

Effingham County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes 3.18.2024

Date: Monday, March 18th, 2024

Time: 1:00-2:00pm

Location: 104 Blohm Ave, Effingham IL & Zoom

Attendees:

Zoom: Maria (ECCM,) & Kelly Buscher (ECCM,(Monte (Aviary Business Development Rep,) Julie Pohlman (Region 4 TA,) Christina Isley (SIHF Healthcare,) Ken Sterner (State TASC,) Cheryl Root (Recovery Corps,) Nathan Nichols (County Transportation,) Alexis (PLE,) Samantha Weidner (ECHD,) Carrie McKinzie (Gateway Foundation,) Margot Cepeda (VA Affairs,) Liesl Wingert (SIU-Rural Health Projects,) Kevin McNally (HHS SUD counselor,) Lyndsey Reedy (ECHD,) Whitley Grayson (Coles Co Recovery Navigator,) Karen Cook (Hour House ROSC Supervisor,) Jenna Hayes (ROSC Region 4 Mentor)

In person: Cody Bushue (PLE,) Olivia Jenkins (Hour House Prevention program facilitator,) Becky Rhodes (Family Life Center Parent Coordinator,) Natalie Hall (Effingham County Family Resource Center,) Jacob Lorenz (FRC,) Kat O' Brien (Gateway Foundation Warm Hand Off Program at HSHS,) Toby Depoister (PLE,) Samantha Hicks (Effingham County ROSC Coordinator) Felicia Depoister (Effingham County ROSC Navigator)

Secretary: Samantha Hicks

Minutes

Council meeting attendees introduced themselves and agencies they represent or reason for being present.

Guest Speaker:

Natalie Hall and Jacob Lorenz spoke about the new program, Family Resource Center of Effingham County, which was implemented in October 2023 and fully launched in January 2024. The FRC is a DCFS grant-funded program that can service any family in Effingham County. Participants must be a resident of Effingham County. This is the only criterion for services. FRC is based in the ECHD building on 104 Blohm Ave, Effingham. They offer case management, 16-week parenting courses, anger management classes, job readiness skills, court advocacy, and a DCFS Alumni Drop-in Center. Anger management classes can be offered individually, in a group setting, in the office, or in the client's home. FAC has serviced 30 families so far. Beth Wise is the program supervisor for any questions.

ROSC Council Reflection:

Samantha stated she wanted to understand why people are sitting at the ROSC Council table—what brings you to ROSC? What motivates you to want help in this field? She stated transparency is appreciated and much needed to get down to the barriers and possible

solutions for the individuals we support and serve. Samantha led by asking what strengths this community currently has in reference to our SUD services, treatment, support, etc.

Natalie stated that CR and ROSC have been a big help in finding recovery and treatment for people. Becky noted that there is support in many places, but people have to *want* the support and participate in it. Cody stated that the Problem-Solving Court had supported him in his recovery journey. Kat noted that people need to be exposed to different people, places, and things to stay sober. Becky stated she asks her clients who have been sober for a bit what they need. Most of them state housing, transportation, and expungement.

The group agreed that housing and transportation are a large part of staying sober and integrating into the community to obtain necessary employment and resources when first getting sober. Becky stated that her client's criminal records are a barrier even if they've been doing well and staying sober, as they can't get into public housing because of their backgrounds. Samantha stated that she had spoken to Land of Lincoln to arrange an informational session at the Library to allow community partners and clients to hear about the sealing and expungement process and to ask questions. Samantha is waiting to hear back from Aliza from Land of Lincoln with possible dates. She will follow up this week. Samantha asked Nathan N. for insight into the transportation barrier that works with CIPT (public transportation.) Nathan stated that the option is there; although not perfect, it is utilized by many people. Nathan stated veterans can now ride for free if they present their Military ID card.

Felicia stated that she gives away a lot of E-Trax tokens to the peers she sees regularly. Kat stated we need more treatment providers in Effingham—Outpatient and Residential. She said we need more OP providers who accept Medicaid. Samantha noted the PLE Committee is going to focus on transitional housing. The **next PLE meeting is April 9th @ 3:30 pm at this location.** She stated she asked everyone passionate about it to gather information about transitional housing, and they brought what they gathered to the meeting—i.e., do we want a men's house, women's house, etc? Felicia stated Effingham will not allow any homeless or recovery home. Samantha asked if that was within city limits or the county. Becky stated she think it's within the city limits. Samantha said she has a meeting with a rep at the Oxford Houses to start that conversation and gain more insight. Samantha noted that people in recovery need their basic lower-level needs met first before executive functioning needs are even thought about—this includes food, clothing, housing, and safety. Someone stated that reducing stigma is needed as well. Samantha asked for education on what specifically in this county. Olivia J. shared an incident at EJHS that was disturbing, where a police officer criticized her prevention program in front of the students. Kat asked how we can get in front of people who make decisions and implement laws and policies and who have money to make things happen —i.e., judicial, state, local, government. Jacob stated that Steve Schumacher (local taxi) takes people to their Methadone clinic appointments regularly. Samantha asked for his information to contact him. Cheryl Root put in the chat to contact Tyson from Take Action Today about ways to approach law enforcement.

Next ROSC Council Meeting Date: **Monday, April 15th, 2024 @ 1:00 pm**
Location: **104 Blohm Ave in Effingham & Zoom**

Where to find past meeting minutes:



Contacts:

Effingham County ROSC Coordinator; 217-663-0823

Samantha Hicks -samanthah@hourhousetrecovery.org

Effingham County ROSC Navigator; 217-690-3773

Felicia Depoister – feliciad@hourhousetrecovery.org