



MERC Meeting Summary

9:00 a.m. via Zoom

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

February 15, 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
 - Greg Norkus- St. Clair County Probation
 - Jen Nagel Fischer- Porchlight Collaborative
 - Alicia Moesner-Chestnut RCORP
 - Melissa Monte- Aviary
 - Katie Unthank- Egyptian Health/Statewide ROSC
 - Mark Knott- Chestnut/MERC
 - Deborah Humphries- Madison County 708 Mental Health Board
 - Naomi Fulton- Chestnut/RCORP
 - Paul Fischer- Porchlight Collaborative
 - Robyn Robinson- TASC (Guest Speaker)
 - Stephanie Everhart- Chestnut/Employment
 - Emily Won-Madison County Health Dept.
 - TL White- community member
 - Toni Randall- Chestnut/Bond ROSC
 - Violette Book- Chestnut/OEND

Old Business

- 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 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 \(porchlightsap.org\)](http://ThePorchlightCollectiveSAP.org)
- 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 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
- 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

New Business

- Robyn Robinson from TASC- spoke on CHOICES what it is and what they provide in the community. Choices is a form of warm handoff program that deflects individuals that would normally get caught up in the legal system for mental health or substance abuse issues then connects them to services in Madison, St. Clair, Calhoun, Greene, Macoupin and Monroe counties. This is a community collaborative to get the correct services to the individual-law enforcement also makes referrals to the CHOICES team then CHOICES responds within 24 hrs.
- Mark Knott and Tyrone Hill have been hosting a weekly recovery support meeting at Amare's Wood River location each Tuesday at 6pm. They have currently expanded this to also include a meeting in St. Clair County, at IRC in Swansea on Tuesday from 1-2 pm.
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If you have upcoming events and would like MERC outreach materials please contact Mark at 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 3rd 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.
- 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 or aholloway@chestnut.org

MERC Upcoming Zoom Meeting

March 21, 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.