Cumberland County ROSC Council
Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2026
5:30 p.m.
Calvary Tabernacle
Zoom

Attendees In-Person: Kristina Drum- Cumberland County ROSC Council Coordinator, Kyle Houser- Cumberland County ROSC Council Recovery Navigator

Attendees on Zoom: Sara Ruholl-Families/Parents, Madison Butler- Prevention Specialist, Hour House Prevention, Mariah Witmer- Domestic Violence Public Educator, HOPE of East Central Illinois, Nicole Oaties- Community Network Specialist, Champaign-Urbana Public Health, Patrick Miller- Lead Community Outreach & Training Specialist, Chestnut Health Systems

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Agenda Item: Introductions of attendees

Meeting Summary: The meeting focused on community resources and the progress of the Cumberland County ROSC Council. The group discussed the need to increase survey and to improve community awareness of harm reduction and available resources. Sara raised concerns about the lack of progress on the diversion program and the need for better engagement with law enforcement. The group also discussed the importance of collaboration with other community agencies and the need to increase meeting attendance.

New Meeting Day, Time & Location: Kristina announced that beginning in November, Cumberland County ROSC Council meetings will be held on the **third Friday of each month at 11:00 AM**. Meetings will rotate between **Neoga and Toledo**, with the Toledo location still to be determined. The next Council meeting will be held **Friday, November 20 at 11:00 AM at the Neoga Municipal Building**.

Spotlight Speaker: Mariah Whitmer- Domestic Violence Public Educator with Hope of East Central Illinois presented on Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities and the services available through HOPE of East Central Illinois. She highlighted successful October outreach efforts, including library displays in six of the seven counties served, four survivor letter-writing events, and two vigils attended by more than 50 people in Coles County and 30 in Edgar County.

Mariah provided an overview of HOPE's services, including a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter for up to 28 individuals with stays of up to 45 days, and 24 transitional housing units available for up to two years. Additional services include children's advocacy programs serving approximately 50 students, legal advocacy, and access to a licensed therapist.

Mariah also discussed ongoing efforts to increase awareness of HOPE's services and asked for feedback on distributing resource bags and tear-off sheets with crisis and service information to local organizations throughout the community.

Illinois Faith & Recovery Collaborative: Patrick provided an overview of the Illinois Faith & Recovery Collaborative, which offers free training, certification, and resources to faith communities across Illinois. He shared that more than 100 trainings have been completed and over 53 churches have become certified recovery churches.

Patrick reviewed the flyer and agenda for the Mental Health First Aid and Suicide Prevention Training scheduled for **Thursday, October 29, from 8:30 AM–4:30 PM**. The training is being offered through a partnership between the **Cumberland County ROSC Council and the Illinois Faith & Recovery Collaborative**. Lunch will be provided, and **13 participants are currently registered**. Patrick also discussed other trainings available through the Collaborative and explained the process for churches interested in becoming certified recovery churches.

Laundry Days: Our next **Laundry Day** will be held on **October 28th f**rom **1:00–5:00 p.m.** at **Greenup E-Z Laundry**. Laundry Days will continue on the **fourth Wednesday of each month**.

ROSC Council Membership & Engagement & Member Round Robin: Council members participated in a round-robin discussion focused on strengthening the ROSC Council, increasing community engagement, identifying needs within Cumberland County, and discussing ways members and their organizations can support ROSC efforts between meetings.

Madison recognized Sara as a valuable community asset. Discussion was held regarding ROSC Council roles, leadership structure, and the importance of clearly defining the roles of community members and ROSC staff. The ROSC Council agreed that additional clarification regarding roles and leadership would be discussed with ROSC Program supervisors.

Nicole, a new member representing Family First Advocacy, offered to assist with behavioral and mental health-related efforts and will help promote upcoming ROSC Council meetings through her organization's newsletter.

Members discussed increasing participation at monthly meetings and set a goal of having **10–12 people regularly attend ROSC Council meetings by the end of the year**. Mariah expressed interest in participating in an upcoming meeting with Greenup Police officers. Members also identified domestic violence education for law enforcement as an area where additional education and collaboration could be beneficial.

ROSC Council Community Survey: The ROSC Council discussed the need to increase participation in the FY27 Community Survey, with **142 responses received toward the goal of 205**. Strategies for reaching additional community members were discussed, including plans to distribute **QR codes at local IGA stores** to make the survey more accessible.

Harm Reduction/Narcan Expansion: The ROSC Council discussed ways to increase community understanding of harm reduction and address common myths and misconceptions. Sara suggested using local newspapers and social media to provide ongoing education and emphasized the importance of showing that harm reduction includes more than syringe services

or Narcan distribution. Sara and Kristina also discussed expanding harm reduction education through additional trainings and awareness initiatives.

The group discussed defining harm reduction more clearly and helping community members understand its broader purpose of reducing risks, meeting people where they are, and supporting individuals as they work toward healthier choices and recovery.

Mariah Witmer emphasized the importance of educating the community about the safety of Narcan, including that it will not harm someone if opioids are not present. Kristina shared an example of how providing accurate information helped change a community member's perspective about Narcan.

The ROSC Council agreed to increase the visibility of harm reduction education through regular newspaper and Facebook content, utilizing existing educational resources when possible.

Diversion Program – Law Enforcement Referrals: The ROSC Council discussed challenges with receiving law enforcement referrals for individuals who may be eligible for the Diversion Program. Sara asked about barriers that may be preventing officers from initiating referrals, and Kyle shared that follow-through and communication with law enforcement have been ongoing challenges despite outreach efforts. Members discussed the importance of officer involvement in identifying potential participants, as law enforcement often has direct contact with individuals who may benefit from the program. Sara offered to help facilitate conversations with local officers to strengthen communication, increase understanding of the referral process, and encourage appropriate referrals to the Diversion Program.

Reminders/Tasks:

- Sara: Set up meeting with Greenup officers and include Mariah.
- Kyle: Talk to the State's Attorney to discuss the Diversion Program.
- Kyle: Collect surveys from the courthouse.
- Kristina: Send out calendar invite for the next meeting.
- Kristina: Send newsletter to Nicole.
- Mariah: Bring resource bags to free laundry day.
- Start planning a resource fair with food trucks & a specific theme.
- Nicole: Include new meeting day & time in her newsletter.

Next Meeting: **November 20th,** 2026 11:00 a.m. at the City of Neoga Municipal Building & Zoom

Facebook Page: