

Recovery Oriented System of Care



Johnson County ROSC Council Meeting

08/27/2024

Attendance

Tor Neal, Arrowleaf

Stacy Simpson, SCC

Elyse Schoen, St Francis Way

Trina Martin, Arrowleaf

Jennifer Worthen, S7HD

Mike Deno, House of Care

Andy Greer, Gateway

Beverly Holland, TA

Notes

- I. Welcome and Introductions

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II. Old Business

- a. Last month, we edited the membership protocols together and made several edits. New membership protocols will be submitted to SUPR at the end of the month with all of our edits!

III. New Business

- a. This week Tor gave a quick presentation about harm reduction.
- b. Presentation Summary: Harm reduction is an evidence-based approach designed to minimize the negative impacts of drug use by providing people who use drugs with tools and information that can improve their lives and potentially save them. This approach acknowledges harm as any damage, whether physical, emotional, social, or spiritual, and prioritizes the health and well-being of individuals and communities. By centering the lived experiences of people who use drugs, particularly those in underserved communities, harm reduction emphasizes practical strategies like overdose prevention, disease transmission reduction, and access to healthcare. The need for harm reduction has become critical as the U.S. faces an unprecedented substance use and overdose crisis, exacerbated by the

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proliferation of synthetic opioids and other dangerous substances. Harm reductionists support a range of strategies, from safer drug use to abstinence, meeting individuals where they are and respecting their choices. Unlike harm elimination, which seeks to eradicate harm entirely, harm reduction focuses on reducing harm through education, access to tools, support for basic needs, and linkages to services. Organizations like ROSC implement harm reduction strategies by distributing Narcan, conducting overdose awareness training, and collaborating with other programs to support those who use drugs. Key questions for discussion include identifying current harm reduction efforts, addressing gaps, integrating more practices, overcoming barriers, increasing community support, and reducing stigma.

- c. The presentation was followed by discussion about how to implement harm reduction in a ROSC.
 - i. Council members suggested that we create an education campaign about what harm reduction is.

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1. We can do this through town hall meetings, with myth busting at the center of it.
- ii. Council members suggested creating an educational flyer about harm reduction!
 1. It should have a QR code that leads to more resources.
 2. Perhaps create a table card to put in restaurants.
 3. Perhaps add a questions about harm reduction in our yearly survey.
- iii. Council members suggested doing harm reduction in schools.
- iv. It was suggested that we have a social media campaign that brings awareness to the concept of harm reduction.

IV. Announcements

- a. We will be at the Fall Festival on October 4 and be in the parade on October 5!