

EDGAR COUNTY ROSC MEETING MINUTES

October 23, 2024

5:15 PM

Paris Hospital Conference Room A and Zoom

Attendees: Nicki Hanks, Jessica Parrill, Tara Lane, Lexanna Strader, Marilyn Frey, Norm Wilson, James Sanders, Kristin Davis, Conner Dotson, Bethany Wagoner, Nate Alexander, Janice Watson, Rick Cook, Jenifer Bonnewit, Julie Pohlman, Doug Cochran, Mary Phillips, Janetta Beasley, Sue Sheeran, Vicki Dick, Cory Hanks, Scott Foster, Lisa Foster, Amanda Thompson, Mary Alice Parks,

Spotlight Agency/Program PERK (People Encouraging Remarkable Kids)

Jennifer Bonnewit introduced herself as the PERK program coordinator. The PERK program takes place in Edgar County specifically Kansas and Paris schools the PERK program mentors kids from kindergarten through eighth grade although they have a few at the high school. The students have been referred by teachers or staff from our local school and then they pair them with volunteer positive adult role models here within the community. They meet with their students twice a month from September to April, which happens at school during lunch. The PERK program also hosts two events each year. The PERK program coincides with our mental health supporters, guidance counselors, teachers, and school staff to help point our kids in the right direction. How do I get a mentor? Our students are all referred by teaching staff, other administration, guidance counselors, or social workers. The PERK program takes referrals that get filtered into extreme moderate or slight. The PERK program is not first come first serve they pair the highest need first. The students are paired like this for many reasons it could be that the child is struggling, socially or behaviorally, something traumatic has happened to them. The mentors do not replace our social workers and all the other wonderful people who work with youth in our community. The PERK program provides good pairing when pairing a child with a mentor. They interview the student as well as their mentor, and based on their personalities and their needs they will be paired after the mentor is aware of the child's needs. Needs could be such as, the student is struggling with making connections with other students or struggling with social skills etc. When parents' issues are present the adolescent could be more comfortable with a male or female mentor, as well. Regarding this specific council, we have a lot of children who struggle with addiction within their families, and this could come with domestic abuse, displacement, and homelessness. As they get older, they could also be part of that as well, and we kind of help identify those needs but mostly just listening because having a supportive person in your life is so incredibly beneficial. Just simple questions can make all the difference in a child's life. This mentorship can benefit and promote better attendance at school for that student. It encourages them to perform better behaviorally, socially, and academically. It's just an amazing program and a lot of our mentors carry on from young grades up until they graduate from the program. The student can have a positive influence in their life. The PERK program also helps release some of the weight that social workers/guidance counselors and our teachers carry seeing so many students. Due to large class sizes, one-on-one time is not always readily available. Students that we

would consider at high risk, as they get older or have small behavioral issues or social issues small traumatic events if they're not supported early on, they can blow up as they get older. We have over 90 students matched with a mentor at this time.

Communication Campaign November

During Homelessness Awareness Month, Jessica and Nicki will be dispersing 25 backpacks to individuals in need in our community. Please share all of our infographics for the communication campaign on your social media pages.

Deliverable Documents

Nicki went over the rough draft questions she had for the community survey. The council as a whole went over questions to be added. We need to gauge people that want help. Do they know where to drop off donations or how to get involved? We need to gauge the awareness in our community of other resources. We need to have an open comment box at the bottom and at the bottom of the survey invite them to our next ROSC Council meeting. We will have a paper survey, and we will also have a QR code that individuals can scan on their phones which will take them to a direct link to the community survey. We will also write a press release with a QR code to put in the newspaper. Council members also suggested looking up all other surveys already done in our community. We should ask what type of therapy would engage you to seek therapy such as in-person, virtual, or in groups.

Subcommittee Update (Nicki Hanks/Jessica Parrill)

We are hoping to do an educational presentation in January on compassion fatigue. If this is something you are interested in please email or call Nicki. We have also created a letter to all of the churches in Edgar County to be mailed in regards to helping create a transportation list for Edgar County. I hope this will bring more Faith-Based voices to the table. Jessica and Nicki will have a resource table at the Scare on The Square this Saturday, anyone who would like to come to join us we would love to have you. We will also have a donation box set up for the hat, glove, and sock drive.

Agency Updates

Recovery Court (Norm Wilson)

They are in the process of evaluating candidates for the program.

HRC (Johnathon Burns)

HRC still has no waitlist for Substance Use Counseling.

CARE Coalition (Lisa Foster/Nicki Hanks)

Nicki stated that the bracelets for Red Ribbon Week are in the office and she will be dispersing them in all participating schools from October 28th – 30th. She will be picking up the color contest pages at that time also.

Soup Kitchen (Vicki Dick/ Sue Sheeran)

The soup kitchen needs more volunteers. Hours consist of : Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:30 AM-1:00 PM Tuesday and Thursday 10 AM – 1 PM. The soup kitchen has also had generous donations from local agencies to cut cost.

Trafficking training (Doug)

Doug went to the regional office of education and spoke at the fall retreat. He spoke with teachers K-12 on signs and indicators of human trafficking. He is currently working on 4 different human trafficking cases within and outside of our county. Doug is looking for local schools and agencies to do presentations.

RU Recovery (Rick Cook)

The number of new participants is still growing. They are looking for help with sponsors and also looking for individuals to be part of the leadership team within the program.

Celebrate Recovery (Janice Watson, Cory Hanks)

Celebrate Recovery has seen an increase in new participants.

Community Update (Nate Alexander)

New NA meeting Saturdays at 6. Nicki and Nate had a meeting last week about the homelessness issue we are seeing in our community. We will be trying to start an Edgar County housing initiative.

Edgar County Housing Initiative

Purpose: Establish opportunities for housing resources in Edgar County so that there would be a place for everyone to have shelter.

Step 1- Coordinate with any other groups of people or organizations working on this to help establish those resources

Step 2- To acquire a needs-based understanding of what resources are needed so we target the most effective use of our time and efforts to meet those needs.

Step 3- To build up a pool of assets that would be used to establish the resources needed in the housing sector to have ready when needed for those opportunities.

Step 4- Establish a system that would give a continuous flow of resources in Edgar County that would help give more opportunities to those who need shelter.

Step 5- Keep evaluating the needs versus the resources when it comes to housing and shelter in Edgar County.

Please reach out to Nate or Nicki if you have any resources or would like to join our efforts in this process.

Next month's spotlight speaker

At next month's meeting, we will have Patrick from the Center of Community Engagement at Chestnut as our guest speaker. He will be discussing, the process of becoming a Certified Recovery Congregation, an important topic for strengthening our community's response to those in recovery. I want to challenge you to bring at least one local pastor or church leadership team member to this meeting.

We need as many local pastors to attend as possible to ensure this vital information reaches our faith-based communities. This is a great opportunity for us to come together and make a positive impact.

Next Meeting: November 26th, 2024 at Paris Hospital Conference Room A and on Zoom

EDGAR COUNTY ROSC EDUCATION, TRAININGS, AND EVENTS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2024
1:00 PM
Via Zoom

Attendees: Nicki Hanks, Jessica Parrill, James Sanders, Conner Dotson, Jeannie Combs, Lexanna Strader, Johanna Gonzalez, Cindy Spencer, Alyssa Labry

New Schedule, Red Ribbon Week, and Judging Plans

Nicki led the discussion about the new schedule for the subcommittee meeting, which will now coincide with the laundry day event. The meeting time was decided to be 2 PM or 2:30 PM. Nicki also mentioned the upcoming Red Ribbon Week and thanked Lexanna and HRC for their help. The bracelets for the event were to be separated by Jessica and Nicki on Tuesday. Lexanna was tasked with finding the email regarding the date for picking up the bracelets. Lexanna and Nicki agreed to pick up papers on the 28th and drop off bracelets at schools, except for Kansas where they need to pick up papers on the 30th. Judging was initially scheduled for the 29th but likely needs to be pushed to the 30th due to the Kansas papers. Nicki will check with Angie on the judging schedule and send an email with all the details. The discussion also covered coloring pages.

Self-Care Presentation and Housing Partnerships

Nicki discussed the need for a presentation on self-care and burnout, inspired by a recent conference. She proposed partnering with the Health Department for this initiative. Alyssa and Lexanna agreed to discuss the idea with their respective teams. Nicki also mentioned her plans to work on housing issues, having had a conversation with Zach from Oxford House, who seemed uninterested in coming to the county at the moment. Johanna disagreed with this assessment, stating that Oxford House had expressed interest in Edgar County. They agreed to revisit this issue.

Community Projects and Second Chance Employment

Nicki discussed the ongoing hat and sock drive, planning to present at the Rotary and seek donations for the living room, soup kitchen, and homeless backpacks. Alyssa mentioned her involvement with several companies in Edgar County for second-chance employment. James reported on his work with schools, including a resource table at a parent-teacher conference and a family fun night at Kansas TLC. The team also discussed the importance of combining different pathways to make changes in the community and encourage voting and choice-making.

Recovery Alliance Meeting and Upcoming Events

Nicki encouraged the team to email her any urgent matters and mentioned her intention to bring Jessica to the next Recovery Alliance meeting. Issy confirmed the next meeting date as December 17th from 11:15 to 12:15. Lexanna mentioned upcoming vaping presentations and the availability of clothing and hat socks in their lobby. Nicki also reminded the team to help spread the word about Jessica's educational groups, which are now open to all community members.

