

Effingham County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, October 21st, 2024

Time: 1:00-2:30 pm

Location: 104 Blohm Ave, Effingham IL & Zoom

Attendees:

Zoom: Kelly Buscher & Maria Deaconesa (Effingham County Case Workers- EPL), Carrie McKenzie (Gateway Foundation), Rebecca Moore (Evolve Counseling, CADC), Savannah Sholthaus (ROE 3 Family Resource Specialist)

In person: Lyndsey Reedy (Effingham Co Health Dept), Samantha Hicks (Effingham County ROSC Coordinator), Beth Wise (ECHD, Family Connections), Jen Galavan (Family Resource Center of Effingham Co), Becky Rhodes (Family Life Center Parent Coordinator), Alex Schnieder (HSHS Community Health Outreach Specialist)

Secretary: Samantha Hicks

Minutes

Introductions

Council meeting attendees introduced themselves and agencies they represent or reason for being present.

Samantha H. touched briefly on some events coming up before Ambrosia speaks as her presentation will take up most of our time.

- **Illinois Deflection Initiative: Action Planning: November 19th-21st; 1-5pm, 9-5pm, 9-1pm; Location: Heartland Human Services in Effingham, IL.**
- **EARS Tinsel & Tails event; more information at [Tinsel & Tails - E.A.R.S. \(effinghamanimalrescue.com\)](http://effinghamanimalrescue.com)**
- **October events/outreach**
 - **TLC Parent's Night, 24th @ TLC**
 - **Trick or Treat Street, 26th @ Cornerstone Church**
 - **Sunrise Rotary Parade, 27th- PLE Committee**
 - **Trunk of Treat, 31st @ Heartland Human Services**
- **Still looking for April, March, and June 2025 Free Laundry Day sponsors!**

Spotlight Speaker: *Ambrosia Branson, Circle of Care Project Coordinator*- The Circle of Care is a statewide initiative to develop trained helpers throughout Illinois to better meet the emotional needs of youth and teens who have been impacted by substance use related death and disorders. In one year, the Circle of Care team will create a trauma-informed and culturally responsive framework of grief support services and resources for children and teens affected by substance use, as well as for community stakeholders and members who naturally interact with children and teens.

Circle of Care (COC) is housed under the Illinois Family Resources Center (IFRC). Hour House is the lead agency of the IFRC. IFRC provides education, training, technical assistance for mental health (MH) and substance use disorder (SUD). IFRC has been under the care of Nancy Phillips for over 40 years. All of the resources that will be developed by CRC will be housed under the Family Resource Center website-- [Illinois Family Resources - Circle of Care](#)

Circle of Care is trying to build a network of resources and supports for children and teens who suffer from grief from a substance use related death. COC wants to train natural helpers in the community to be able to respond to a child in grief from a loss of someone due to SUD. They are building toolkits, resource directories, grief/SUD specific trainings, comfort bags, and encouraging the implementation of the Handle with Care initiative.

Resource directory

COC is developing a resource directory for clinical and non-clinical resources in the state of IL. The researcher for the COC has conducted phase 1 of collecting data which is compiling all of the *advertised clinical* counselors in the state of IL that specialize in grief with children/teens. She has found 243 counselors in the whole state; there are 102 counties in IL; 118 of the counselors are in Cook County. Region 4 (our ROSC region- [Recovery Coaching Network at GSU](#)) has 17; 13 of these counselors are in Sangamon County (Springfield,) which leave 4 providers for the rest of the Region 4 counties. Her next phase of research is to collect the non-clinical providers/resources in the state of IL—e.g. bereavement camps, hospice, support groups, etc. Ambrosia is asking for our help to identify these resources and send them her way!

Toolkits

COC is in the process of developing 21 toolkits for our natural helpers. They will be based on developmental age and focused on 7 sectors where natural helpers are present—e.g. schools, kits clubs. COC should have the bulk of these toolkits on the website ([Illinois Family Resources - Circle of Care](#)) by January 2025.

Trainings

These will be for everyone who interacts with kids and are aiming for them to be educational and interactive. These will be free virtual trainings which will be offered by Regions that will be worth 13 CEUs (flyer attached in email). The reasons for providing the trainings by region is for networking opportunities. With that being said, people can attend any training date for any region. These trainings will focus on grief related to SUD.

Handle with Care initiative

Handle with Care (HWC) is an initiative that has been around for a while. The main sectors of this are EMS, law enforcement, and schools. COC is trying to get the community to adopt this initiative to better help kids in school.

Example: Timmy's parents get into a domestic violence situation and is awakened at 2am. Timmy doesn't go back to sleep until 5am and has to be at school at 8am. Timmy has probably experience something traumatic and is also tired at school. Law enforcement can contact the school administration and tell the staff/Timmy's teacher to "Handle with Care" with no context

provided. This way school staff know why Timmy is acting out or falling asleep in class. The initiative is to help kids succeed in school rather than unknowingly punishing them for their behaviors due to adult actions. COC will be providing training to get HWC established along with technical assistance.

Does Effingham County have this initiative?????

Comfort bags

COC will be assembling 14,400 comfort bags for trainees who attend the HWC trainings. These bags will be split up into children and teen bags and English and Spanish. The bags contain a number of Social Emotional Learning items. COC needs help in assembling these bags!! They are willing to bring the items to assemble to where you are at!

*A number of people on the Council gave suggestions: Kohls Care, Trio LLC, Kiwanis Club, services hours for students

Ambrosia opened the floor for questions.

Rebecca asked what clinical accreditation are needed to be classified as the providers from phase one research? LCSW, LPC, LLPC, LMFTs, advertising for grief support specific for children.

Savannah asked where we send non-clinical resources to help. Ambrosia asked for people to scan the QR code on the flyer (attached in email) or email her directly at ambrosiab@hourhouserecovery.org.

Contact emails:

Effingham County ROSC Coordinator

Samantha Hicks—samanthah@hourhouserecovery.org

Effingham County ROSC Recovery Navigator

Felicia Depoister—feliciad@hourhouserecovery.org

ROSC Program Supervisor

Jenna Hays- jennah@hourhouserecovery.org

Where to find past meeting minutes: <https://www.govst.edu/Recovery-Support/South-Central-IL-ROSC/EFCRC-ROSC-Council/>



Effingham County ROSC Facebook page



****NEXT EFFINGHAM ROSC COUNCIL MEETING****

Date: Monday, November 18th, 2024

Time: 1:00-2:00pm

Where: 104 Blohm Ave, Effingham & Zoom