

Coles County ROSC Council Meeting Notes

Date: January 6, 2024

Time: 12:00 PM - 01:00 PM

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Attendees:

Jenna Hays - Coles County ROSC Interim Coordinator
Lisa Blackwell - Douglas County ROSC Coordinator
Jasmine Gast - Coles County ROSC Recovery Navigator
Whitley Grayson - Coles County ROSC Recovery Navigator
Ambrosia Branson - Circle of Care
Julie Pholman - Community Recovery Technical Assistance Specialist Region 4
Johanna Gonzalez - IDHS/SUPR/ ROSC Statewide
Brandy Schlanser - HH CORS Navigator
Ambrosia Roberts - BASE Supervisor
Skylar Miller - Moultrie/Shelby ROSC Coordinator
Brenda Ingle - SAIL Center for Independent Living
Carlee Parks - SAIL Center for Independent Living
Liesl Wingert - SIU School of Medicine
Amber Clark - Veteran Affairs
Alexis Morton - Gateway Foundation
Roberta Hinman - Gateway Foundation
Carrie McKinzie - Gateway Foundation
Kim White - Prevail IL
Camille Gordon - HOPE
Brycen McFadden - Oxford House
Jeff McFadden - West Central IL ROSC
Wendy Lambert - Vermillion Co ROSC
Adam Flack - DRS
Kristin Davis - Family Guidance Center
Jen Hurt - HSHF

1. Introductions and Announcements

- The meeting began with brief introductions.
- Announcement: Dana Tell has resigned from the coordinator position.
- Jenna Hays will serve as interim coordinator until Lisa Blackwell takes over the role.

2. Guest Speaker Presentation

- A guest speaker shared a powerful Personal Lived Experience (PLE) story as a testament to her recovery journey. She spoke about the joy of playing in the snow with her children, highlighting the positive changes in her life through recovery.

3. Community Survey Distribution

- **Goal:** Achieve 5% community participation in the survey.
- **Distribution Methods:** Paper surveys, QR codes, and online survey links are available.
- **Action Items:**
 - Members encouraged to share contacts at Lakeland, hospitals, or other organizations to aid survey distribution.
 - Lisa Blackwell and Jenna Hays are collecting contact suggestions.
 - Ambrosia Branson to distribute QR codes with Circle of Care bags.

4. Homeless Awareness Initiative

- November's homeless bags were successfully distributed across Coles County.
- Emphasis on showing compassion by providing essential items, such as blankets and hygiene kits.
- **Future Plans:** Collect better donations like gloves and hats for future distributions.

5. Certified Recovery Congregation Initiative

- **Update:**
 - A subcommittee is forming to start faith-based classes and prayer groups.
 - Three local pastors expressed interest in certification.
 - Members encouraged to invite more faith-based organizations.

6. Navigator Updates

- **Jasmine Gast:**
 - Jail group on Tuesdays (1-5 PM).
 - January educational groups: Mattoon Library (Jan 10) and Charleston Library (Jan 15).
 - Working with local churches to share survey QR codes.
 - Seeking better donations for homeless bags.
- **Whitley Grayson:**
 - Drug Court graduation scheduled for the last Thursday in February.

7. Circle of Care Updates (*Presented by Ambrosia Branson*)

- **Website:** IllinoisFamilyResources.org (Circle of Care tab).
- **New Resources:**
 - Updated Grief Support Services Directory.
 - Resource toolkits categorized by children's developmental age.
 - Threads of Hope training: Region 1 session in two weeks, CEUs available.

- **Handle with Care Initiative:** Hiring a part-time law enforcement officer to support the program statewide.
- **Comfort Bags:**
 - Assembling 14,400 comfort bags for children.
 - Volunteers needed at the Adolescent Outpatient Building to help assemble bags.

8. Community Engagement Plans

- **Laundry Days Initiative:**
 - Jasmine Gast proposed starting Laundry Days in Coles County.
 - Inspired by Edgar County's successful program.
 - Plan involves collaborating with local laundromats, churches, and community sponsors.
 - Needs: Funding for quarters, laundry supplies, and volunteer support.

9. Deliverables Update

- **Asset Mapping:** Completed for Coles County, pending final review.
- **Community Survey:** Ongoing distribution; members encouraged to help spread the survey.

Adjournment: The meeting concluded with a reminder to focus on community survey distribution and upcoming engagement initiatives.