

Lee/Whiteside ROSC Minutes

11/20/2024

3pm

Attendees- Gerald Lott (Executive Director), Lauren Metzler (SVVOR ROSC Co-Coordinator/ Operations Director), Stephanie Reitzel (SVVOR Peer recovery specialist), Justice Castro (SVVOR Peer recovery specialist), Clare Williams (SVVOR Secretary), Ben Rudolph (ROSC TA), Johanna Gonzalez (ROSC Coordinator for IDHS), Brayden (YWCA of Sauk Valley), Kourtnee Mezo (Sinnissippi), Karl Arellano (Sterling VA Clinic), **Presenter: Ambrosia Branson (Circle of Care)**

Gerald

- We have moved all the ROSC meetings so they will be on the same day from now on.
- Some ROSC Councils are giving CEUs, so I have the application and I hope to be able to get that approved for us.
- We have had 22 intakes in October, which is below what we normally have, but we expect more in the coming months as it is getting colder.
- SVVOR staff has been going out to places like Erie, Polo, Sandwich, and Ashton to create connections in those communities.
- We have connected with Life Connections in Quinton, Iowa. We can now refer people there, and vice-versa.
- People were set on fire at RecoverCon and so we have new things from orgs like Aruka Institute, Perfectly Flawed, and Illinois Valley Recovery.
- I had a meeting with a Chicago investor, and the Rochelle city planner to make some progress on getting a Sober Living Home in Rochelle. We are unsure if it will be for all men, all women, children, or a farm. Hoping to finalize things in 2025.
- NIU School of Health and Science will hopefully partner with us for RecoverCon next year. That way we can host it in their building and get more students to come.
- We are re-vamping our community needs assessment and hoping for at least 2,000 responses. We'll be in touch about that more later.
- We have several donation drives: *(all flyers are attached)*
 - Giving Tuesday is December 3rd. Please consider donating to us and spreading the word.
 - Lauren and the Recovery Coaches have been making sandwiches and distributing them to those in need. We are trying to distribute winter things as well, so please consider donating things like hats, gloves, socks, etc.
 - We are doing a Christmas Sponsorship for two girls who have lost their mother to substance use disorder.
 - We are having Santa Pictures on Thursday, December 5 at the Dixon office and Friday December 6th at the Rochelle Office.
 - Our Midnight Masquerade is December 27th in Dixon's Lutheran church. Starting at 6pm.

Presenter: Ambrosia (Circle of Care)

- I am the Project Coordinator for Circle of Care.
- Circle of Care aims to create a network of people in constant contact with children, youths, and teens who are able to respond to a child's need with support, knowledge, and understanding for those who have experienced loss due to substance use disorder.
 - That loss can be a death, or the loved one is not emotionally or physically present.

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- Circle of Care partners with the Illinois Family Resource Center and Hour House in Charleston IL.
- It is a 1 year project, but all of our resources will stay up on the Illinois Family Resource website (<https://illinoisfamilyresources.org/>)
- We offer many different things:
 - Grief Support
 - Online resource toolkits: these are based on the developmental ages of the child.
 - Threads of Hope Training: our goal is to have everyone in a community to complete this training.
 - Training is free and virtual. From 9am-3pm over two days.
 - Divided by ROSC regions (we are region 2, so our technical meeting dates are February 6-7) But feel free to sign up for different days if it works better for your schedule.
 - We are making and giving comfort bags for kids (over 14,000 are being distributed) These bags are different for developmental ages, and we have both English and Spanish.
 - To get these bags, you must complete the Threads of Hope training.
 - Handle with Care Initiative: meant for law enforcement, educators, and medical professionals.
- In Illinois, there are 243 licensed clinical providers who can help with children going through this kind of grief.

Brayden

- We are accepting gifts and donations for our clients.
- We also have room if you would like to refer anyone to us.

Karl Arellano

- We have our annual Christmas hero tree coming up where we buy gifts for a veteran's family members.

Kourtnee Mezo

- Staff Transitions and new hires. I'll be the recovery-home manager. Katrina and Michelle will be taking my position.
- The Women's recovery home has openings. We accept children.
 - The women have some requirements, including needing to be sober for a certain amount of time. (contact for more questions)
- Our goal is to open an urgent care and another recovery home.

Justice Castro

- I'm out in Erie a bit, so I would appreciate any resources for mental health and recovery.

END