

EDGAR COUNTY ROSC MEETING MINUTES

September 24, 2024

5:15 PM

Paris Hospital Conference Room A and Zoom

Introduction of attendees: Nicki Hanks, Jessica Parrill, Tara Lane, Lexanna Strader, Ambrosia Branson, Dennis Eveland, Doug Cochran, Lisa Foster, Scott Foster, Jackie Cunningham, Norm Wilson, Cory Hanks, Rick Cook, Sue Sheeran, Kristina Drum, Vicki Dick, Janice Watson, Nate Alexander, Johnathon Burns, James Sanders, Jerica Robinson, Debbie Cook, Michelle Hibbert, Mary Phillippi,

Circle of Care Project

Ambrosia discussed the Circle of Care project, a statewide grant-funded initiative under the Illinois Family Resource Center. The project aims to build a network of support for children, youth, and families grieving loss due to substance use-related death and disorders. Ambrosia's team includes a project coordinator, a program planner, an administrative assistant, two trainers, a researcher, and an online resource toolkit developer. The project has four components: a grief support services directory, online resource toolkits, grief and substance use disorder-specific training and promotion of the Handle with Care initiative. Ambrosia also shared the results of a landscape analysis conducted by the researcher, highlighting the lack of licensed providers specializing in child and youth grief in the state. The team is currently conducting phase two of the research, focusing on non-clinical grief support services and resources. Ambrosia encouraged community members to share information about any grief support resources for children or teens in Edgar County.

Comprehensive Project and Training Initiatives

Ambrosia discussed the comprehensive nature of their project, which includes creating 21 online resource toolkits for various sectors, each tailored to the developmental age of the child. These toolkits aim to equip natural helpers with the tools to respond to children's grief and substance use issues. Ambrosia also mentioned the project's goal to complete these toolkits by the end of June. Furthermore, she introduced grief and substance use disorder-specific pieces of training, which will be provided free of charge and virtually. These trainings aim to educate attendees about substance use disorder, mental health, and family dynamics and will offer between 9 to 13 and a half CEUs. Ambrosia also mentioned that these trainings are open to anyone, regardless of their region, and are designed to foster interaction and resource sharing within communities.

Creating Comfort Bags for Kids

Ambrosia discussed the creation of 14,400 comfort bags for kids, which will be distributed during their threads of hope pieces of training and handle-with-care initiative training. The bags are

designed to provide comfort and support for children in various stressful or traumatic experiences, focusing on social and emotional learning. The bags will be divided into youth and teen bags, with English and Spanish versions. Ambrosia also mentioned the inclusion of items such as Mumble Balls, wooden hearts with activity markers, bookmarks with the 7 C's and teen help lines, and books and journals in the bags. The materials are expected to arrive by the end of October, and the bags will be assembled for distribution during trainings.

Handle With Care Initiative

Ambrosia discussed the Handle with Care initiative, which aims to mitigate the negative effects of stressful or traumatic experiences on children. She explained that if a child experiences a traumatic event, such as a domestic violence situation, law enforcement would notify the school the next day, asking them to handle the child with care. Ambrosia also mentioned that her team could provide technical assistance and training to communities interested in implementing this initiative. Nicki raised a concern about the availability of child therapists in rural areas, suggesting that many therapists are generally licensed clinical social workers or professional counselors. Ambrosia acknowledged this and emphasized the need for community members to help identify providers that offer grief support services for children.

Community Involvement, Training, and Resource Awareness

Ambrosia discussed the importance of community involvement in supporting children and the need for further training for law enforcement. She mentioned that her team was waiting for approval from the Law Enforcement Training Standards Board to submit an outline and narrative for their training. Ambrosia also emphasized the need for more volunteers to help fill comfort bags for children. Nicki then introduced the October communication campaign and the upcoming December counseling date. She also announced plans for a community survey to measure awareness of available resources and identify potential gaps or barriers in the community. She encouraged everyone to provide input and suggestions for the survey.

Winter Donations and Teen Overdose Concerns

Nicki discussed the need for donations of hats and gloves for the upcoming winter. She suggested potential donation spots such as the HRC, Health Department, and the Life Center. Nicki also proposed reaching out to hotels for potential donations and mentioned a plan to attend the Halls of Madness event on October 12th to collect resources. Jessica expressed concern about recent teen overdoses and the challenges faced in helping minors.

The team decided to coordinate efforts to spread awareness about the counterfeit pill issue in Edgar County among the youth of District 95.

Agency Updates

Individuals provided updates on various agencies, including the Health Department Flue Drive, Neighborhood Watch Services, and HRC. Johnathon mentioned a new funding stream for recovery support services, which could lead to expansion of services. Johnathon also shared plans to start sending a mental health therapist to Kansas schools. Lastly, Lisa mentioned the upcoming CARE Board meeting on October 4th and the subsequent work on the 501(c)(3) project.

Community Outreach Program Growth and Impact

Sue and Vicki discussed the growth and impact of her community outreach program, which includes a soup kitchen. They highlighted the importance of providing not only physical nourishment but also spiritual support, as evidenced by the number of people seeking prayer and the positive changes she's witnessed in the community. Doug also mentioned the program's efforts to combat human trafficking and provide housing for those in need. The conversation ended with an announcement about the relocation of the Celebrate Recovery program to Wednesday nights and the potential for a new NA meeting at Lake Ridge Church on Saturdays.

October communication campaign virtual panel event.

ROSC is partnering with ****Prevention First**** to host a virtual panel on ****Families and Substance Use**** this October 16th from 12:00-1:00 PM. The discussion topics will be The Impact on Families, Stigma and Isolation, mental Health, and Support Networks. We encourage everyone to attend and share this important event.

December council meeting date

The council discussed the dates and voted December 17th would work best for everyone.

Community Survey

As part of our ROSC deliverables will be developing a ****community survey**** to measure the level of awareness of available resources and to identify any potential gaps or barriers that may still exist in our community. Your input is valuable,

Next Meeting: October 22nd, 2024 at Paris Hospital Conference Room A and on Zoom

Where to Find Past Minutes: [Recovery Coaching Network at GSU \(govst.edu\)](https://govst.edu)

If you are interested in joining the CARE Coalition, please reach out to Angie Hamilton at 35ahamilton@gmail.com

ROSC Educational Trainings and Events Subcommittee

September 19th, 2024

1:00 PM

Zoom

Introduction of Attendees: Nicki Hanks, Jessica Parrill, Mary Alice Parks, April Burns, Jenny McMahan, Lisa Foster, Conner Dotson, Alyssa Labry, Michelle Hilbert, Amanda Thompson

- Soup Kitchen Update
 - The number is increasing daily, 110 meals were served on 9-18
 - Needing volunteers, also always accepting donations
- Laundry Day Update
 - We were able to assist the community with 65 wash cycles, 67 dry cycles,
 - The next laundry day is October 10th at 9:00 AM
- Red Ribbon Week
 - Prizes for kids
 - Nicki sent Angie the link to order the bracelets.
 - Looking for volunteers to help disperse bracelets to the schools
 - Poster contest
 - Need to send the theme picture for this year to all participating schools.
- Educational Presentations
 - Topics
 - Individuals mentioned homelessness and transportation as community pieces of training.
 - Other pieces of training were mentioned for individuals in recovery such as bike safety and laws related to operating a bike, budgeting skills, cooking on a budget, parenting skills (how important it is to keep kids on a routine), How to be a good role model, keeping adult issues private, self-reflection journaling (what makes you a good parent and not so good parent? What can you do differently?), how to reclaim your credit score and why it matters, rebounding after a lapse in recovery, self-discovery (finding what makes you happy.) and why honesty is the best policy.

- Collaboration
 - Michelle from Rosecrance is willing to collaborate.
 - Where
 - Nicki will ask Horizon Health for a space at the cornerstone building.
- Community Survey
 - Nicki asks that anyone with any suggestions on questions regarding substance use or mental health they think should be sent out in the community survey community.
- Honey Bee Festival
 - We will not be participating this year due to the sign-up fee.
- Open Discussion
 - Sock Hat and glove drive
 - discussed organizing a hat and glove drive for the upcoming winter season, with plans to start in October and seek drop-off locations at HRC, the Health Department, and Horizon Health. They also considered partnering with the Halls of Madness and Scare on the Square events for promotion and donation collection, with the possibility of face painting at these events. Nicki took responsibility for creating the flyer for the drive and reaching out to potential locations. and potential partnerships with Dollar Tree and Dollar General.
- Transportation
 - Nicki will be typing a letter asking for help with transportation to all of the local churches. She will send it to the subcommittee for edits before mailing the letters out.
 - An individual recommended reaching out to Faith in Action to see if they could assist in any way,

