

Metro East Recovery Council (MERC)

Madison and St. Clair Counties

Membership Protocols: FY25 7/1/24 - 6/30/25

General Membership Information

The Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Council of Madison and St. Clair Counties (known as the Metro East Recovery Council, or MERC) was formed in October 2018 in order to begin the important work of building a community system that supports recovery. All community members willing to support the vision, mission, values, and goals of MERC are welcome as members of the group.

ROSC Guiding Principles:

- Recovery is possible. People can and do recover.
- Recovery happens in communities, and as such, support of recovery is a community responsibility and value.
- Recovery supports and services provided through ROSC initiatives shall be identified and determined by individuals and families. No decisions regarding supports and services for individuals with lived experience will be made without input from those individuals.
- MERC members are committed to showing respect to one another and avoiding making judgments of those community members either seeking or maintaining recovery or those who have not yet been educated regarding recovery systems.

Inclusion and Role of Nonparticipants

Membership in MERC is open. It is MERC's goal to be inclusive rather than exclusive. There will be no "nonparticipant" distinction at this time. It shall be the right of the Council to change membership protocols at such time as the Council determines a change is necessary. Such changes will be made only by majority vote at a MERC meeting.

Vision and Mission

MERC will evaluate all new strategies and programs to ensure their adherence to the vision and mission statements.

ROSC Vision:

A community system that nurtures and supports individuals and families seeking or maintaining recovery for themselves or a loved one.

ROSC Mission:

Collaborating to build and empower communities of recovery.

Recruitment

MERC, led by the Chestnut Health Systems Community Health Specialist, will be responsible for recruitment of new members. Membership in the group will be inclusive and will remain open to anyone interested in helping to build a community system that supports recovery.

The Community Health Specialist will be responsible for:

1. Ensuring that MERC members are kept informed of the progress related to outreach strategies outlined in the ROSC Outreach and Communication Plan
2. Developing an Outreach Power Point presentation to be used by MERC members during outreach efforts in the community
3. Developing an Outreach Packet to be disseminated during outreach efforts in the community
4. Developing social media posts, website posts, email blasts, media releases, trainings, and other materials intended to recruit membership in MERC.
5. Develop a plan for member retention

The Council members will be responsible for:

1. Attending trainings developed to assist in recruitment
2. Utilizing other group meeting and events as opportunities to recruit membership in MERC.
3. Assisting the Community Health Specialist in scheduling outreach presentation opportunities and participating in presentations as time allows

Orientation

Retention of MERC members is crucial to effective strategy implementation and longevity of the project. As such, careful consideration should be given to the

provision of effective orientation of MERC members. The Community Health Specialist will oversee the orientation of new members, with assistance from current Council members. The Community Health Specialist will be responsible for the following:

1. Developing materials for new members to inform them about the purpose, history, and structure of the Metro East Recovery Council
2. Developing materials for new members to inform of MERC's vision, mission, goals, objectives, and strategies
3. Encourage new members to follow the MERC's social media and website posts
4. Including "New Member Introductions" at each MERC meeting
5. Reaching out to all new members frequently to encourage continued participation

Training

Training of MERC and community members will be vital for the success of MERC's goals. The Community Health Specialist will be responsible for providing training opportunities for both MERC and community members. Training topics will include:

1. Defining Recovery
2. Reducing Stigma
3. What is a ROSC?
4. Stories of Hope from other communities in their work to create and support a ROSC

Additional topics will be determined through analysis of assessment data and with input from individuals, families, MERC members, and community members.

Training will be provided through both webinars and in-person training sessions.

Council Work Groups

MERC members will be encouraged to join council work groups. The groups will include, but may not be limited to: Executive Committee, Family Supports Committee, and additional work groups associated with strategic goals. The Community Health Specialist will be responsible for assuring that all aspects of the grant deliverables are completed with assistance from the work groups.

Community Needs Assessment

MERC will conduct a community assessment on an annual basis. The Community Health Specialist will be responsible for all aspects of the needs assessment. The assessment process will include written surveys, focus groups, and other means determined by the Council and the Community Health Specialist. Consideration will be given to ensuring participation of all community sectors in gathering assessment data, particularly those individuals with lived experience and their families. Consideration will also be given to ensuring that both counties are represented in assessment efforts.

A summary of the assessment data will be made available to MERC members and the public through the website, meeting minutes, and media releases.

Strategic Plan

MERC's Strategic Plan will be developed based on data gathered during the assessment process. Data will be analyzed and used to develop goals, objectives, and strategies which are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound. The Community Health Specialist and Council members will be responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating strategies included in the plan. All strategies will be aligned with MERC's vision and mission, as well as long-term goals and pertinent grant deliverables.

Outcome data will be gathered, assessed, and shared with MERC members and any other interested parties.

Changes to the strategic plan will be permitted by majority vote during a regular MERC meeting.