

ROSC Meeting Minutes –Ogle/Dekalb

Date: August 19th, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM

Attendees:

- Kimberly Heffernan: HOPE of Ogle County
- Katelynn Wisner: Association for Individual Development (AID)
- Penny Stark: Recovery Centers of America
- Jackie Maura: Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery
- Alex Disz: Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery
- Jake Albers: Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery
- Ben Rudolph: ROSC region 2 technical assistant
- Emily Anaya: Rochelle Area Community Foundation
- Deanna Cada: DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board
- Jennifer Simmons: Northwestern Medicine
- Marissa Thompson: OMNI Youth Services
- Pastor Barry Norris: Valley Covenant Church
- Jennifer Simmons: NW Medicine
- Diana Belicke: Rosecrance

Jake: Opening and Introductions

- Went over deliverable and goals of ROSC
- FY26 Community Needs Survey questions due at the end of the month, opened up discussion about what new questions we may want to ask

DISCUSSION

Gerald discussed the ability to get all questions decided in one meeting, offered direction: What are we trying to learn/what data are we trying to capture?

Ben asked if it would be possible to get last years questions to see what else needs to be changed, if anything at all

Deanna discussed access to care as a leading issue, suggested we discuss how to capture what type of access people are referring to as it is a broad term

Jennifer reports NW survey is live at this time, discussed ways to present the questions, stated she will attempt to gain access to her survey questions/data.

Gerald read FY25 survey questions and answers

Jake asked what information we want to know more about, suggested to pick a direction for the questions

Gerald went over FY25 survey goals and went over how the survey gets delivered in order to capture as much information as possible.

Emily went over ways they delivered their survey: hard copies, sending emails, touch points, digital access. Short and brief usually get the most responses.

Jackie mentioned adding a section to the survey to gauge the education the community has about treatment services

Erika discussed past experience with community outreach in reaching the people we want to take the survey

Ben agrees that hard copies, QR code, and in person outreach works the best in gathering information from the community.

Jennifer gave examples for places to distribute surveys such as food pantries, community events, any gathering of people. Also asking the community to offer discounts for patrons to complete surveys.

Penny suggests adding a scale to represent community members support for said needs in community, suggests honing in on FAQ that community members often ask due to the complication of insurance and healthcare system.

Gerald reiterates the need for a short and simple survey to actually capture the real data, not just answers to get through the survey.

Megan agrees that navigating systems are extremely difficult for individuals and that it is not often represented.

Jake closed out discussion

What can ROSC do for you?

Megan- Continue in answering the calls when she reaches out

Kimberly- Continue support for clients with transportation barriers, asks for ideas in how to manage this barrier

Katelyn- Asks about scheduling a presentation and providing more flyers for their waiting room, Jake reports he is scheduled for December.

Emily- Shout out to Jake for organizing Generation Found. Wants Jake to present at Rotary Club

Deanna- Sauk Valley recipient of funds, wants to meet periodically to make sure every area in the country is reached

Jennifer- Asks to share NW survey, wants to be available for more assistance in Dekalb area

Marissa- Looking for guests for her podcast pertaining to Harm Reduction

Erika- Reach out if you notice any upticks in trends in your community.

Penny- Reports influx of 7OH and asks for more community information

Diana- Reach out for assistance in treatment for veterans

Ben- Asks for everyone's emails and information about Kratom

Meeting Closed by Jake Albers

Minutes prepared by: Jackie Maura