

# WINNEBAGO ROSC

## MEETING MINUTES

**LOCATION:** Virtual - Zoom

**DATE:** 9/10/24

**ATTENDEES:** Erick Williams (Host- EDDR Foundation), Halle Berghoff (EDDR Foundation), Richard Springs (EDDR Foundation ROSC), Ben Rudolph (Region 2 Technical Assistant Statewide ROSC), Sana Siddiqui (Mental Health Coordinator, Winnebago County Sheriff's Office), Scott Lewis (Winnebago County Housing Authority), Maria (Grupo Lenguaje Del Corazon), Tiara Sims (Reentry Program Manager, Goodwill of Northern Illinois), Blake Worman (DuPage ROSC/Serenity House Counseling Services), Adam Hartzell (Boone County Health Department COAR Program Manager), Nathaniel Bovell (Community Resource Specialist at Prairie State Legal Services), Nitro Starling (Jeremiah Development), Chris Burton (NAACP Rockford), Janene Stephenson (Stephenson Business Center Incorporated)

**TIME:** 10:00 am -11:00 am

## AGENDA ITEMS

- I. Introductions: Name, Organization, how to stay in touch.
- II. ROSC Overview: What is the ROSC and why it is important to the community? Mission: Building a collaborative community while recognizing multiple pathways to recovery. Vision: to be a resource to the community including persons in recovery, their families, and others.
- III. Jeremiah Development: Nitro Starling gave a brief presentation on Jeremiah Development and what they do. They are a resource center that focuses on physical, mental, governmental, and social agencies as well as on building community. They help members of the community connect with various resources throughout Rockford.
- IV. Winnebago County Jail: Sana Siddiqui talked through all of the different support services that the Winnebago County Jail offers. There is a heavy focus on helping those who need it get the mental health and medical support they need while incarcerated as well as connecting them with resources once they re-enter the community. They also help connect people with education and housing and are working on developing a ride-sharing service. Overall they focus on helping people

both while they are incarcerated and also with making detailed discharge plans so they can be set up for success.

- V.** Goodwill: Tiara Sims spoke about her organization Goodwill and the services they offer. They have a focus on training and helping people with finding employment. They offer re-entry services, GED programs, disability programs, among others and all of their training is WIOA approved. Wrap-around services are also available for students who may need them from help with transportation to help getting clothes.
- VI.** Positive Reflections Community Outreach: Janene Stephenson spoke about her non-profit Positive Reflections as well as her other business endeavors. She put emphasis on supporting small businesses as well as educating others on how they can grow and support their own businesses. They have networking events regularly and offer things like private pick-ups and event spaces to help those with small businesses.
- VII.** Prairie State Legal Services: Nathaniel Bovell spoke about Prairie State Legal Services which is a non-profit law firm offering free civil legal services to those who need it. Prairie State helps with things like getting orders of protection, guardianships, evictions, housing discrimination cases, illegal lockout cases, among other civil legal issues. They have a focus on helping victims of Domestic Violence and have a legal advice line specific to those who need help in that area. They also have a special Veterans Program so they provide legal services to veterans, active service members, and their dependents.
- VIII.** Upcoming Events: There is the 2024 National Rally for Recovery upcoming on September 21<sup>st</sup> in Chicago, which is a major event attended by lots of vendors and with lots of opportunities for education and raising awareness. Positive Reflections is having a Chucks and Pearls event October 12<sup>th</sup> as well as their monthly Business First Friday meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Jeremiah Development is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- IX.** Suicide Prevention Day: This month's meeting landed on National Suicide Prevention Day, and so Erik took the opportunity to speak on the issue of suicide in Rockford. Winnebago County has the highest suicide rate of any county in Illinois and the rate has risen 17% since 2020. There was a call for all the organizations to work together, because making a plan to deal with this issue is the only way to prevent it from getting worse. Many people in the meeting shared personal stories, thoughts, and ideas related to this issue, and the topic of the recently opened casino in Rockford came up a few times. Many people view it as something which will only serve to make issues worse so it is important that we have open conversations on this topic and work together to try and solve it.
- X.** Strategic Initiatives
  - Goal 1: Increase the involvement of family members and other natural supports in the Recovery process of loved ones
  - Goal 2: Decrease Stigma in the community
  - Goal 3: Housing
  - Goal 4: Employment
  - Goal 5: Transportation
  - Goal 6: Improve knowledge of recovery events in the community
  - Goal 7: Build Recovery programs alongside providers
  - Goal 8: Increase and Maintain ROSC Council
  - Goal 9: Establish Recovery Support Services for Winnebago County

**XI.** Additional topics included EDDR providing spaces for any community events that may be hosted, and EDDR's programs they offer. Erick also spoke on the success of EDDR's Overdose Awareness Party which was held on August 31<sup>st</sup>.