

ROSC Meeting Minutes –Lee / Whiteside

Date: September 18th, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Attendees:

- Gerald Lott – Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery (SVVOR)
- Lauren Metzler- Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery
- Jordan Keene- Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery
- Brandi O’Rourke- Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery
- Lupita Serrano- Lee County Health Department
- Pat Bartel- Chief of Police Sterling Police Department
- Piper Grazulis- Rep Fritts
- Michelle Sanders- ROE
- Lincoln Sharp- Dixon PD
- Ben Rudolph- TA, Chestnut

Opening and Introductions:

Gerald

- Welcomed new members
- Discussed the role of ROSC
- Went over August events for SVVOR, successful with many attendees throughout the month
- Census is going up in Cledys, steady full at Legacy.
- Asked Lauren for outcomes from August events

Lauren

- Discussed the car that was spray painted with negative stigmas about addiction. Explained the car will be smashed while being recorded live on fb.

Gerald

- Updates for Recovery High School, talked about the movie screening in Rochelle and the success from that, good reception from stakeholders.
- Will be planning a similar event in the Lee/Whiteside area, talked about schematics.

Piper

- Community is receptive and supportive

Gerald

- Asked Michelle how we can get the project moving along

Michelle

- Reports being in need of funding sources and asked for help for any planning/seeking for funding

Gerald

- Went over stigma reducing campaign on billboards 'Recovery lives here'
- Mentioned Ogle/Dekalb goals such as 'recovery friendly workplace' spearheaded by Jake, who will be running for city counsel, aligns with the overall mission of organization and ROSC.

Discussion

Gerald started survey discussion, went over last 10 questions- shared ideas from Ogle/Dekalb meeting

- #11- suggestion to add Kratom, Tranq, and Ketamine as options for survey
 - Ben suggested lumping them in as 'gas station drugs'
- #12- should we keep the question
 - Lauren thinks it's important
 - Ben asked why were asking
 - Lauren suggested changing wording to focus on substance use rather than general mental health, would identify the gap
- #13- O/D suggested change question to timeframe within the last year, add mental health, care for children/pets, job search, employment, housing
 - Lauren feels too many options, wants to try and take out old options and add new options
 - Pat wondering why some categories weren't represented
 - Gerald felt the way the questions were worded did not capture data correctly
 - Lauren agrees 'within last year' is appropriate
- #14- "i am..." question- O/D recommended to open this up as multiple choice. Gerald is unsure if some of the options make sense or are relevant.
 - Piper suggests using the word 'curious' about recovery
 - Gerald asks how can we define recovery in the sentence
 - Ben prefers simplicity in the question
- #15- Narcan training, O/D says to leave as it
 - Pat suggested adding 'Do you know how to use/administer' in the question
 - Brandi asks if we should ask 'do you feel comfortable' administering Narcan
 - Gerald asks what are we trying to learn from the question and tailoring it better to capture what it is that we want to know
 - Jackie suggests adding 'do you know where to go for this kind of training'
 - Pat suggests taking the word 'training' away
 - Alex suggests adding 'what is Narcan' for those who don't know what they are being asked
- #16- Social media question, do we feel its necessary to keep or should we change the way the question is being asked
 - O/D suggested taking away other options and focusing on social media and word of mouth to target exactly where they are finding information
 - Piper mentioned differences in types of social media

- Gerald agreed in adding all the types
- #17- Biggest challenges in the community question
 - O/D wants to change wording to 'barriers'
- #18- Activities and what people want in their community
 - O/D wants to add virtual meetings to the question
- #19- homelessness in the community
 - Ben wants to change the way the question is being asked, we know its a problem but how much is the community in favor with services in their area. How do we ask this question.
 - Pat brought up explaining why people are homeless not just 'is it an issue'
 - Lauren suggests tailoring this question to substance use 'are you homeless or have you found yourself homeless due to substance use'.
 - Gerald and Pat agree
 - Lauren wants to make it multiple choice
- #20- taking away question and change to 'would you support a recovery high school' since the empty building now has direction
 - Lauren wants to know why we wants to know
 - Gerald suggested being able to take the data to the people who are helping with the funding and development of recovery high school.
- Gerald asks if there are any other questions based off what going on locally that we may want to add or change

What can ROSC do for you?

Chief Bartel

Thanked being involved in Volleyball, reported updates working on ordinance bans, mentioned new synthetic pain killer 10x more potent than fentanyl. 'Cyclorphone' seen on the east coast. Narcan may work but will require multiple doses.

Updated working on 7OH ban, then working on shooters.

Piper

Please keep in loop for updates in local ordinances for Dixon and Sterling, progress as well.

Officer Sharp

Let know about coordinating any events.

Lupita

Going to vape shops and gas stations for assessments in what is being sold for data collection.

Michelle

Reach out for any and everything with help/funding for Recovery High School

Minutes prepared by: Jackie Maura