see them in the community.

Nicki shared that, in collaboration with the **CARE Coalition and Coles County ROSC Council**, a **Hike to Recovery** will be held on **Saturday, September 26th from 2:00–5:00 p.m. at Fox Ridge State Park, 18175 State Park Road, Charleston, Illinois**. The event will include a hike followed by yoga and music therapy. After a great turnout last year, Nicki is excited to bring the event back and gave a special thank-you to **Celebrate Recovery of Paris for providing transportation for attendees**.

Nicki shared that the **Edgar County ROSC Council** has been invited to participate in **Potter fest on October 3, 2026, from 4:00–8:00 p.m. on the courthouse lawn in Paris**. The Council will be hosting a **wand-making activity**, and Nicki is seeking volunteers to help during the event. Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to reach out to Nicki.

Priority Project Updates

Hospital-Based Warm Hand-Off Program:

Nicki stated that the **Hospital-Based Warm Hand-Off Committee** is in the beginning stages of researching other warm hand-off programs to learn what is working in other communities. The committee is exploring options to determine what would best fit the needs of **Edgar County** and be sustainable long-term.

Second Chance Employment Initiative:

The committee has seen an **increase in individuals gaining employment in Edgar County**, showing positive progress. The committee is currently developing a **communication campaign featuring local employer and employee voices** to share on social media. The campaign will highlight the benefits of hiring individuals in recovery, encourage other employers to provide second-chance opportunities, and help reduce stigma surrounding recovery and employment.

Harm Reduction Expansion:

The committee has created **20 harm reduction bags** to distribute at the Candlelight Vigil. Each bag will include **Narcan, benzodiazepine test strips, fentanyl test strips, xylazine test strips, and educational information on how to properly use each resource**. These bags will help

increase access to harm reduction resources and overdose prevention education in the community.

Agency Updates

Edgar County Public Health Department (Crystal Bell)

The **Edgar County Health Department** shared that the **Community Baby Shower** will be held on **September 30th from 3:00–5:00 p.m. at the Health Department**, followed by a **listening session from 5:00–6:00 p.m.** A flyer will be emailed to the Council for additional information. The Health Department is also promoting **flu vaccinations** and plans to take its mobile bus into the community this year, making vaccines more accessible instead of requiring residents to come to the Health Department.

HRC (Susan Tybon)

HRC shared that they continue to have openings for **individual counseling** and are exploring programs that address both **substance use and domestic violence**, recognizing that these issues often overlap. This has also been incorporated into some of their current groups. With the new school year beginning, HRC is restarting its **prevention education programs in schools**, primarily in Marshall County.

Narcotics Anonymous (Jaqui Miller)

Jackie shared that the **Saturday night NA meeting has been canceled until further notice**

Celebrate Recovery (Janice Watson)

Janice stated CR Continues to grow. Meal starts at 5:30 PM Wednesday nights at lake ridge Christian church

Partnership and Parenting (Lori Carroll)

Lori shared that they will **celebrate grandparents on September 17th**. Participants will take pictures and create picture frames to recognize grandparents, caregivers, and other special adults in their lives. One will be created for the special adult and one for the family to keep.

Doorway Community Distribution (Bill Stidham)

The organization shared that they continue to accept donations and provide items **at no cost to community members based on their needs**. They are open **Wednesdays and Sundays from 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.** and currently serve approximately **100–130 families each week**, demonstrating the continued need in the community. On **September 5th**, they will travel to **Kansas** with children's clothing following a successful August event that served more than 100 children with backpacks, school supplies, and clothing. They are also exploring an outreach event in **Shiloh** to reach additional families. In partnership with **Doorway to Hope**, they will

host an **outdoor family movie night on September 17th**, including a children's movie and popcorn. Families are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs and enjoy the evening together.

Next Meeting: September 22th, 2026, 5:15 – 6:15 PM at Paris Hospital Conference Room A/Zoom.