

## Effingham County ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

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Date: Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Time: 1:00-2:30 pm

Location: 104 Blohm Ave, Effingham IL & Zoom

Attendees:

**Zoom:** Kelly Buscher & Maria Deaconesa (Effingham Public Library case workers), Maggie Gouchenouer (IL TASC/State Police Data Analyst), Julie Pohlman (ROSC Region 4 TA Specialist), Kristin Davis (Family Guidance Center- Prevention Integration Coordinator), Amanda Depew (IL Joining Forces Veteran Affairs), Patrick Miller (Community Health Specialist III- IL Faith & Recovery Collaborative), Alex Schneider (HSHS Community Health Outreach Specialist), Carrie McKenzie (Gateway Foundation- Outreach), Margot Cepeda (VA Affairs)

**In person:** Felicia Depoister (Effingham Co Recovery Navigator, CPRS), Samantha Hicks (Effingham County ROSC Coordinator), Becky Rhodes (Family Life Center Parent Coordinator), Beth Wise (ECHD, Family Connections), Kat O'Brien (Gateway Foundation Warm Hand off Program @ HSHS)

## Minutes

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### Introductions

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

**Margo** stated there will be a drug awareness conference in March. Samantha asked for her to email the information. **Amanda** stated IJF is doing Operation Connect a Vet. Please reach out to her for more details- amanda.depew@illinoisjoiningforces.org. **Patrick** gave a snapshot of what he does in the faith-based community setting—i.e. provides certification to become a Certified Recovery Congregation, Mental Health First Aid trainings. He stated he is looking for a place to facilitate a mental health training. To contact Patrick to become a Certified Recovery Congregation, email him at pmmiller@chestnut.org. **Samantha** wanted to remind everyone that our next Council meeting will be the last Monday in January (instead of the 3<sup>rd</sup>) due to the holiday.

### Coordinator and Navigator Updates

The Council welcomes Felicia back! **Felicia** states she has been catching up with her peers and has resumed her weekly recovery wellness groups. She holds a group at Kirby Foods at 5pm every Thursday. All are welcome to attend. Felicia also stated she is going to start attending Catholic Charities food pantry distribution to create a more firm relationship with them.

**Samantha** stated she has been working on the Community Resource Map for Effingham County and will be sending out an email for edits prior to her vacation at the end of the month. This Resource Map is supposed to encompass all of Effingham County's resources and assets in the community. Effingham County has MANY resources. She will need help in identifying these from the Council! **Felicia** stated this resource map, along with our need assessment, strategic plan, communication and outreach plan, etc. will be housed on the GSU website which has all of the ROSC's in IL. **Samantha** stated she thinks there are about 45 ROSCs with some covering more than one county. **Felicia** also stated the GSU website link for Effingham County is at the end of these meeting minutes every month. **Samantha** stated all the documents submitted to the state of IL are housed on this website for public viewing and resource connections >> [Recovery Coaching Network at GSU](#).

**Samantha** stated that all the unhoused backpacks have been distributed. THANK YOU to **New Hope Church, Effingham County Case Managers, Journey Church, St. John's Lutheran Food Pantry, & Road to Redemption Ministries** who participated in the distribution.

#### IL Deflection initiative

**Samantha** stated the next action planning dates are January 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> from 9am-5pm both days. Lunch is provided the second day (Wednesday). The meeting dates will be held at the First Southern Baptist Church in Flora, IL. She will forward this information to the Council as a reminder.

**Kat** has mentioned that she came to one of the planning days because she thought it was more informational meetings. She then realized that the people who attend these meetings decide how the initiative for the counties involved is going to work. **Samantha** stated if your organization wants to be involved with deflection, attend all the meetings dates to know what is going on. **Amanda** gave kudos to everyone involved as this process can be tedious.

#### ROSC Community Survey

**Samantha** stated the Council has collected about 230 surveys so far. Our goal is 1,500. **Becky** asked Samantha to email her the QR code and paper copy of the survey so she can give it to her parents in January when they meet for their groups. She also suggested piggy backing off of the city's Economic survey that is being distributed currently. Contact for his is Todd Hull. She also suggested linking the survey to the radio stations or asking them to announce it. Another suggestion was reaching out to churches to put the survey in their bulletins. Another suggestion was Meals on Wheels. **Samantha** asked for the contact person- CEFS. **Beth** suggested the subsidized housing apartments. **Samantha** suggested to Felicia to partner up with one of our PLE committee members to go door to door of the complexes.

#### Youth Virtual Panel

**Samantha** stated this panel is in partnership with Prevention First which is the largest nonprofit resources center in IL in preventing alcohol and drug misuse among youth and pregnant women >> [Prevention First](#). *The panel will be held on Zoom on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.* The

panel will be comprised of Prevention First's Youth Advisory Board with questions being asked in relation to the Illinois Youth Survey. Samantha stated this panel is going to be made up of actual youth from IL to hear what they are actually experiencing, their reactions, and what they need instead of adults assuming they know what is best for them. Samantha stated the target audience for this panel are school staff, teachers, administrators, any youth serving organization, caregivers, parents, and youth themselves. **We will need help in distributing this information for people to attend!!** CEUs will be provided.

#### PLE Committee

**Felicia** stated the ROSC display for the EARS Tinsel & Tails fundraiser is up and available for viewing via golf cart rides through the end of December. People who want to register must go to the EARS website.

**Samantha** stated we will be holding a Recovery Picnic in May 2025. We will need food donations or sponsors to cover the cost of food catering. Council members suggested Niemerg's Steakhouse or places with prepackages foods. **Becky** suggested asking Niall from the Firefly for a donation. The next PLE Committee meeting is TBD for after the holidays.

#### Free Laundry Days

- Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 at Becker's in Altamont sponsored by the **Willenborg Family to honor their late son, Evan**
- Feb 19<sup>th</sup> at The Laundry Basket in Effingham sponsored by **Edgewood Full Gospel Celebrate Recovery**
- March 19<sup>th</sup> at Becker's in Effingham sponsored by **Kiwanis Club of Effingham**
- April 16<sup>th</sup> at Becker's in Altamont sponsored by **New Hope Church**
- May 14<sup>th</sup> at Becker's in Effingham sponsored by **Juliana Martin in honor of her late brother, Scotty Dust**
- June 18<sup>th</sup> at The Laundry Basket in Effingham sponsored by **Grace Counseling**

We are always looking for sponsors to fill the year 2025!

Thank you for all you do.

**Contact emails:**

**Effingham County ROSC Coordinator**

*Samantha Hicks—samanthah@hourhousercovery.org*

**Effingham County ROSC Recovery Navigator**

*Felicia Depoister—feliciad@hourhousercovery.org*

**ROSC Program Supervisor**

*Jenna Hays- jennah@hourhousercovery.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, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Time: 1:00-2:00pm**

**Where: 104 Blohm Ave, Effingham & Zoom**