

Attendees: Kristina Drum, Kyle Houser, Ambrosia Branson, Tammy Step, Sara Ruholl, Robert Estep, Bobbye Scott, Donnelle Darling, Allyssa Houser, Julie Pohlman, Jack Weber, Adam Lovell, Jonathan Burns, Norm Wilson, Nicki Hanks, Diana Doss, Zach Backlin, Paul Abraham, Johanna Gonzalez, Carrie McKinzie, Eddie McFarland

Minutes

Agenda Item: Introductions of attendees

Spotlight speaker – Tammy Step-DCFS Foster Parent Support Specialist. Tammy began by telling us she covers 7 counties surrounding Charleston. Tammy was gracious enough to share her personal experience being a mom of 5, with 2 biological children and 3 adopted through foster care. Going through her foster journey, Tammy became upset about the lack of communication between foster and biological parents. The kid's biological father was incarcerated, and Tammy and her husband asked him if they could visit him in prison. That visit opened the door to a positive relationship between foster and biological parents and children. When the kid's biological father is in a good state of mind, he can access his children. Tammy encourages other foster families to have a connection with the biological families. Tammy states that within the child welfare system, communication between foster and biological families is not cultured to how it could be. The welfare system focuses on the case and the parent's progress. Part of Tammy's job is working hard to help families foster children. A good percentage of the kids in foster homes come from families that struggle with substance use disorder. Most foster families lack education about substance use disorder and fear what they don't know about. Tammy encourages the foster families to have written communication with biological parents with a substance use disorder. Tammy is also passionate about educating families that keeping the kids from their biological parents is not in the best interest of the children. Tammy wants to help change the perception of foster families by providing more education. She states foster families start at a disadvantage with very little information when a child is placed in their home. They are given no details about the biological family, which can instill fear and negative feelings towards the biological parents. Tammy works with licensed foster parents and private agency homes, and she works with some relatives' homes. She serves anyone fostering a child in the 7 counties she serves. In addition, Tammy teaches a 7-week, 21-hour training on how trauma affects the brain. Tammy welcomes individuals to reach out to her, especially biological parents who feel they may need a mediator.

Tammy Step 217-260-7872

Recovery Navigator Update: Kyle will be continuing his education groups with Clark County Probation every other Friday and Thursday. Soon, Kyle anticipates switching his time at Clark County Jail for his education groups to Tuesday afternoons. Kyle is creating community resource folders for inmates to receive when released. The Jail Administrator has agreed to have his staff place the folders with the individual's belongings upon arrival.

Past Events: Our Laundry Day in Marshall was a huge success. We served 14 community members with 35 wash cycles and 32 dry cycles; we gave out 13 boxes of Narcan and 6 hygiene kits.

Upcoming Events: CCCRC and the Cumberland County Health Department will host a free Narcan training on April 30th at 4:30. The training will be held at Noble Health Associates in Greenup. Our drug court panel will be on June 10th at 5 p.m. We are still looking for a location in Marshall for the panel. Bobbye is going to reach out to some churches.

Plans for Fiscal Year 25: Plans for a Communication Campaign (Anti-Stigma Campaign) are in the planning stages. The campaign is being implemented based on community conversations. Stigma is still a huge component in our rural communities. The campaign also is apart of the CCCRC's strategic plan. Our slogan is "We Can and Do Recover." All six ROSC councils will be participating in the campaign. We will plan events throughout the year that relate to the slogan. Some campaign elements include personal testimonies, education and awareness, empowerment and advocacy, community support, and social media engagement. Potential events for the campaign may consist of a storytelling workshop, providing education on how to tell one's story. We plan to have a "Love Your Neighbor in Recovery" Panel in February. We will partner with Edgar County and offer two fishing events in June called "Reel for Recovery." Bobbye suggested that people in recovery provide some resources, maybe a vendor fair from people in recovery. Sara mentioned recordings of individual's testimonies or videos of them at events in the background.

Subcommittee Update: The next meeting is on May 7th at 4:30 over Zoom. Kristina will send a calendar invite with the agenda.

Reminders/Tasks:

- Please Sign the 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, and how do we get them here?
- We are planning events for the next Fiscal Year, such as the panel events. Council members are encouraged to participate in the planning to ensure their success.

Next Meeting: May 14th, 2024 4:30 p.m. at Calvary Tabernacle & Zoom

New Facebook Page: Please go like and follow The Clark/Cumberland County ROSC [Clark/Cumberland County ROSC Facebook Page](#)

