

Attendees: Kristina Drum, Patrick Miller, Bobbye Scott, Julie Pohlman, Sara Ruholl, Cindy Hanley, Amber Clark, Jennifer West

Minutes

Spotlight speaker – Patrick Miller, representing the Illinois Faith and Recovery Collaborative with Chestnut Health Systems, introduced the program's goals and strategies. Funded by the Center for Community Engagement grant, the program aims to provide substance use and mental health support in Illinois, particularly in faith communities. Patrick highlighted the program's focus on destigmatizing mental health challenges and increasing community support, recovery program participation, and referrals. He also noted the program's goal to equip faith communities to refer people to the right resources in the right ways.

Patrick discussed the importance of connecting with local resources and promoting prevention efforts to reduce deaths by overdose and suicide. He emphasized the need for a collaborative approach, with faith communities reaching out to him for support and guidance. He also mentioned the possibility of providing certification for faith communities that complete specific trainings and commit to a role in their local community regarding mental health and substance use. Patrick stressed the importance of faith communities connecting with existing initiatives and finding ways to support and fill gaps in these efforts. Patrick discussed the trainings offered by their organization, including introductions to mental health, substance use disorder, and suicide prevention. He highlighted their ability to adapt these trainings to specific populations and their willingness to provide them for free. Patrick also mentioned their certification program and their capacity to offer mental health first aid certifications. He emphasized their role as a resource for problem-solving and community needs, using an example of assisting a struggling recovery ministry. Patrick shared that their program has been referral-based and has facilitated 61 trainings, with another 8-9 planned. He encouraged further connections and collaborations.

Patrick discussed the Illinois Faith and Recovery Collaborative's work with 24 different faith communities, with 14 certified recovery congregations as of last week. He emphasized that the organization's goal is not to certify congregations, but to encourage faith communities to publicly support recovery efforts. Patrick noted that the majority of

their work is with churches, but they also work with other interfaith groups. He highlighted that all their services are grant-funded and free of charge. Patrick also mentioned their partnerships with local organizations like ROSCS and RCOs, and their efforts to involve faith communities in the recovery ecosystem. He encouraged faith leaders to guide the program and invites all faith-based organizations to participate. Patrick concluded by inviting questions and offering to facilitate needs between the ROSC Council and local faith communities.

Patrick discussed the process of training faith communities on mental health and recovery. He explained that the initial response to an intake form would be within a week, followed by an interview to understand the community's background and interests. The training could be completed within a month, with the quickest pace being two 2-hour trainings over two weekends. However, some communities prefer to spread the training over a year. Patrick also mentioned that they would conduct quality control checks and assessments throughout the process. Kristina expressed interest in getting her church on board with the training, and Patrick suggested that they could provide complementary trainings to their existing Celebrate Recovery program.

November Laundry Day Stats: We served 10 people, done 35 wash cycles, 20 dry cycles, handed out 10 hygiene kits, and distributed 9 boxes of Narcan.

Clark/Cumberland County ROSC Facebook Page Status: We have 513 followers and 194 likes. We have gained 25 followers and 12 new likes in the last 28 days, reaching 5,360 people and receiving 917 post engagements.

2024 Accomplishments: Kristina shared a list of what the council has done and accomplished in the last year.

Improving Meeting Attendance and Engagement: The council discussed the need for a "reboot" or reintroduction of ROSC to increase awareness and interest among members. They agreed that personal connections and understanding of the council's purpose are crucial for participation. The council also discussed the challenges of engaging with schools, with a council member sharing her experiences of limited response from school staff. They considered reaching out to school boards and superintendents for support. Kristina has a list of potential members that shared their contact information and interest to learn more about ROSC.

Community Survey Distribution and Promotion Strategies: Kristina has received permission to have the survey flyer hanging in the 5 break rooms at Evapco in Greenup. Kristina and Sara discussed the inclusion of their project in the weekly paper for the month of January. They considered various locations such as high schools, libraries, and community centers to distribute the survey. Sara suggested saturating the area with the survey, including newspapers, preschools, and social media platforms. They also discussed the possibility of partnering with local businesses like IGA, Casey's, and Dollar General to distribute the survey. Sara mentioned her strategy of sending individual texts to people, which had been successful. Kristina suggested visiting shops and asking people to fill out the form on the

spot. Julie-Region 4 TA shared a similar strategy another ROSC Coordinator used, which involved visiting multiple shops and asking people to fill out the form, and returning briefly to collect the completed surveys resulting in 27 completed surveys. The council agreed on the effectiveness of personal, face-to-face requests for filling out the form. Sara also suggested utilizing the village of Greenup and the village of Toledo's utility bills.

Reminders/Tasks:

- Please Sign the MOUs and return them to Kristina Drum.
- Kristina will schedule additional opportunities to educate the community on the ROSC Concept.
- Who do we need at the ROSC Council meetings, and how do we get them here?
- We will be planning events for the next Fiscal Year in Jan Council members are encouraged to participate in the planning to ensure their success.
- All council members to invite potential new members from various stakeholder sectors to join future ROSC meetings
- Kristina, Kyle and council members will continue to get the survey into both communities

Next Meeting: January 21st, 2025 5:00 p.m. at Calvary Tabernacle in Toledo

New Facebook Page: Please go like and follow The Clark/Cumberland County ROSC [Clark/Cumberland County ROSC Facebook Page](#)