

## Lee/Whiteside ROSC Minutes

12/18/2024

3pm

**Attendees-** Gerald Lott (Executive Director), Lauren Metzler (SVVOR ROSC Co-Coordinator/Operations Director), Stephanie Reitzel (SVVOR Peer recovery specialist), Katie Ruetten (SVVOR Peer recovery specialist), Justice Castro (SVVOR Peer recovery specialist), Clare Williams (SVVOR Secretary), Whitney Miller (LCSW Roberts Counseling), Melanie Marrandino (NAMI: Gigi's Virtual Playhouse), Karl Arellano (Sterling VA Clinic), Bahiyah Khalilallah (SROSC), Ben Rudolf (ROSC TA).

**Presenters: Dana Fedenia and Stephanie Garland (Opvee)**

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### Gerald

- November we had 37 intakes
- Steve is back and has been visiting the Lee county jail weekly. We are hoping to have him go to the DeKalb county Jail as well.
- We are awarding 1 CEU per ROSC meeting for those who attend!! Please see Clare's email to fill out the form, and then send it back to her.
- Our Midnight Masquerade is **Friday December 27th @ 6pm**. Please see the attached flyer for more details. ATTENTION- We ask to RSVP to be able to attend this event for food and supply purchase purposes.
- We are doing Blessing Bags every week in a different county every time.
  - In each bag is food, narcan, drug testing strips, our butterfly flyers, and warm things like gloves and socks. We are still accepting donations of items and also looking for volunteers as well to hand these out.
- We released our Community Needs Assessment. **Please send it to everyone you know in Ogle, DeKalb, Lee, and Whiteside counties! This is going to help us see what is needed most in these communities so we can advocate etc.**
  - If you fill this survey out, you can enter to win a \$50 Amazon gift card.
- We are finishing our newsletter, so if you have anything you want in the newsletter for events happening in January, please contact Clare or Lauren.
- CGH Hospital in Sterling is re-enstating their detox program on Monday, December 23rd.
- We are in the final stages of getting to open another Sober home in Rochelle, hopefully within the first quarter of 2025. Should be 10-12 beds for either men or women, but could be up to 40.

### Dana Fedenia (Opvee Presentation)

- Opvee Nasal Spray is the first and only nasal opioid rescue medicine specifically indicated for synthetic opioids like fentanyl. It was FDA approved in 2023.
- Opvee is not looking to replace Narcan, it is just adding to the help against the fentanyl crisis.
- Opvee is a different molecule: Nalmefene. It is indicated for the overdose of natural or synthetic opioids in patients 12 years old and older. It is for the emergency administration as emergency therapy, and not as a substitute for emergency medical care.
- In 2022, about 90% of all opioid overdose deaths were caused by synthetic opioids like fentanyl. It produces an overdose quickly and can stay in the body up to 8 hours.

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- We did a test on 69 volunteers where we induced an overdose. We found that after using Opvee, at 2.5 minutes they were at 80% breathing rate, and at 5 minutes, their breathing rate was 98%. The half-life of Opvee is 11.4 hours.
- **Questions and answers from both meetings:**
  - **Does it operate quicker than Narcan? And can they operate together in the body at the same time?** → There are no contradictions based on pharmacology, so there would be more additive effects than anything. Opvee does work a bit faster, but Narcan is still good.
  - **How many times was that study done, and have third parties replicated them?** → The study was done once to get FDA approval. It was reviewed by third parties, but not replicated in that exact format.
  - **Will we be able to distribute Opvee freely?** → We are working to get to that point.
  - **Do you need training to use Opvee?** → We do train people to use it, but it is the same training as Narcan.
  - **Can I keep it in my car, or what temperature should it stay at?** → It should stay at room temperature, and you should generally avoid extreme heat or cold. It has a shelf life of 28 months.

### Gerald

- What can we do for you?

### Whitney

- The grief group went great! Our next meeting is in January, and the goal is to expand into other counties. I also have a resource list I can send to people if they want it. This group is only for loved ones that have lost a loved one to overdose or fentanyl poisoning. Contact me or Lauren Metzler for more information.

### Karl

- I'm making a substance use and mental health resource list.

### Melanie

- We sent out that Nami's canceled a lot of our meetings. If anyone knows volunteers to host support meetings, let me know.