

Minutes

Attendance and Introductions

Coles County ROSC Recovery Navigator, Whitley Grayson
Coles County ROSC Recovery Coordinator, Dana Tell
Wingman Ministries, Gary Stephen
Community Member- Mikhail
Community Member- Timothy
Community Member- George
Community Member- Kevin
Community Member- Edna
CORS Navigator- Brandy
Community Recovery Technical Assistance Specialist Region 4, Julie Pohlman – Zoom
SAIL, Brenda Ingle – Zoom
SAIL, Carlee- Zoom
Gateway Foundation- Carrie McKinzie- Zoom
Hour House- Tami Clancy- Zoom
West Central IL ROSC, Jeff McFadden – Zoom

Welcome and Introductions:

Dana thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She noted that it is noon and we will try to stay on schedule because the reason we are here is because our council has recognized that transportation is an issue in Coles County and anyone wishing to attend can use the Zipline to get here. We will wrap up the meeting so that anyone riding the Zipline can be downstairs to catch the bus at 1pm and get to their original bus stop before 2pm.

Minutes and Agenda Approval:

Dana asked the Council to look at the minutes from August. Whitley put them on the screen for those attending by Zoom. Dana asked for a motion to approve August's Minutes. Brenda motioned and Carrie seconded. Dana asked for a motion to approve September's Agenda. Gary motioned and Carrie seconded. Dana realized she had skipped the introductions. She said let's go back on the agenda and do introductions. Everyone introduced themselves then Dana called on those on the Zoom portion for them to introduce themselves.

Guest Speaker:

Dana explained to the council that the council had decided that they wanted to hear from a person with lived experience at each meeting. These stories offer hope, remind us why we are here and help us to stay focused on filling in the gaps in our community. Whitley schedules the guest speaker each month so Dana asked Whitley if we have a speaker for this meeting. Whitley then introduced George. George gave his recovery story. His story was full of hope and strength.

Navigator News:

Jail & Probation Update- Whitley informed the Council that there hasn't been much change since she started offering weekly education groups at the Coles County Jail a few months ago. She has been seeing the same people each week she has been there. Whitley will continue to help facilitate education groups at the Douglas County Jail as needed. She holds weekly education groups at Probation, LifeLinks, The Haven, and Hope. Additionally, she offers monthly education groups at the Mattoon Library and Charleston Library that are open to the public. The September education groups will focus on "Creating and Maintaining Motivation in Recovery."

Goal Status:

Facebook- Dana shared that the Facebook status is still Excellent, with 191 likes and 390 followers. Dana read a Facebook insight that told her that over the last 90 days the page received 69 new followers, 129 new posts, and 733 reactions. She thanked everyone for liking, sharing and reacting to the posts that are on the page. She encouraged everyone to continue to share with their friends.

What 3 goals for fiscal year- Dana asked the Council about the 3 goals and opened the floor up for discussion. There was discussion on getting a bus to travel to different locations in Coles County to distribute Narcan and other harm reduction materials. Dana asked where we could park this bus, or where they would like to see the bus parked. The response was libraries and food pantries. Dana agreed that those locations are great and informed the council that we already have Narcan and material at all these locations in Coles County. She also stated that these products are available all day they are open, without waiting for the bus to be scheduled. Another Idea was transitional housing that people could progress through as they had more time in recovery using a tiered system. Brandy explained that we have a system like that already in place. The Council agreed that we need more recovery housing. Gary informed the Council that they may be a few more places available shortly.

Activity Updates:

Safe Passage – Charleston Police Department and Mattoon Safe Passage Program is continuing to operate.

Narcan Distribution sites- We have 69 sites in Coles County. We continue to look for more places available to display Narcan, Fentanyl test strips, Xylazine Test Strips, and Deterra Bags. Most of our sites have all of these.

Past Events:

National Night Out- Dana shared that we had a table at the First Southern Baptist Church at National Night Out on August 6th at 5:30pm. There was first responders, K9 teams from Mattoon PD and EIU PD, A Helicopter, and other service organizations.

Candlelight Vigil- In honor of National Overdose Awareness Day (Aug 31st), we held our Candlelight Vigil at Family Worship Center in Charleston on August 29th at 7pm. We had 2 speakers, and over 100 in attendance. WEIU TV covered the event.

Upcoming events:

Proclamations- Dana told the Council that the Mayors have the proclamations to sign for September, which is Recovery Month. We plan to contact the Mayors in Mattoon, Charleston, Ashmore, Oakland, and new this year Humboldt and Lerna. Dana said she has already contacted the Chair of the County Board to sign a proclamation this year. Our goal is to have them all sign the proclamation.

Hobby Fair- Dana told the Council that we are partnering with EIU and LifeSpan for the Hobby Fair. We have the LifeSpan Center on September 9th from 10-2pm. We have 20 tables to fill with Hobbyist. We are ready to go!

October—Pop-up Narcan Sites—Dana told the Council we are going to try to schedule Pop-up Narcan displays, train people to use Narcan, share what Detera Bags are for, and hopefully have Needle boxes, due to Drug Take Back Day being in October.

November- 100 Homeless Bags- Dana told the Council that due to November being Homeless Awareness Month, we will make another 100 bags for people experiencing homelessness. Dana said these bags will go to places like the homeless shelter, police Departments, Wingman Ministries, Resurrection Point and the Mission House. We will talk more about this in the future.

Winter Clothing Drive—Dana told the council that we are collecting coats and will keep them at the ELKS until November when we will have disbursement days after Thanksgiving before the weather gets cold. The ELKS received \$2000 to purchase items for the Clothing drive. Having multiple distribution days will allow people who need a coat to go there and pick out a coat that fits them. This will also allow them to go back multiple times if needed and no one will have to fill out paperwork or prove they are in need.

Community Meetings- Dana mentioned the other community meetings. She encouraged others to attend the Interagency Meeting led by Ky Newsome, and the Citizens Against Child Abuse by Kim White. She asked Laura to speak about the Wellness Collaboration meeting.

Community Events—Dana asked Brenda if she wanted to share about the Resource Fair with SAIL in September. Brenda gave the details.

Next Meeting:

Time and Meeting Location: Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 7th at noon at lifespan center or by Zoom at the same time.

<https://zoom.us/j/96781724024?pwd=b3hFWDV1cExYa0pEa1BqTUx6ejJLUT09>
Meeting ID: 967 8172 4024 Passcode: 611963