



MERC Meeting Agenda

9:00 a.m. via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/97144229718>

Nov. 21st, 2024

Welcome and Introductions (in attendance)

Mark Knott- Chestnut/MERC

Angella Holloway- Chestnut/MERC

Dan Hutchison- Chestnut/ROSC and OEND-DOPP

Alex Schneider- HSHS

Alicia Moesner- CHS/RCORP

Tyrone Hill- Amare

Ashley Ramos- Gateway Foundation

Brian Pollo- St. Francis Way

Carson Conn- Amare

Greg Norkus- St. Clair County Probation

Jennifer Schulz- Centerstone

Johanna Gonzalez- ROSC-SUPR

Kathy Kehrer- CHS/CCE

Kelly Mensman- Sacred Spaces of Care/MSW intern

Kristin Anderson- CHS/CCBHC

Kelly Jefferson- NAMI

Michelle Brooks- Madison County 708 MH Board

Paul Fischer- Porchlight Collective SAP

Skyler Wickiser- CHS/Impact Youth

Toni Randall- CHS/Bond County ROSC

Tracy Dones- CHS/CCE Faith & Recovery

TL White- Community Member

Violette Book- CHS/OEND

Patrick Small- HSHS

Patrick Miller- CHS/CCE Faith & Recovery

Tisha Lancaster- DCFS

Tawana Howard- St. Clair County Health Department

Bev Holland- CHS/Statewide ROSC

Old Business

No old business was brought up for discussion.

New Business

Council Member **Patrick Miller** gave a brief presentation on the IL Faith & Recovery Collaborative. This project is a part of Chestnut's Center for Community Engagement (CCE) and is working to connect with churches and faith-based communities who are willing to grow the work they are doing to support individuals struggling with substance use. This is for any and all faith-based communities. This project provides training and ongoing technical assistance while working towards becoming a Certified Recovery Congregation. The four main areas of training are: Introduction to Mental Health; Naloxone Overdose Reversal; Introduction to Substance Use Disorder; QPR (question persuade refer) suicide prevention training. There is also variety of additional trainings. To learn more about this project you can reach out to Patrick Miller at pmmiller@chestnut.org Council member **Tracy Dones** also works on this project and primarily covers the metro east area. Tracy can be reached at tddones@chestnut.org Flyers with information can also be found at the bottom of this document.

New program in Collinsville shared by **Ashey Ramos** (Gateway Foundation) at Victory Bible Baptist Church: Victorious Beginnings Recovery Restorations. Additional info can be directed to Steve Watson at swatson@victorybbc.com at flyer with more information can also be found at the bottom of this summary.

The ROSC community survey will be finalized and submitted to the state for approval before the end of the month. Once it is ready to be distributed, we will ask you all to share it with your contacts and those in your own community. The more data we are able to collect, the better we will be able to hone in on strengths and gaps in our service area. This will help shape the work of the council in the coming months.

Announcements and upcoming events

At the Edwardsville Library there are monthly Stigma conversations along with Narcan demonstrations which will continue to be held on the 3rd or 4th Wed of each month check the library Facebook page schedule. A link to the Facebook back can be found on their website: [Home | Edwardsville Public Library](#)

Weekly Early recovery meeting Tuesdays at 6:30 pm at 144 E Ferguson in Wood River (Amare). Open to the public. For more information reach out to Tyrone Hill thill@amarefp.org or Mark Knott maknott@chestnut.org

Toni Randall shared The Partnership for Drug Free Communities is hosting a Holiday Meet and Greet on December 4th. See the flyer below for more information. Disregard the registration deadline...the more the merrier!

Mark Knott shared about an upcoming event hosted by the ROSC and our local RCO (Amare) on November 30th at 7pm that will be held in Roxana at the Nazarene Community Theater. This will be a viewing of a show put on by recovery comedian Mark Lundholm. This event will be FREE and is open to the public. If you'd like to attend with your agencies resource information or send some resources to be available, please connect with Mark at maknott@chestnut.org Also, scroll down to see a flyer with more information.

Next Meeting Info

December 19, 2024, at 9:00am. This meeting will be hybrid.

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/97144229718>

In person: Chestnut Health Systems 12 N. 64th Street Belleville, IL

Metro East Recovery Council (MERC) Vision:

A community system that nurtures and supports individuals and families seeking or maintaining recovery for themselves or a loved one.

Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) Mission:

Collaborating to build and empower communities of recovery.

See Below for Informative Flyers

PARTNERSHIP FOR DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES
NEW BEGINNINGS

You're Invited

HOLIDAY MEET & GREET

*Food and Refreshments
Ugly Sweater Contest*

Get to Know Us

The Partnership is extending an invitation to the "New Beginnings" Holiday Meet & Greet as an opportunity for individuals to get to know us and learn why you should belong.

Who We Are

The Partnership for Drug-Free Communities was established in 2006 and is a community-based coalition addressing substance use in Madison, St. Clair and the surrounding Illinois counties. It brings together partners, stakeholders, groups and organizations from various sectors present in our community. We are looking for members who are interested in joining us in assessing local drug trends and creating a comprehensive strategic plan to address local issues.



10 a.m. to Noon



**Wednesday
4 December 2024**



**R. P. Lumber Center
6289 Tiger Drive, Edwardsville**

Scan the QR Code or click
the Ling Button to Register



12 Core Sectors

Healthcare Professionals,
Businesses, Schools, Youth, Civic/
Volunteers, Religious or Fraternal
Organizations, State, Local or Tribal
Government, Law Enforcement,
Parents, Media, Youth-Serving
Organizations, Other organizations
involved in prevention efforts

Sponsored by:



**MADISON COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**



Partnership for Drug-Free Communities



2007 Belt Line Rd
 Collinsville, IL 62234
 618-520-7538

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:
 old things are passed away, behold all things are become new."
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17*

FRIDAY EVENINGS from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Beginning November 1st

OVERVIEW

Victorious Beginnings is a community outreach ministry of Victory Bible Baptist Church in Collinsville, IL. Our purpose is to help others find salvation through Jesus Christ, achieve victory over destructive lifestyles and habits, and begin life again with a new focus, new friends, and a new future. Powerful and well-proven Biblical principles are taught and reinforced through weekly meetings and progress tracking in a supportive, peer-based setting – with Spiritual guidance, accountability, and encouragement from trained life coaches.

RECOVERY - Provide life-changing tools to successfully overcome struggles with the flesh in areas such as **substance abuse, addictive behaviors, and mental health.**

RESTORATION - **Mentor parolees** who have been previously incarcerated as they re-enter society.

SCOPE

Victorious Beginnings provides a vital, faith-based social structure for parolees and those recovering from addictions. Victorious Beginnings is not a treatment facility, nor a substitute for medical or legal counsel. We provide an environment for fellowship with other like-minded Christians who themselves have either overcome, or are currently facing problems including:

SUBSTANCES

Alcohol
 Fentanyl
 Methamphetamines
 Opioids
 Cocaine
 Marijuana / CBD
 Cigarettes/Tobacco/Vaping

MENTAL HEALTH

Anxiety / Depression
 Identity / Insecurity
 Self-harm / Cutting
 Anger Management
 Eating Disorders
 Gambling
 Immoral Entertainment
 ... and many more

SOCIAL SUPPORT

Difficult Emotions / Trauma
 Developing Healthy Relationships
 Establishing Boundaries
 Overcoming Guilt
 Overwhelming Grief (loss)
 Reconciliation with others
 Stigma / Reputation / Testimony



Scan for Directions
 2007 Belt Line Rd
 Collinsville, IL 62234

For more information, please contact:

Steve Watson, Director

swatson@victorybbc.com

618-520-7538

<https://victorybbc.com>

J O I N U S
A M A R E & M E R C
N O V 3 0 T H @ 7 P M
@ T H E R O X N A T H E A T E R
F O R A V I E W I N G O F M A R K
L U N D H O L M
C O M E D I A N I N R E C O V E R Y

LAUGHTER IS HEALING

4 0 0 N C E N T R A L A V E . R O X A N A
I L 6 2 0 8 4
P O P C O R N & S O D A I N C L U D E D

Funded in whole or in part by the Illinois Dept of Human Services, Division of Substance
Use Prevention and Recovery



Illinois Faith & Recovery Collaborative

at Center for Community Engagement

The Faith and Recovery Collaborative provides free training and assistance to any faith community working to support individuals and families in their communities who may be seeking or maintaining recovery from substance use or other mental health challenges.

Faith Communities may pursue designation as a **Certified Recovery Congregation**. These certified congregations have access to additional resources and training opportunities. As part of the initial certification process, the Center for Community Engagement at Chestnut Health Systems offers multiple training opportunities to enhance your understanding and awareness of these topics:

Mental Health 101 – Learn the basics about mental health challenges, crises and illnesses, how to spot the symptoms before, during, and after experiencing a mental health challenge, and practical steps to take when you identify these symptoms in yourself or another person.

Substance Use 101 – Learn about evidence-based research regarding addiction and substance use, recovery-friendly language, and ways of spotting the warning signs in yourself and others.

Question. Persuade. Refer. (“QPR”: Suicide Prevention/Awareness Training) – Learn how to recognize early warning signs indicating a risk of suicide, ask about suicidal thoughts and feelings, offer hope, and get help through providing referrals and offering support.

NARCAN® 101 – Learn about the opioid epidemic, the legal and illegal versions of opioids, how to reduce the risk of accidental overdoses, and how to administer NARCAN®, an opioid reversal medication, in the case of an overdose.

Participate in one or more of these training courses to:

- Build your knowledge about substance use and mental health
- Increase your ability to identify and decrease the stigma between faith communities and recovery communities
- Identify and connect with your local resources
- Learn how you can support individuals and families in your community

Additional trainings available upon request.



Funded in full or in part through a State Opioid Response Grant to the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use, Prevention, and Recovery, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the State Block Grant



Illinois Faith & Recovery Collaborative

at Center for Community Engagement



Engaging the Illinois Faith Community to Increase Recovery and Mental Health Community Support

Illinois is a diverse State with nearly 13 million residents, 73% of whom identify as being part of roughly 11,800 communities of faith.¹ Often, faith communities are one of the first places individuals and families impacted by substance use disorders and other mental illnesses turn to for help.

COMMUNITIES OF FAITH CAN MAKE A BIG IMPACT!



4.2 Million

Illinois residents attend a religious service at least once per week²



3,013

Illinois residents died from a drug overdose in 2021¹

For every life lost to an overdose, there are 1,393 faith-based community members.

That's 1,393 chances to make a difference.

Substance use and mental health disorders do not discriminate, they can affect anyone in any community. In 2023, 28.7% of adults in Illinois reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorders.² Which means, over 1 in every 4 Illinois residents is impacted by a mental health disorder. This number increases when including family members and loved ones of individuals suffering from mental health disorder symptoms or diagnosis. Statistically, this also means that these individuals and families are participants in faith communities across the state.

The Illinois Faith & Recovery Collaborative seeks to support and empower the work faith communities are doing to support individuals and families by providing information, trainings, toolkits, and networking opportunities.