Coles County ROSC Council
Transportation and Housing Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: November 9th, 2026
Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm
Location: Carnegie Charleston Public Library & Zoom
Facilitator: Skylar Miller- Coles County ROSC Council Coordinator

Attendees
In-person:
Skylar Miller- Coles County ROSC Council Coordinator
Samantha McCullough- Coles County Regional Planning

Zoom:
Mariah Witmer- Domestic Violence Public Educator
Taylor Jones- Coles County ROSC Council Recovery Navigator
Craig Banyai- HOPE Case Manager

Welcome & Introductions

Skylar welcomed attendees and introduced new members.

Educational Materials

Skylar showed everyone herself and Liz's Transportation Initiative videos to the committee.

Kendra King will be completing two videos for our series.

Sam committed to completing a video for the series as well. Skylar will send the prompts over for Sam to choose what they would like to use.

Skylar asked Mariah if her intern would be willing to do a video also and she said she would ask her.

Progress Updates

Skylar shared that she presented the Ride into Recovery Transportation Initiative to the congregation at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. Several members had questions, including one regarding how an elderly woman might participate as a volunteer driver. Skylar explained that volunteers could bring another person along for support. She also shared that she would speak with her supervisor about whether she and Taylor could accompany drivers when appropriate or needed.

Taylor brought forward an idea for the committee to consider regarding concerns about potential liability for volunteer drivers. She suggested placing a QR code in the driver's windshield, similar to a disability parking placard, that would direct law enforcement to a webpage explaining the purpose of the transportation initiative, particularly in situations where paraphernalia or other concerns may be present.

Skylar added that the QR code could potentially provide a direct contact number for an on-duty officer (or Safe Passage) in Coles County. Another suggestion was to establish contact with an on-duty officer

before a driver and passenger begin their trip, ensuring that someone is aware of who is traveling and where they are going.

Skylar acknowledged that Safe Passage has been brought up several times throughout these discussions but emphasized that she is considering the long-term sustainability of the transportation initiative and exploring ways to build partnerships that could help support its continued success.

Transportation Access and Client Confidentiality

The committee also discussed confidentiality considerations for HOPE clients who may need transportation through the Ride into Recovery Transportation Initiative. Members agreed that additional communication is needed to better understand confidentiality requirements and determine how HOPE clients could safely and comfortably access the program.

Mariah suggested using a neutral pickup location as a possible way to help protect client privacy.

FY27 Strategic Plan Objectives

Skylar asked the committee to continue discussing and refining objectives for FY27. Sam provided an update on the work completed since the previous meeting, including obtaining an email list from the Landlord Association to help them gather information through surveys. Sam also shared that the next Landlord Association meeting will take place on the second Monday in January. These meetings are held quarterly. Additionally, they have gathered information on smaller groups of landlords that the committee may be able to connect with. Sam also shared that they will be submitting an IDHS grant application to continue supporting their efforts toward ending homelessness.

Skylar thanked Sam for the work completed and for sharing the information with the committee. She mentioned that she may be unable to attend the upcoming Landlord Association meeting and asked whether Taylor or another committee member could attend alongside Sam if possible. Taylor volunteered to attend. Sam explained that the meeting would be more introductory in nature and expressed excitement about the opportunity to make connections. Taylor also scanned several documents containing updated local landlord information to share with Sam.

Skylar reviewed the committee's FY27 goal:
By June 30, 2027, the Coles County ROSC Council will increase access to transportation and housing recovery supports by recruiting at least four volunteer drivers and strengthening collaboration among local housing stakeholders.

The committee reviewed the following potential objectives:
a. By December 31, 2026, create a series of videos to educate and recruit community members by highlighting what it means to be a volunteer driver for the Ride into Recovery Transportation Initiative.
b. By January 31, 2027, deliver three ROSC Concept presentations in the community, highlighting the Ride into Recovery Transportation Initiative.
c. By February 28, 2027, release all Ride into Recovery videos on social media.
d. Continue collaboration with Regional Planning and local landlord associations to strengthen housing-related partnerships.

e. By June 30, 2027, the Transportation and Housing Committee will explore local funding opportunities and potential donors to support the development of a landlord mitigation fund, similar to those available in larger counties.
f. By June 30, 2027, create a resource to improve access to community resources for individuals experiencing homelessness, particularly those who may be unfamiliar with the area and need assistance navigating available services.

Following further discussion, the committee agreed that objective **F** would need to be revised and developed into a larger Year 3 goal, with smaller, manageable objectives established for FY27. Several smaller steps and opportunities for progress throughout the current fiscal year were discussed. The committee also agreed to add a separate objective specifically focused on strengthening collaboration with the Landlord Association.

Future Meetings

Skylar initiated a discussion regarding the committee's meeting schedule for the next five months in preparation for her upcoming maternity leave. She asked the committee if they would be open to moving the January meeting, which was originally scheduled for January 11, 2027, as her due date is January 16. The committee agreed to move the meeting to January 4, 2027, to coincide with the ROSC Council meeting. The committee meeting time will also be adjusted from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Skylar then asked the committee how they would like to approach meetings in February, March, and April during her absence. She offered the options of temporarily postponing meetings or having another committee member facilitate them. After discussion, the committee agreed that a February and March meeting may not be necessary, provided members continue working on their assigned tasks and progress is maintained. The next committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 12, 2027.

Action Items & Next Meeting

Mariah will ask her intern if she would be willing to do a video for the Ride into Recovery Transportation Initiative Video Series.

Skylar will send Sam the prompts that are left to choose from for the video series.

Skylar will check in with Kendra King to see how her videos are going.

Skylar will create the clip for the end of the videos with contact information.

Skylar will send Craig the liability and wavier information for him to send up the ladder for review.

Skylar will check with her supervisor about Skylar or Taylor riding along for transport if/when appropriate/able.

Skylar will send the updated landlord documents Taylor shared to Sam.

Skylar will create an email thread specifically for our committee when she sends the meeting minutes out.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 14th, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. at the Mattoon Public Library. A Zoom option will also be available, with the meeting link distributed on the day of the meeting.