

# Clark/Cumberland County ROSC Meeting Minutes

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

4:30 pm

Zoom and In-Person Hybrid

Calvary Tabernacle Toledo, IL

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**Attendees:** Kyle Houser, Kristina Drum, Cindy Hanley, Donnelle Darling, Corey Blair, Ed Barthelemy, Todd Maxfield, Andy Riggs, Allyssa Houser, Julie Pohlman, Adam Lovell, Bo Scott, Jack Weber, Norm Wilson, Karen Cook, Julie Pohlman, Jenna Hayes, Beth Reeder, Samantha Hicks, Paul Abraham, Sara Ruholl, Camille Gordon, Robert Eastep, Aisha Esquivel, Diana Doss, Kyle Hudson,

## *Minutes*

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### **Agenda Item: Introductions and Updates**

**Spotlight speaker, Todd Maxfield, Coles/Cumberland Probation Officer-** Todd spoke about his role as a Cumberland County probation officer but primarily about his involvement within the Drug Court (DC) Program. Cumberland County began getting trained and certified to have a DC in 2018-19. Due to COVID-19, it was not able to be implemented until 2021. For a county to have a Drug Court certified by the State of Illinois, the judge, state attorney, public defender, probation officer, and law enforcement representative must undergo training and be certified. The re-certification process is every two years. The State of Illinois regulates the Drug Court Program.

In terms of how the Drug Court operates, there are 5 phases. Phase one is the most intensive phase with a lot of requirements. During this phase, residential treatment is usually mandated. To get into drug court, a person has to be high-risk in the risk assessment. In phase 1, there are usually 3-4 random drug screenings a week. During this phase, a person is mandated to attend 4 recovery meetings a week as well as any substance use disorder and mental health requirements as well. A person must attend court each week in Phase 1, every other week in Phase 2, every 3 weeks in Phase 3, every 4 weeks in Phase 4, and once a month in Phase 5. As a person goes through each phase, it becomes less intensive, but they still must do other required things such as Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT) and a Drug Court project. MRT is a type of cognitive behavioral therapy that helps individuals become more aware of their criminal/addictive thinking and helps them work through those issues.

For an individual to be placed in Drug Court, they must request it or be ordered by the judge to take an evaluation to see if someone qualifies and would be a good candidate for the program. The public defender's role in this process is to advocate on behalf of the individual. This evaluation and application are then reviewed by the council, which consists of the judge, probation, substance use treatment representative, mental health representative, law enforcement representative, and the public defender

for final acceptance or denial of the individual's request. The Drug Court program is intended to be at least 2 and a half years but can go longer based on their progress.

Todd reports that the first Drug Court client began in March of 2021 and graduated successfully in October 2023. State numbers report that the success rate of a Drug Court Program is 84%. The goal is to address the criminogenic factors and the underlying issues that cause mental health challenges and substance use disorder through intensive treatment and holding them accountable. Every resource available is given to the people in DC so that they have the best opportunity to change their lives around for the better instead of a vicious cycle of committing crimes and going to prison. People eligible for Drug Court do not necessarily have to have a drug charge. If the charges are drug-driven, such as thefts and robberies, then these qualify. Charges that disqualify an individual from acceptance into the Drug Court Program are sex offenses or violent crimes where weapons are used.

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The next part of the ROSC meeting was a discussion of identifying strengths in our Council, setting goals for the next Fiscal Year, and evaluating what is and is not working. The following is a list of questions that could be asked within the time constraints. With these things in mind, we need to determine how we will work towards these goals.

#### **What do you want to work toward in Clark & Cumberland Counties?**

- Drug Court Established in Clark County
- Stigma reduced in both counties
- More support for those in recovery
- Hygiene day for people in need to receive supplies and showers
- Mental health residential behavioral lists for nearby areas
- Recovery Success story pamphlets
- An Al-anon meeting started up in Clark and Cumberland
- System vision flyer to show the big picture to give each sector a better idea how they can be apart.
- T.V. commercials for local channels
- Correspondence program to connect those in jail with people in recovery to communicate with while incarcerated as well as for them to follow up with upon release.

#### **What are the current community resources that have worked well for substance use and recovery in our areas?**

- Recovery meetings have been working by helping keep people sober and connected to recovery community.
- Recovery Navigator/Peer Support has been very beneficial in each county.
- Noble Health Associates has provided much needed mental health services that are affordable within Cumberland County
- HRC has been doing great work in Clark County to help meet the large need for SUD and mental health services.
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### **What's not working?**

- There is a lack of involvement from the Sheriff in Cumberland and minimal cooperation in Clark County Jail aside from Recovery Navigator visits. There needs to be more interaction to get recovery to people who are in jail such as recovery meetings and peer support. Systematic change takes time and every silo needs to participate for the larger picture to be realized

### **Are there other programs or resources in surrounding counties that we could learn from?**

- Drug Court
- Jail programs
- How other counties have worked to address the gaps and barriers in the system to allow people in recovery opportunities for change.

### **Reminders/Tasks:**

- Please Sign MOUs and return them to Kristina Drum.
- Kristina will schedule additional opportunities to educate the community on the ROSC Concept.
- Who do we need at the ROSC Council meetings that need to be here, and how do we get them here?
- Planning for events for the next Fiscal Year, such as the panel events and the recovery picnic for Recovery Month in September, will begin soon! You are encouraged to be active in the planning to make them successful.

**Next Meeting: April 9<sup>th</sup>, @ 4:30 at HRC- Forsythe Center in Marshall and via zoom.**