

EDGAR COUNTY ROSC MEETING MINUTES

November 28th, 2023

5:15 PM

Paris Hospital Conference Room A and Zoom

Attendees: Kyra Graham, Dana Tell, Dr. Marilyn Frey, Julie Pohlman, Nate Alexander, Jonathan Burns, Michelle Creech, Lisa Foster, Scott Foster, Cindy Spencer, Doug Cochran, Judy Benton, Norm Wilson, Lexanna Kocher, Cory Hanks, Connor Dotson, Paul Abraham, Carrie McKenzie, Leanna Morgan, Jenna Hays, Mary Taylor, April Burns, Salem Ross, Ceili Boylan, Karen Cook, Nicki Hanks, Dennis Eveland, and Ambrosia Branson

Spotlight Agency/Program: Edgar County Public Health Department:

Connor stated that he and Lexanna would highlight a few services the Health Department provides to the community. Connor first talks about ECPHD's IPLAN, essentially a five-year document, and one of the biggest parts they focus on is the community health needs assessment. The needs assessment was created through community members identifying the most crucial public health needs. The current three needs for this specific IPLAN are child abuse and neglect, substance use and addiction, and mental health. The ECPHD focuses on these issues through community events, staff training, being involved with community entities, and community training.

Lexanna then began a discussion on vaccines. The ECPHD has been doing a lot of vaccine outreach. They have been awarded a grant that is assisting with their outreach efforts. They have hosted drive-thru flu shot clinics. One in November at the ECPHD, the other in October, and one at Chrisman. They have also been able to provide flu shots at businesses for their employees, and one of their nurses has been doing that. All of their vaccines are offered at heavily discounted prices; all lab work is billed to Medicare and Medicaid; if there is a charge, that is something an individual can call the communicable disease nurse about. Lexanna then went into detail about their Woman's, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. They are trying to promote the program in the community to get more women involved.

Connor explained the needle exchange program that the ECPHD has at their facility. The goal is not to promote someone to use substances. The goal is to mitigate the harm and potential infection that can come with using used needles. The program came about from used needles being found all over the county in public places. If you have someone who comes to you interested in the program, they can go into the front office of the health department and ask for Joe. From there, a nurse will come up and take them into a room in the back and provide them with education and harm reduction supplies (ex., clean needles, Narcan, water).

Lexanna said that they finally have a dentist in the health department! She started a couple of weeks ago and is currently working through the patient list. Connor also mentioned that he is

their emergency preparedness coordinator, and one thing they are trying to work on at the health department this year is building their staff response and preparedness! After a few questions, Ambrosia reminded the council that all of the Narcan display sites for ROSC and HRC (In Edgar County) have needle exchange cards that individuals can take to learn about the program. Jonathan also mentioned how great this program is, showing we care more about the person and helping them get better. Someone from the meeting asked how many sharps disposal containers we had in the community. Ambrosia noted that the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District was handing them out to businesses and churches in the community about a year ago. April mentioned that they have sharps containers at the mobile soap stations. Ceili also said that the library has a sharps container.

Right to Life of Edgar County:

Mary Taylor with Right to Life of Edgar County passed around invitations to the council regarding their upcoming seminar presentation. They are hosting a national ministry group called Deeper Still to present how post-abortive men and women can find hope and healing. The goal of the team is to help our county understand how abortion impacts individuals, their families, and our community. Deeper Still hosts free weekend retreats nationwide to help these individuals. The seminar will allow participants to understand how to use this information personally. The free presentation will be at St. Mary's Church in Paris on January 18th. The presentation will be from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM, and a meal will be provided. They ask that people planning to attend RSVP. Mary mentioned that their goal is to share this presentation with individuals who specifically come into contact with people who have experienced trauma, suffering, etc. She also states that they have recently been asked to share this information with those in the addiction field. The event is free, and they want people to come and understand how they can use and apply the information learned in their everyday lives. Mary invited the council to the seminar and asked them to please share the flyer with their agency or individuals they know who may be interested. She said the best way to contact them is through the phone number or email on their flyer.

Newsletter Update:

In October, we gave out 38 boxes of Narcan through the ROSC Narcan display sites. Ambrosia stated that we are still looking for more places to have display sites and asked if the council had any suggestions. Doug mentioned to check back with the Junction in Kansas. Ambrosia told the council if they thought of any places we could reach out to, to please let her or Nicki know! April suggested that we should reach out to the food pantries in some of our towns.

Nicki said we are hosting a movie night at Lake Ridge Christian Church on December 18th at 5 PM. We will show the movie "The Elf," and free popcorn and hot chocolate will be provided. We will also have a special guest... Santa Claus! Nicki will offer a Zoom option for her recovery educational groups in January due to it getting cold. She also has 5 hygiene bags for people going to treatment and those in need!

Ambrosia went into detail regarding the upcoming events. Nicki already mentioned the movie night. We have to put the podcast on a little hold to get all the equipment and logistics figured out! Doug then went into detail regarding the Human Trafficking training scheduled for Friday. Frontline workers training from 1-5 PM and the community training from 6-8 PM. The first

training will be bringing a survivor in to tell her story. The second training will be an abbreviated version of the first class. Doug also mentioned that Sarah Bush recently had a human trafficking patient come in. The patient stated that five other girls were being trafficked. She would not give up the other girls' location as she feared for her life. This case shows that human trafficking is here in our communities. Doug also thanked the CARE coalition for sponsoring the event. Ambrosia also mentioned that she talked with Megan Carrol and okayed for individuals to watch kiddos in the gym during the second training to bridge the childcare gap. Doug also said he contacted the local news stations to get coverage of the training. Doug spoke with some individuals in Vigo County interested in starting a task force or coalition to address Human Trafficking locally. The Survivor Resource Center will also be at the training to support anyone triggered during the training.

Subcommittee Meetings Update:

Recovery Housing:

In the last meeting, we discussed how recovery housing is a wonderful goal for our community, but before we can get anywhere, we have to get community buy-in. Subcommittee members suggested continuing to collect data on homelessness in the community and going to city and county meetings to get community support. We also talked about presenting the information we have found in the newspaper to get the info out to community members. We also discussed expanding the landlord list we have created. Ambrosia also mentioned we still need help getting a homeless resource agency list.

Educational Training and Events:

We did not meet in November due to Ambrosia being off. Our plans for the next meeting are to discuss upcoming events through the end of the fiscal year (July 2024).

Drives/Donations:

Ambrosia mentioned that we have not had anyone contact us yet regarding coat donations. Michelle said they have leftover coats and are bringing them to the Forsythe Center in Marshall, and if anyone needs them, they can walk in and grab a coat. They don't have the same in their Paris lobby. Michelle said if we ever need a coat, contact her. Ambrosia asked the council if we wanted to cut the coat drive off at the end of November or keep it going into December. The council stated they don't see a huge need for coats, and we do have some on hand to not continue the drive.

Ambrosia spoke about the Sock and Underwear drive and that we have yet to have the turnout we have wanted. Ambrosia asked the council if we should extend the drive or not. The council decided to extend it. Nicki mentioned that if anyone can help spread the word, we would greatly appreciate it.

Open Discussion:

Ambrosia stated that her and Nicki wanted to have an open discussion forum with the council. The first question she asked the council is if they felt the direction the ROSC council was going was where they wanted it to be? She also asked if there were any barriers in the community that the ROSC council was not focusing on? Lisa mentioned that the direction the ROSC council has been going is where she believes it should be going. Ambrosia also asked if there were people

not at the ROSC council meetings who needed to be there that they should reach out to? April mentioned that we should try to fill the gap of pulling people in who are non-English speaking in our community. Scott mentioned that we should go to the county board and city council meetings and invite them to the ROSC council meetings. Karen did mention that Ambrosia and Nicki have done a wonderful job at bringing community members to the table, but they still need the help from each of the council members. Their connections with people can be very valuable and sometimes those connections can get people more involved.

Agency Update:

ECPHD: Lexanna and Connor have flyers they can share with Ambrosia to share with the council regarding their services.

Neighborhood Watch: Scott just mentioned they are promoting the Human Trafficking training on Friday.

Recovery Court: Norm mentioned they are continuing with the two participants they currently have.

HRC: Jonathan stated that they have gotten the mental health waitlist down to 70 patients.

CARE Coalition: Lisa mentioned the only update they have is promoting the training on Friday. Ambrosia mentioned Dalbey's is printing the Red Ribbon Week prizes and will be given out soon! The ECPHD, ROSC, HRC Prevention, and CARE judged the designs for t-shirts.

Human Trafficking Training: (Discussed above)

Next Meeting: December 20th, 5:15 PM at Paris Hospital Conference Room A and Zoom

ROSC Recovery Housing Notes

November 8th, 2023

5:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Zoom

Attendees: Ambrosia Roberts, Nicki Hanks, Paul Abraham, Cindy Spencer, Kyra Graham, Lisa Foster

- Ambrosia gave a recap for council members on the purpose behind this subcommittee.
- Looked at the objective and activities specific to recovery housing on the strategic plan:
 - *Objective 9: Explore Recovery Housing options for Edgar County*
 - ***Activity 30: Communicate with local agencies and organizations to analyze the need for safe, sober living locally in the community. (Completed)***

- **Activity 31: Identify recovery homes in surrounding counties and build potential partnerships.**
 - *Discussed learning about the Haven and Matthew 25*
 - *Ambrosia asked members to help in creating a list of recovery homes.*
- **Activity 32: Identify landlords in Edgar County and facilitate meetings to discuss potential safe and sober living opportunities for individuals and their families.**
 - *Nicki has created a landlord list.*
 - *Discussed new landlords to reach out to:*
 - *Virginia English*
 - *Kara Inglum*
- **Activity 33: Aid Community Resource Agencies in developing safe and sober living resource guides.**
 - *Ambrosia again expressed the need for the council to help send homeless resource agencies to her to compile a cumulative list.*
- Homeless Campaign
 - In the subcommittee meeting in September, we presented the numbers we have accumulated from the community on homeless individuals in Edgar Co. Nicki was able to get more numbers for us:
 - Paris Ministerial Alliance they gave out 30 hotel vouchers since January 2023 (1-night stay per person per year)
 - Since August, ERBA has been able to house 5 homeless families.
- Revamp on Laundry Day survey.
 - The original survey had some demographic questions and then asked:
 - If they had stable housing, if they believed there was safe and affordable housing in the community, if there were any issues about stable housing in the community, if they had a SUD in the household, if they believed we had many recovery resources in the community, or things they thought we needed in the community
 - I had 17 responses from the Laundry Day.
 - Want to create a new survey that has more open-ended questions.
- Discussed the importance of getting community buy-in and how we can do this
 - Going to the city council and county board meetings
 - Study sessions
 - Presenting data and findings to these members to show the problems in our community
 - Publishing the findings in the newspaper
- Harvest House
 - Discussed Virginia and reaching back out to her to get a meeting set up
 - Lisa suggested that she may have suggestions for getting community buy-in and getting the word out about her plans for the Harvest House.
- Assisted Living Facilities being converted into Recovery Homes
 - An assisted living facility was purchased in Edgar County, and there has been talk about it being converted into a recovery home.
 - Whoever got the building got a grant for it, is what we have heard.

- Ambrosia gave an example of a community up north that could get a recovery home put into the other half of a nursing home facility. It took them a whole year to get the community buy-in for the facility.
- Partnerships for Transportation
 - Have a potential partnership in the works.