

# EDGAR COUNTY ROSC MEETING MINUTES

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April 23, 2024

5:15 PM

Paris Hospital Conference Room A and Zoom

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**Attendees:** Nicki Hanks, Karen Cook, Keith Myers, Jerica Robinson, Doug Cochran, Vicky Dick, Nate Alexander, Amanda Thompson, Cory Hanks, Sue Sheeran, Brandon Foster, Lisa Foster, Cindy Spencer, Bethany Wagoner, Michelle Creech, Lexanna Kocher, Connor Dotson, Scott Foster, Jonathan Burns, Melissa Monte, Johanna Gonzalez, Liesl Wingert, Kristin Davis, Julie Pohlman, Michelle Hibbard, Kyra Graham, and Dr. Marilyn Frey

**Spotlight Agency/Program (Rosecrance):**

Michelle Hibbard introduced herself as the Community Relations Coordinator for Rosecrance Behavioral Health of Central Illinois. She thanked Edgar County for having her so she could share the services Rosecrance offers in Central Illinois. Michelle shared a PowerPoint presentation with council members, with the first slides being on Rosecrance's contact numbers. There is a phone number for their Champaign location and their call center that is staffed 24/7. Michelle explained that they essentially provide outpatient services, they do assessments for intensive outpatient services, for continuing outpatient services, and they serve adolescents and adults. She said they do not have a date yet but will start doing medication-assisted treatment (MAT) as well. They offer telehealth as an option as well. She noted one of the big things she has pointed out since working with many ROSCs in the state is the barriers to transportation. Knowing that, making telehealth an option has been a big goal and accomplishment for them.

She mentioned they offer crisis respite services for mental health as well. Michelle noted that maybe you have someone who has come to the ER several times, they are struggling, and you notice they are just not doing well. The crisis respite unit provides services for stabilization—the service is kind of a bridge between being out in the community and a full-blown hospital stay. Someone can stay in the unit for up to 14 days. Michelle said if anyone is interested in that service, she will leave her card with her number, and they can call her.

Michelle said that they are best known for their residential substance use program, which is intense and 35 days long. She states that most individuals who graduate from this program go on to their recovery home. The recovery home has specific requirements, such as attending programming and appointments and assuming responsibility. She said that if anyone is interested at any point in coming and viewing their services/home, they are more than welcome.

She said that they also have supervised and supportive residential programs for individuals who struggle with mental health issues. The supervised residential program lasts one year, and the supportive residential program lasts six months. The goal is to transition those individuals back

into the community. She said that Rosecrance does a lot, and if she could talk all day about their services, she would! Michelle said they are involved with the judicial system, crisis response, ACT, and CST.

Michelle then went into a little bit of background about Rosecrance. She said that they have been around for 100 years now and first started with a boy's home for those who struggled with substance use. They now have 60 locations across Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin. She stated that if, for some reason, they would not be able to provide a service at one of their Central Illinois locations, they do have access to any one of their other 60 locations. Michelle said that Rosecrance does not offer a detox unit. They have access to a detox in Rockford and good relationships with other detox centers. She also said they recognize transportation as a barrier to Rockford and can assist through Medicaid. Michelle said she does not know of any insurance they do not work with. They also have a foundation that does fundraising, and they set money aside for individuals who can help offset costs.

### **Oxford House Update:**

Jonathan said he has reached out to get information regarding current landlords. He said the next step is connecting current landlords in the community with Oxford House. He still needs to receive a response from Zach.

### **Subcommittee Meeting Update:**

Nicki said we have set the Recovery Picnic date for September 15th from 1-3 PM. Nicki said that during the subcommittee, there was a ton of brainstorming for the picnic, and if anyone wants to assist in planning, please join the meetings! She said we meet on the third Monday of every month at noon via Zoom. Nicki asked Lisa to speak briefly about the Candlelight Vigil in the works. Lisa mentioned that International Overdose Awareness Day is August 31st, and CARE, ROSC, and her church will partner to host the candlelight vigil. Lisa said that when she had more information, she would share it with the council!

Nicki also mentioned our Hidden in Plain Sight event this Saturday from 9-3. She said that we are still looking for more volunteers for the event. She said it is an exciting event if you have the time to walk through it. Nicki also stated that we are about to start our Recovery Window painting. She mentioned that we will paint the following windows at the following locations: HRC/Horizon Health, Vintage Palm Salon, J's Laundry, Carquest, and Prairie Press, and do the chalkboard at Starbucks. Nicki said we are still looking at places to paint windows, and if you know of anywhere, please let us know. She said we are still looking for volunteers, and if you are interested, reach out to either Ambrosia or her. Lisa said that she spoke with Pearman's, and their windows are plastic, but they own the building next door, and we can paint those windows. Nicki also mentioned that we do have stencils that we will be using.

### **FY 25 Events, Ideas, Projects:**

Karen mentioned that ROSC will be submitting their FY 25 application to be a ROSC again next Tuesday. She also said that she knows we have been working hard as a ROSC on planning great

events such as window painting and the picnic. She also mentioned that across our 8 ROSC counties, we are planning an anti-stigma campaign for the upcoming fiscal year. She said we will run the campaign throughout the year and start it in July. Karen said we will need each of our ROSC council members' voices and help to make this possible! She told council members to let Ambrosia or Nicki know of any events or ideas they had for the upcoming fiscal year. She said we want to see council members contNicki's own this ROSC and be active members.

Karen reiterated and asked council members if they knew of any other places we could do window painting. Brandon mentioned Lot 50, as they have more oversized windows. Nicki noted that we did ask Tech Doc, and they have a certain film on their windows that does not allow us to paint. Sue mentioned the windows at the clothing. Karen also mentioned that council members go into these buildings with their windows painted to listen to what people are saying about this project. We would love to include some quotes from individuals to put in a letter to the editor of the newspaper, highlight and show the community that we stand as a force and support recovery. If you have any quotes, capture them and send them to Ambrosia and Nicki. Nicki also mentioned that we are looking for locations where people walking frequently will see them. She said that she could remember her time in active substance use when she would be walking these same sidewalks, and she would read that church sign, and it would change her whole day. She said you would be surprised by the number of people reading those signs.

Karen also mentioned that council members have yet to have a chance to listen to our first podcast episode. She said that Ambrosia and Nicki have been working on the next episode, which will include a peer, and she will talk about her experience with what it has been like to recover in Edgar County. Karen said that we are very excited for this episode and if there are any other topics that anyone wants to see be covered on the podcast, please bring them to us. With the podcast, we are highlighting stories of recovery and the resources in our communities.

### **Agency Updates:**

***ECPHD:*** Lexanna mentioned that their Celebrate Families Event is on May 6th from 4 to 7 PM at the Step Station.

***Neighborhood Watch:*** Scott mentioned that they do not have any big updates.

***Recovery Court:*** N/A

***HRC:*** Michelle is hosting a mental health first aid training coming up. Jonathan said that there will be more training coming up. Michelle said she will be working with Doug to host a lunch and learn about Human Trafficking. She also mentioned that May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and she is working in Edgar and Clark counties to get mental health awareness banners to bust the stigma. She has also ordered 200 green ribbon pins along with their brochures to pass out in Edgar and Clark counties. On May 16th, also laundry day, we encourage people to wear green for Mental Health Awareness. Michelle said that on Friday the 3rd, they plan to be at Paris Walmart from 9-1, and on the 10th, they will be at Walmart from 9-1 in Marshall. She said they are still waiting to speak with the county board about putting things on the square. But she has also ordered posters to hang up at local businesses. Michelle said that if anyone is interested in

having a banner/poster hung up at their organization pl, please let them know. Michelle said anyone is welcome to help hand out brochures and green ribbons! Jonathan also mentioned that he has been getting input about Oxford Houses, which he thought was interesting. He said it varies from persons he has talked with regarding how successful Oxford Houses are. He said that the longevity and stabilization of people leading in the house are key to their success. He said it sounded to him like the risk that the house would become a place that encourages drugs. But, he said that one of the model's strengths is that we have a local landlord who can protect the community concerns from spiraling into something harmful. He said that the landlord's role is a positive part. Sue asked if potential properties in the area were already being looked at. Jonathan mentioned that Oxford House did look at a few potential places, but nothing too serious. He said they want to build relationships here before they continue to purchase a house. Johanna mentioned that Oxford House has updated the statewide level about the extraordinary work our ROSC council is doing and Edgar County's interest in an Oxford House. Liesl highlighted Oxford House as well. She said that the County has such a strong ROSC council and believes it will feed into the house's success. She says that Oxford Houses have an ebb and flow; they are peer-led and very dependent on the makeup of the folks living in the house. Sometimes, it goes very well, and occasionally, there is a stumbling block. Liesl just said that we have such a strong ROSC council, and she believes we will actively support the individuals in the house. She said she has seen some counties where the Probation department is involved with the Oxford House. She said we are on some solid footing and have strong ROSC council members. Liesl said that our ROSC council is very vocal and active, and she knows this will play a big part in when we get an Oxford House. Johanna said that many people from the state are pushing for an Oxford House in Edgar County. Karen thanked each council member for their great work over the last year and a half.

**CARE:** Lisa said 150 pounds of medications were incinerated at Drug Take Back Day. CARE is still working on getting their 501c3. The bylaws are in the lawyer's hands, so they are waiting to hear back from him. She said CARE is also involved, and another one is coming up.

**Soup Kitchen:** Vicky said they are in the early stages of organizing a soup kitchen. She said Edgar County needs a soup kitchen. They do not have a building right now, but they are looking for one. Sue said that she is assisting with grant writing for the soup kitchen. She mentioned that Vicky and the board are working hard to get this up and running. She said that the need in Edgar County is obvious! Sue listed a few of the grants they are planning to apply for. Sue also mentioned that she was looking at the Paris District 95 report card that gives data on students and their families, and 75% of families in that district are at or below poverty. Sue said that if anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact Vicky!

**Pre-Trial Services:** Jerica mentioned that they are expanding into other counties throughout the state. She said this is good as they can provide outreach to individuals in the pre-trial phase. She noted that most individuals in pre-trial services do not get mental health or substance use treatment until after they have been sentenced, so their organization meets with them. They have been connecting them with resources in the community. She mentioned that ROSC has also provided her with wonderful resources to give individuals into the jail. She said they have had several individuals volunteer to undergo treatment without being court-ordered.

**Human Trafficking Trainings:** Doug mentioned that he has been working with Cindy Spencer on a human trafficking education program for teachers in the County. He will go into the schools on teacher institute days to provide education. He currently has 1-2 survivors who will be part of that training.

**Next Meeting:** May 28, 2024, 5:15 PM at Paris Hospital Conference Room A and Zoom

#### **Subcommittee Meeting- 4.22.24**

*Attendees: Ambrosia Branson, Lisa Foster, Keith Myers, Cindy Spencer, Michelle Hibbard, Alyssa Labry*

- Hidden in Plain Sight
  - Still looking for volunteers
  - Ambrosia went into depth about what a Hidden in Plain Sight is
    - Where we stage a teenagers bedroom inside of a tent and hide items that drugs or paraphernalia could be hidden in. When then as parents, caregivers, and anyone over the age of 18 to try to identify the items that could have drugs or paraphernalia hidden in them. We then provide education afterwards on how to talk to your kiddo if you did find these items in their room
- Window Painting
  - We are planning to host our Recovery Window painting project the first week of May. So far we have Prairie Press, J's Laundry, Vintage Palm, and Carquest that want for us to paint windows
  - Lisa said to reach out to Pearmans
- Recovery Picnic
  - September 15?
    - Lisa said Sunday afternoons work best for everyone
  - 1-3 or 5-7 PM
    - Lisa and Keith said that 1-3 PM would be better
  - Have someone there to have education about how to get things back in your life
    - Ex: booths on how to get your drivers license back, how to apply for SNAP, etc
  - Education is always good!
  - Food
    - Carla with on the tracks for food potentially
    - Lisa said Chuck would most likely be willing to make cookies again
    - Hot dogs potentially for kids?
    - Pasta salad + potato salad
  - Band/DJ-
    - look at how long they want to play/sing for
  - Put/Put golf- look into it
  - Face painting- do that again!
  - PERK could provide some type of carnival activity

- Small barnyard/partnering with shelter or humane shelter
- Foam homies
  - Special spot for events for this
  - Jenifer giving us the contact
  - Laken Richardson, 812-870-3788 Foam Homie
- T-shirts
- Candlelight Vigil- August 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Meet with Andrew Garvin to figure out
  - New Beginnings Church
  - Speakers- people who have lost a loved one to overdoses