

Effingham County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 17, 2026

Time: 1:00-2:00 pm

Location: 104 Blohm Ave, Effingham & Zoom

Meeting Facilitator: Samantha Hicks

Attendees:

In person:

Kat Pennington (Partners for Progress Deflection Specialist, TASC)

Olivia Jenkins (Hour House Prevention program facilitator)

Samantha Hicks (Effingham County ROSC Council Coordinator, Transitioning into Bridge Program Manager)

Haley Lovins (Effingham County ROSC Council Coordinator)

Stephanie Mercer (Effingham County Recovery Navigator)

Tommy Alsobrooks (Oxford House Senior Outreach worker)

Kathy Schumacher (Effingham Transport)

Adam Watkins (Effingham Transport)

Nathan Nichols (Mobility Manager with CEFS Central Public Transit)

Kasey Kemme (University of Illinois Extension)

Norbert Soltwedel (Effingham County Board member)

Zoom:

Landriah Hardiek (Shelby County ROSC Coordinator)

Carrie Downen (DCFS Recruitment and Resource)

Carrie McKenzie (Gateway Foundation- Outreach)

David Alvarez (Technical Assistance Specialist, Opioid Learning and Response Collaborative, Prevention First)

Heather Greenwood (Director of the Southeast Illinois Area Health Education Center with Wabash General Hospital)

Liesl Wingert (Program Coordinator SIU School of Medicine Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development)

Emily Saber (Prevention First, the Opioid Learning and Response Collaborative, trainer and technical assistance specialist)

Heather Nah (Birth to Five IL Region Council Manager)

Katy Frederick (Heartland Human Services SUD counselor/intern)

Keith Powell (Southern IL Safe Families for Children)

Chloe Aden (Program Coordinator Crisis Nursery, Effingham Co)

Kelly Buscher (Effingham County Case Management, Effingham Public Library)

Kristin Davis (Family Guidance Center's Regional Substance Use Prevention Integration Center)

Madison LeMay (Effingham Co Probation Program Manager)

Maria Deaconescu (Effingham County Case Manager)

Samantha Weidner (Effingham/Clay County Health Department)

Minutes

Introductions

Council meeting attendees introduced themselves and the agencies they represent or explained why they were attending this meeting. Samantha then introduced the new Effingham County ROSC Council Coordinator, Haley Lovins.

Spotlight Speaker

Samantha introduced **Kathy Schumacher** and **Adam Watkins** with **Effingham Transport**.

Key Points:

- Effingham Transport is under a new owner, Mark, who is a pain management doctor in Kentucky. He is very supportive of recovery and wants Effingham Transport to be apart of Recovery efforts in the county. This service is also available to the general public.
- All of Effingham Transport vehicles will be mobile Narcan sources and will keep our literature in their vans in case anyone needs resources, meeting info, etc.
- Effingham Transport will run 24/7.
- Regular Rates are: \$15 each way (in Effingham city limits) OR \$15 + \$1/Mile (Outside Effingham City limits) each way
- If someone in recovery is unable to pay, they will accept donations, no minimum required.
- Payment Options include: Cash, Cash app, Square (debit/credit tap to pay), may be setting up Venmo in the future.
- Effingham Transport also takes some insurances, we will get a list of which ones that they accept soon.
- Kathy and Adam may need help researching grant options, fundraising, or with advertisement.
- Effingham Transport is joining our council!

ROSC Community Survey Discussion

Samantha spoke about the upcoming survey that ROSC Council will be sending out to the community. A goal of 500 surveys was set. Council discussed the best ways to distribute the survey such as, partnering with local business, creating QR codes, passing out paper surveys, posting on social media, having Olivia see if she can get the survey to be given to the Jr High and/or High Schools in the area. The council asked how the questions are determined.

Samantha explained that part of the survey comes from the state and that we are aloud to add up to 10 additional questions. The questions were looked over and the council was given the opportunity to given any feedback. The Council would like to add a question that asks survey takers if they have been personally affected by SUD (whether it be themselves or a family member/friend.)

FY27 Strategic Plan

The council has agreed that Goal 1: Transportation has been completed from FY26. The council has agreed to shift Goal 1 of FY27 Strategic Plan from expanding upon our existing list of volunteer transportation to supporting Effingham Transport and their dedication to Recovery Oriented Transportation. Samantha will aid Haley and Stephanie in creating a new SMART Goal for our Strategic Plan before she fully exists ROSC.

Events

Samantha and Stephanie talked about the **4th Annual Candlelight Vigil** on **August 31st, 6:30pm-8:00pm at Bliss Park in Effingham.**

Stephanie spoke about **HOPE IN FULL COLOR** event on **Sept. 12 from 9am-12pm at 101 N 4th St. in Effingham.** There will be tie-dye and the balloon animal lady, along with an opportunity to show how you support recovery via different colored balloons tied to chairs.

Stephanie stated **S'MORE Recovery** will also be happening on **Sept 19th at the Lake Sara Pavilion from 3:00pm-7:00pm.**

Samantha announced that **Joe Sippers** and **Fox Holler** will have stickers on their to-go cups that say "**WE SUPPORT RECOVERY**" for the month of September. Fox Holler is also bringing back the drink, RAZZLE DAZZLE. Members of the community still ask for it.

She asked for any other updates or questions. No one had anything, so meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming events

- **4th Annual Candlelight Vigil:** August 31st, 6:30-8:00pm; Bliss Park, Effingham
- **HOPE IN FULL COLOR:** Sept. 12 from 9am-12pm at 101 N 4th St, Effingham
- **S'MORE Recovery:** Sept 19th. At the Lake Sarah Pavilion from 3:00pm-7:00pm.
- **Invisible Victims: Drug-Endangered Children & Human Trafficking Training:** September 24th from 9am-12pm @ Clay County Health Department, Flora

****NEXT ROSC COUNCIL MEETING****

Date: Monday, September 21, 2026 @ 1:00-2:00PM

Where: 104 E. Blohm Ave, Effingham & Zoom

Contact emails:

ROSC Council Coordinator: Haley Lovins; haleyl@hourhouserecovery.org

ROSC Council Recovery Navigator: Stephanie Mercer; stephanieme@hourhouserecovery.org

ROSC Program Supervisor: Jenna Hays; jennah@hourhouserecovery.org

Where to find past meeting minutes: <https://www.govst.edu/Recovery-Support/South-Central-IL-ROSC/EFCRC-ROSC-Council/>



Effingham County ROSC Council Facebook page

