

Effingham County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, September 21, 2026

Time: 1:00-2:00 pm

Location: 104 Blohm Ave, Effingham & Zoom

Meeting Facilitator: Haley Lovins

Attendees:

In person:

Kat Pennington (Partners for Progress Deflection Specialist, TASC)

Tiffany Wilkinson (Partners for Progress Deflection Specialist, TASC)

Samantha Hicks (Bridge Program Manager)

Haley Lovins (Effingham County ROSC Council Coordinator)

Stephanie Mercer (Effingham County Recovery Navigator)

Norbert Soltwedel (Effingham County Board member)

Zoom:

Toni Randall (Region 4 TA)

Kasey Kemme (University of Illinois Extension)

Minutes

Introductions

ROSC Council members introduced themselves and their roles, Haley explained what ROSC is and introduced herself.

ROSC Council Community Survey Discussion

Haley Spoke about how survey distribution is going and stated that as of September 21, 2026, 134 surveys had been completed. Stephanie and Haley discussed the give-a-way incentive for filling out the survey. The ROSC Council brainstormed ideas how where and how to distribute the survey and possible businesses that could be potential donors for the give-a-way. A few ideas for distribution were: Starbucks, local churches, and Enduring Freedom Ministries Shumway Food Pantry.

ROSC Council Discussions

The ROSC Council discussed issues that the county should be aware about with the seasons changing. We discussed the ways that unhoused individuals struggle with extreme weather, challenges faced with maintaining proper shelter, clean clothing, and finding/storing food and their belongings. Samantha referenced an event where local emergency service members were able to enter an immersive experience and put themselves in the shoes of someone struggling and go through a day in their shoes. We agreed that we should look into this more, she couldn't remember the name. The ROSC Council agreed this could be an interesting opportunity to bring to Effingham. Stephanie said she could talk with the Sheriff's Department and see if they'd be interested in something like that.

We discussed ways to look for grant opportunities that Effingham Transport may be able to apply for. Norbert brought up speaking with CIPT to see what kind of grants they are applying for. Stephanie gave a brief update on Effingham Transport and told the ROSC Council that they are doing well and working on data collection and creating schedules that allow more streamlined services and more organization on their end.

Samantha spoke about BRIDGE and explained this programs mission to help pregnant women, mothers, and children in their recovery journeys.

Upcoming events

- **Invisible Victims: Drug-Endangered Children & Human Trafficking Training:** September 24th from 9am-12pm @ Clay County Health Department, Flora
- **Effingham County Connections:** Trick or Treat Street Thursday Oct. 22, 2026
- **EARS Tinsel & Tails**, coming up in November-December (More details to come)

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

Date: Monday, October 19, 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 Council 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

