Date: Tuesday, November 2nd, 2026
Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Location: Life Span Center and Zoom
Facilitator: Skylar Miller, Coles County ROSC Council Coordinator

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Attendees

In-person: Skylar Miller (Coles County ROSC Council Coordinator), **Taylor Jones** (Coles County ROSC Council Recovery Navigator), **Alyssa Shain** (Coles County BASE Recovery Navigator), **Ayla Holford** (Coles County BASE Recovery Navigator), **Adam Flack** (Public Service Administrator, DHS/Division of Rehabilitation Services), **Nicole Oaties** (Community Network Specialist)

Zoom: Toni Randall (Region 4 Statewide ROSC Technical Assistant), **Andy Brandenburg** (Community Outreach and Recovery Support Coordinator), **Kristin Davis** (Region 4 Substance Use Prevention Integration Coordinator), **Carrie McKinzie** (Alpharus), **Michelle Hibbard** (Rosecrance), **Liz Pearson** (Medical and Legal Advocate Prevail IL), **Brandy Schlanser** (Coles County CORS Recovery Navigator), **Mariah Witmer** (HOPE Domestic Violence Public Educator), **Angie Hunt** (Birth to Five), **Johanna Gonzalez** (Statewide ROSC Coordinator), **Nikki Monterusso** (Hour House Gambling Services), **Becky Beck** (Family First Advocacy, Parent with Lived Experience), **Alma Murillo** (Family First Advocacy), **LaSienna Burton** (Champaign Urbana Health Department)

Introductions & Agency Updates

Skylar welcomed attendees.

Carrie McKinzie announced that Alpharus accepts adolescents for outpatient mental health services, specifically for 12 and up. Contact: cmckinzie@alpharus.org

Angie Hunt announced that Birth to Five has a new team member, Ty Patterson. Contact: ahunt@birthtofiveil.com

Nikki Monterusso introduced herself as the new Gambling Outreach and Prevention Specialist for the Hour House. She stepped into this position in September. Right now, she is working on a multi-part online engagement series for teens and adults. She will share information with Skylar to share with the council when it is available. Contact: nikkim@hourhouserecovery.org

Andy Brandenburg mentioned that he is partnering with the Edgar County ROSC Council a simulation to reduce stigma against those who are trying to reintegrate into society as someone new in recovery. He will share details with us when he has more information. They are in very early planning stages. Contact: johnb@hourhouserecovery.org

Skylar Miller let everyone know that she has speakers for our Council meetings through April.

Spotlight Speaker

Adam Flack

Public Service Administrator, DHS/Division of Rehabilitation Services

Adam provided an overview of programs and services available to individuals with disabilities throughout Illinois. The Vocational Rehabilitation Program assists individuals with disabilities in maintaining independence, returning to school, obtaining additional education or certifications, and securing employment. Services may include counseling, guidance, referrals, tuition assistance, books and supplies, transportation, housing, meals, workplace accommodations, and customized employment support. The program also partners with several local organizations to provide individualized services and employment assistance. Educational funding is available for eligible individuals pursuing associate, bachelor's, and graduate degrees, with funding guidelines varying by program and institution.

Adam also discussed the Home Services Program, which helps eligible individuals with disabilities maintain independence and remain in their homes rather than requiring nursing home placement. The program provides eligibility assessments and individualized service plans that may include in-home assistance with basic daily living needs. It is primarily Medicaid-funded and serves eligible individuals under age 60, with individuals age 60 and older generally referred to the Illinois Department on Aging. Attendees received informational brochures, welcome packets, and a list of approximately 47–48 statewide offices. A QR code was also provided to allow individuals to submit referrals and be connected with the appropriate regional office based on their address. The local office serves Coles and several surrounding counties, while the Decatur office covers Moultrie, Macon, and DeWitt counties.

Multiple council members shared their personal experiences with different programs within DHS. Skylar is going to share the contact information requested during the meeting.

Updates

Recovery Navigator, Taylor Jones updated the council on location changes for her Mattoon Recovery Education Group. It will take place at The Mattoon Salvation Army from 3:00pm to 4:00pm. She also shared that she has had individuals showing up to the Recovery Education Group in Charleston on Mondays from 10:00am to 11:00am. Taylor also shared that our recent Free Laundry Day went really well.

Skylar gave an update from the most recent Transportation and Housing Committee Meeting. The committee discussed ongoing efforts to address housing barriers in Coles County and ways to better coordinate with existing community initiatives. Rather than duplicating landlord outreach efforts, the committee plans to collaborate with Sam McCullough and Coles County Regional Planning, who have already established relationships and conducted outreach with local landlords. The group discussed aligning its strategic plan and objectives with Regional Planning's existing housing initiatives, seeking input on local needs and opportunities, and exploring ways to become involved with landlord associations through Sam's established connections.

Holiday Party Planning

The Coles County ROSC Council, Hour House BASE Program, Hour House CORS Program and The Mattoon Salvation Army are partnering to have an event called "Holiday Hangout." There will be food provided by a local business's kind donation, activities and crafts for families, and photo opportunities. Skylar welcomed any other programs to join and encouraged those to share the flyer once she gets that sent out.

Becky Beck and Nicole Oaties will be checking their schedule to see if their schedule aligns so that they can be there with their resources!

Events

Transportation & Housing Committee Meeting

The next committee meetings will take place at the Charleston Carnegie Public Library from 12:00 to 1:00pm on November 9th, 2026 in the Genealogy Conference Room.

Free Laundry Day (Report)

Free Laundry Day results from October can be found on the Coles County ROSC Council Facebook Page. Our next one will take place in Mattoon and the date is undecided at this time.

Band Together for Kids

November 5th, 2026 at the Charleston VFW from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. Profits will go to helping children in our community get Christmas gifts!

Holiday Hangout

December 21st, 2026 at the Mattoon Salvation Army, 2:00pm to 5:00pm

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Next Steps & Closing

Our next meeting will take place on December 7th, 2026 at 12:00pm at the Life Span Center and Zoom! Thank you for your attendance.

Contact emails:

Coles County ROSC Council Coordinator
Skylar Miller- skylark@hourhouserecovery.org
Coles County ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Taylor Jones- taylorj@hourhouserecovery.org
ROSC Council Program Supervisor
Jenna Hays- jennah@hourhouserecovery.org

Where to find past meeting minutes: https://www.govst.edu/ROSC-GSU/ROSCC

Coles County ROSC Council Facebook Page:

Next Coles County ROSC Council Meeting**

Date: Monday, December 7th, 2026

Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Where: Life Span Center & via Zoom