
Attendees: Ambrosia Branson, Angie Hunt, Brycen McFadden, Casey McClain, Christine Pierce, Diane Zell, Dylan Adair, Kandis Mills, Kaycie Sanders, Leanna Morgan, Liesl Wingert, Lisa Blackwell, Matthew Hales, Summer Phillips, Wendy Lambert

Guest Speaker(s): Ambrosia Roberts

Note Taker: Matthew Hales

Minutes

Introductions

- Ambrosia Branson, Circle of Care Project Coordinator
- Angie Hunt, DCHD, Healthcare Navigation Specialist
- Brycen McFadden, Oxford House Outreach
- Casey McClain, DCHD Mental Health Counselor
- Christine Pierce, Carle Recovery Outreach
- Diane Zell, NAMI Representative for ROSC and DART Leadership
- Dylan Adair, Carle Recovery Outreach
- Kandis Mills, Douglas County ROSC Recovery Navigator
- Kaycie Sanders, Dial a Ride Program Director
- Leanna Morgan, previous Douglas County ROSC Coordinator
- Lisa Blackwell, Douglas County ROSC Coordinator
- Matthew Hales, Librarian, Newman Regional Library District
- Summer Phillips, DCHD Health Educator and Outreach Coordinator
- Wendy Lambert, Vermillion County ROSC

Organization Spotlight/ Guest(s)

Ambrosia Branson, Circle of Care Project Coordinator

What is Circle of Care? It is support for children, youth, and families grieving loss due to substance use related death and disorders. Circle of Care is a one-year project In Partnership with the Illinois Family Resource Center and Hour House. It is a statewide grand funded program through IDHS/SUPR.

- Grief support services directory of grief support services in Illinois and nationwide, housed on the Illinois Family Resource Center website.
- Grief and substance use disorder training will teach attendees strategies to navigate youth needs. The w Region 4 free two-day training will be held virtually on March 6th and 7th. Registration details will be shared in the near future.

- Online resource toolkits will be available based on sector and developmental age. The sectors that will be of focus are education, healthcare/ first responders, social service agencies, families and communities, youth serving organizations, faith-based organizations, and treatment agencies/ recovery community organizations.
- Handle with Care training to equip natural helpers to feel comfortable to respond to kids who have experienced a loss or have a caregiver with substance use disorder in the home.
- Handle with Care Initiative created to help vulnerable children through partnerships between law enforcement, educators and mental health providers.
- Handle with Care Goals are to prevent children's exposure to trauma and violence, to mitigate negative effects of children who have experienced trauma, increase knowledge within communities surrounding this issue, and to help students succeed in school

Comfort Bags for Kids that will be given out to natural helpers during trainings teaching how to use the comfort bag activities and materials. The total number of bags for the one-year project is 14,400 bags in English and Spanish containing evidence-based materials for Sensory problems or Neurodivergent, Mimbles balls, The 7 C's bookmark. Youth bags have books in them: Feelings book, In my heart, or Ink about it - Journal

It was mentioned that NAMI has some things for children, such as a coloring book about feelings, access to NAMI llama, having parents and teachers as allies information. There is also a conference on October 18-19th.

- Diane Zell and Ambrosia will connect to discuss student assistance with will assembling comfort bags from the Campus Club at U of I. Diane meets with students every other week.

Ambrosia shared some statistics

- The number of licensed professionals treating or specializing in child and youth grief, data was available by region, with region 4 having the least professionals available.
- Preliminary findings of available clinical grief support services across Illinois.

For questions regarding Circle of Care, please contact a team member.

- Ambrosia Branson, MS, Circle of Care Project Coordinator, 217-549-8772, ambrosiab@hourhouserecovery.org
- Paul Tart, CPRS, Circle of Care Trainer, 217-254-2993, pault@hourhouserecovery.org
- Teri Moore, MBA, Circle of Care Program Planner, 217-254-4826, terim@hourhouserecovery.org

Upcoming Events

Recovery Month (September 1-30)

- Purple solar torchlights were placed out on Overdose Awareness Day and have remained out during September for Recovery Month. The lights will be picked up by either Lisa or Kandi on October 1.
- Be BRAVE will have Pace for Petey and Jake's Jog on September 28th. For information, reach out to Linda Scribner.
- Recovery Literature library box being painted by a local artist. Additional information will be shared at a later date.

Addressing Stigma Virtual Panel (October 16)

- Flyer is in the newsletter and has been emailed out.
- Part of Communication Campaign. family stigma is the theme. Virtual Panel with approved CEUs, thank you Prevention First!

Homeless Awareness Month (November)

- Council update on resource bags for awareness month. Lisa and Leanna have been looking over inventory of supplies. There are enough hygiene kits to use for this project.
- The group discussed setting a goal of 50 backpack or drawstring bag set. The 20 that had been created in spring went faster than expected.

Subcommittee Updates, If any.

Transitional Housing Subcommittee in person only. Meetings led by Linda Scribner.

- Due to scheduling conflicts, the subcommittee did not meet in September. The next meeting is scheduled for 10/4/24 at 9:00am at Douglas County Annex, Tuscola.
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Recovery Navigator (Kandis Mills)

- Kandis attended the Illinois Recovery Rally in Chicago. She met many professionals and people in recovery.
- Kandis has been going to the jail with Darlene for education groups, still going well.
- Kandis will be scheduling community education groups in the near future.

ROSC Deliverables

The Community Survey is to state in November. Council discussed questions that were shared from the Effingham County ROSC to use for an example. The questions discussed were the following:

- How do you receive information of county resources/events/services?
- Do you know anyone who suffers from substance use disorder?
- Do you know anyone who suffers from a mental health disorder?
- Do you know where to go for professional substance use or mental health resources and/or services? (e.g. treatment, counseling, peer support specialists)
- Do you know where to go for Recovery support resources? (e.g. 12 step meetings, Celebrate Recovery, support groups, peer to peer support, ROSC, SMART Recovery)
- Do you know where to go for access to harm reduction materials and/or resources? (e.g. Narcan, medicated assisted recovery clinics, sharps disposals, prescription medication disposal)
- Do you know anyone who is in Recovery from a substance use or mental health disorder? (this includes yourself if applicable)
- What do you think is the most important support for someone who is new in Recovery?
- Do you know where to go receive help in accessing free or reduced: (yes or no on selected items such as food, housing, family services, etc.)
- Do you feel confident/comfortable in advocating for yourself in you need these resources presently?
- What do you think prevents someone from seeking help for substance use or mental health disorders?

The council discussed best ways to get the surveys out into the community. Some places discussed were the food pantries, ERBA, DCHD, waiting area in probation, local businesses, Dial-A-Ride buses, support meeting leaders, and DOPP sites.

Other Business and agency updates

Diane Zell mentioned at NAMI has an event coming up: Strides Against Stigma Walk (October 13). Visit www.namichampaign.org for additional information.

Next meeting: October 23, 2024 at 10:00am at Douglas County Health Dept. and Zoom.