



## MERC Meeting Summary

9:00 a.m. via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/97144229718>

January 18, 2024

### Welcome and Introductions

- Welcome and please introduce yourself, your organization, and the role you play at your agency and new information concerning your agency. In attendance today:
  - Angella Holloway- Chestnut/MERC
  - Beverly Holland- Chestnut/Statewide ROSC
  - Dan Hutchison- Chestnut/ROSC and OEND
  - Greg Norkus- St. Clair County Probation
  - Jen Nagel Fischer- Porchlight Collaborative
  - Jennifer Schultz- Centerstone
  - Julie Pohlman- Chestnut/Statewide ROSC
  - Kat Houghton- Egyptian Health/Statewide ROSC
  - Mark Knott- Chestnut/MERC
  - Monique Brunious- Chestnut/Bond ROSC
  - Naomi Fulton- Chestnut/RCORP
  - Paul Fischer- Porchlight Collaborative (Frist Meeting, Welcome!)
  - Robyn Robinson- TASC (First Meeting; Welcome!)
  - Stephanie Everhart- Chestnut/Employment
  - Teresa Cornelius- HSHS St. Joseph's
  - Tisha Lancaster- DHS
  - TL White- community member
  - Toni Randall- Chestnut/Bond ROSC
  - Violette Book- Chestnut/OEND

### Old Business

- Last month our guest speaker, Emma Bowen from Chestnut Health Systems, gave a presentation about current trends IL is seeing with gambling and the impact it is having on people. Emma has already connected with some agencies but is available to provide additional presentations if requested. Reach out to Emma if interested [embowen@chestnut.org](mailto:embowen@chestnut.org)

- Mark Knott has been hosting a monthly stigma reduction conversation at the Edwardsville Public Library monthly.

For more information or if you'd like to participate reach out to Mark at [maknott@chestnut.org](mailto:maknott@chestnut.org)

### New Business

- Report out from 1/9/24 Subcommittee (focuses on connecting those leaving jails/prison to supportive services) meeting. In attendance at this meeting was Mark Knott, Dan Hutchison, Tyrone Hill, and Greg Norkus. Current efforts include trying to access individuals by connecting with H&I and by connecting through pretrial meetings. Jen Nagel-Fischer provided some information and referenced a recent presentation on the pretrial fairness act (this has been included as an attachment along with this meeting summary). We will also be working to collaborate with HMA's Jail MAR programs.
- Mark Knott and Tyrone Hill have been hosting a weekly recovery support meeting at Amare's Wood River location each Tuesday at 6pm. They are currently working on expanding this to also include a meeting in St. Clair County, more info to come as this develops.
- We discussed providing stigma reduction conversations in the community. Greg Norkus would like to schedule one with his probation officers and Teresa Cornelius would like to schedule one in the Highland area after encountering a lot of push back from community members when passing out Narcan at a local event. Naomi Fulton and Mark Knott will work on planning and scheduling these. For more information or if you'd like to plan one, reach out to Mark at [maknott@chestnut.org](mailto:maknott@chestnut.org) Naomi Fulton currently has one scheduled in Greenville, IL on 2/29. For more information on this one, reach out to Naomi at [ngfulton@chestnut.org](mailto:ngfulton@chestnut.org)
- The Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) team shared that Fentanyl and Xylazine test kits are now in stock and available upon request. Reach out to [SR-NARCAN@chestnut.org](mailto:SR-NARCAN@chestnut.org) to request some. This team is also working to put together "Leave Behind" kits that are intended to be left with individuals who have experienced an overdose or at risk of overdose. For more information on these kits reach out the above listed email address.
- We are looking at our current inventory and getting ready to order new outreach materials.
  - a. Jen Nagel-Fisher shared a need for wound care items as her group is seeing a large demand to help prevent infection from untreated wounds. Teresa Cornelius will connect to discuss options that may be available. To discuss more

reach out to Jen/her team [The Porchlight Collective SAP](http://ThePorchlightCollectiveSAP.org)  
([porchlightsap.org](http://porchlightsap.org))

- b. If you have upcoming events and would like MERC outreach materials please contact Mark at [maknott@chestnut.org](mailto:maknott@chestnut.org)

### **Announcements and upcoming events**

- Edwardsville Library will continue to host monthly stigma reduction conversations along with Narcan demonstrations. These are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> wed of each month.
- Weekly Early recovery meeting Tuesdays at 6:30 pm at 144 E Ferguson in Wood River (Amare). Will be continuing in the next year.
- Event is being hosted on 1/26 from 10am-3pm for Community Housing, Career Resources, and much much more at City Temple Assembly of God in Granite City. For more info please reference the attached flyer.
- If you would like to be added to an upcoming agenda as a guest speaker to share about the services your agency is offering and the work you are doing please reach out to Mark or Angella [maknott@chestnut.org](mailto:maknott@chestnut.org) or [aholloway@chestnut.org](mailto:aholloway@chestnut.org)

### **MERC Upcoming Zoom Meeting**

**February 15, 2024 at 9am**

#### **Metro East Recovery Council (MERC) Vision:**

A community system that nurtures and supports individuals and families seeking or maintaining recovery for themselves or a loved one.

#### **Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) Mission:**

Collaborating to build and empower communities of recovery.