Effingham County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, October 19, 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)
Haley Lovins (Effingham County ROSC Council Coordinator)
Stephanie Mercer (Effingham County Recovery Navigator)
Norbert Soltwedel (Effingham County Board member)
Lauren Raymond (Effingham Co Health Department)
Olivia Jenkins (Hour House- Prevention)

Zoom:
Toni Randall (Region 4 TA)
Kasey Kemme (University of Illinois Extension)
Angie Kronewitter (CEFS)
Nora Dunn (CEFS)
Chloe Alden Program Coordinator (Crisis Nursery of Effingham County)
Keith Powell (Southern IL Safe Families for Children)
Samantha Weidner (Early Childhood and Special Projects Director, Effingham and Clay Co Health Department)
Carrie Downen (DCFS Recruitment & Resource)
Victoria Hunt (SWAN Domestic Violence Victim Advocate)
Kristin Davis (Family Guidance Center, Regional Substance Use Prevention Integration Center)

Minutes

Introductions
Council members introduced themselves and their roles.

FY27 Objective Overview
Haley went over the Objectives for FY27 and gave a progress report on these objectives.
Stephanie was asked if Effingham Transport needed any additional assistance at this time, she did not have any news or updates to share at current, but will follow up with them soon.

Norbert asked if we were still taking volunteer drivers. We told him yes and Stephanie offered to get him the informational packet. Norbert himself is considering being a volunteer driver. Haley expressed she is going over the materials provider to her from Samantha Hicks, the former Effingham ROSC Council Coordinator, in order to put together a CPRS brochure to help aid in Goal 2. We briefly discussed the importance of peers in healthcare settings.

Haley and Stephanie then discussed the upcoming Holiday Ornament Workshop. This family friendly event will welcome the community to a holiday themed crafting event with the hope of providing resources, reaching families in the community who have been affected by SUD, and providing community engagement. This event goes hand in hand with Goal 3 of working to create events and educational spaces for families affected by SUD to come together without fear of stigma to have fellowship, fun, and gain access to resources in Effingham County.

FY27 Community Survey

The Effingham ROSC Council is currently sitting at 215 Surveys as of Monday October 19, 2026. Haley gave this update and asked if anyone had some last-minute ideas on how to get the survey pushed out even further. **Olivia** said that she would check with Charlie Schwarman at the Jr. High to see if he would distribute the survey to staff. **Angie** received permission to distribute the survey to Parents of the students at CEFS Head Start. Stephanie and Haley will continue their efforts around the county, they have collectively reached out to many nursing homes, locally owned business, law enforcement, local libraries, restaurants, etc.

Council Updates

Haley shared with the council the launch of an Effingham County ROSC Council Newsletter. This newsletter is meant to highlight the good things the council is collectively apart of in our community, updates on ROSC events, education groups, and any needs the council may currently have.

Haley is also actively looking for someone to act as the Council Notetaker for meetings. This will help the flow of council meetings and ensure all topics are being included in our meeting minutes.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Haley is asking the council to volunteer for the **Holiday Ornament Workshop Event, November 6, 2026 from 4-6pm at the Watson Civic Center**. *We need 3-4 volunteers* to help ensure that the activities planned run smoothly (ornament making, mini games, resource distribution.)

We are also seeking council members to come setup an education or resource table so that we are able to provide access to a greater number of services in our community to those in attendance.

Please email or text Haley (217-343-6549) for more details or if you want to be apart of this event.

Council Discussions

Together, the council brainstormed more ways to introduce ROSC to the community and spread the word on the survey and subcommittees. **Samantha** suggested Palm Cards and suggested we partner to develop one. **Victoria** showed a great example for the council.
Norbert asked Kat and Tiffany how the hiring process was going for Deflection Specialists. **Kat and Tiffany** said they were hoping to make a hiring decision by the end of the week. They also filled the council in on the position and the job requirements.

Haley opened the floor for any further questions, comments, or discussions. Everyone agreed they had no more to add, so meeting was closed.

Upcoming events
Effingham County Connections: Trick or Treat Street Thursday Oct. 22, 2026
Holiday Ornament Workshop November 6, 2026 4:00pm-6:00pm @ The Watson Civic Center
Haley briefly talked about EARS Tinsel &Tails, coming up in November 17-December 26, 2026

****NEXT ROSC COUNCIL MEETING****
Date: Monday, November 16 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 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

https://www.facebook.com/share/1CkhGBMbiR/?mibextid=wwXlfr



The Effingham County ROSC Council aims to build a healthier community by using the voices of those with lived experience of mental health and/or substance use disorders while working alongside local agencies, businesses, & community members to bridge gaps for individuals & families in Recovery.