Meeting location: Zoom and Case-Halstead Library.

Stigma Reduction Workgroup Minutes

Thursday, October 8th, 2026

Attendance: Sheridan Jordan, Kelly Gaskill, Kurt Dunbar, Brett Nollman, Leah Brandon-Akannam-PCA IL

Events and Campaigns:

- **Recovery Month Campaign Review**
  - Recovery Stories Campaign had 4 stories, a few people did not submit their stories.. Discussed starting earlier next year and giving deadline and having more open communication.
  - Highlight organization/entity/facility in the area that focuses on recovery efforts.
    - Highlighted 10 organizations that provide services to the community
- **Tabling the Grateful for Recovery event until next year**
  - We decided to postpone this event until next year due to limited planning time, giving us more time to prepare for Love Recovery.
- **Love recovery**
  - Discussed having it on a Saturday again, most likely at VFW, donators last year: HSHS-food, Covered in Chocolate – dessert, had a Photo booth kiosk last year, would need donation for this again, Darren Warden was dj… Speakers 2-3, and 4-6 resource tables
  - After we get back from the statewide conference we will start confirming donations and location.
- **Child Abuse Awareness Month (April)**
  - Discussed that Birth to Five and TAC staff will be working on this event separately from this group since Sheridan is on Birth to Five Action Council now, we will see what the plan is going forward.
  - The goal we have is to bring community partners together and raise awareness of child abuse prevention as children who are abused/neglected are at higher risk to using substances/having mental health struggles.

- **May is mental health awareness month**
    - We discussed doing something creative and outdoors for an event, we have chalk, button maker supplies, and outdoor activities for family and children.
- **Laundry Days?**
    - Discussed the initial planning needs for a potential Laundry Day outreach project, including donors, locations, staffing, and volunteers. The goal is to reduce stigma, increase awareness of mental health and substance use resources, and build community connections through low-pressure outreach.
    - Since there was interest, Sheridan will find time to schedule meeting with ROSC Staff/volunteers that have done laundry days such as Bond Co Recovery Council, or Egyptian HD's ROSC

Next Meeting is at Case-Halstead Library & Zoom on November 12th at 3:30pm.