

EDGAR COUNTY ROSC MEETING MINUTES

February 25th, 2025

5:15 PM

Paris Hospital Conference Room D and on Zoom

Attendees: Nicki Hanks, Jessica Parrill, Lexanna Strader, Norm Wilson, Conner Dotson, Judy Benton, Jack Hoffman, Rick Cook, Julie Pohlman, Doug Cochran, Susan Essinger, Vicki Dick, Amy Hornbrook, Amanda Thompson, Debbie Cook, Dennis Eveland, Sue Sheeran, Nate Alexander, Mary Morgan Ryan, Cory Hanks, Janice Watson, Bethany Wagoner, Kyra Graham, Jenna Hays, Marlyn Frey, Johanna Gonzalez, Michelle Hibbard, Camille Gordon,

Spotlight Agency/Program Medical Reserve Corps (Connor Dotson)

Connor provided an overview of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), clarifying that it welcomes volunteers from various backgrounds, not just those with medical training. He explained that MRCs operate locally and can adapt to community needs, serving as a resource for both emergency situations and community events. Dotson also noted the historical context of the MRC's formation and its role in enhancing local preparedness.

Connor discussed the need for increased awareness of a new community program, expressing his desire for it to serve as a resource during both in everyday situations and during emergencies. He announced plans for a kickoff event to provide more structure and information about the initiative. Dotson invited anyone interested in participating or collaborating to contact him.

Subcommittee

Nicki Hanks outlined several upcoming events, starting with a St. Patrick's Day party on March 17, where fun games and giveaways will be featured. She also mentioned the need for volunteers for laundry day and provided details about an all-recovery skate night on April 17 and a recovery flow yoga event on May 15. Hanks encouraged participation and support from the community.

Deliverable Documents

The group reviewed the gap analysis from the community needs assessment. These results were combined with the Community Survey results, focusing on the categories of health promotion, prevention, intervention/harm reduction, treatment, and recovery. She outlined specific community action steps, ideas for partnerships with outside groups and agencies, and potential changes at the state level, such as providing educational resources and expanding prevention programs. Additionally, she suggested potential partnerships with local organizations. Hanks

also identified the need for increased state funding and support for recovery housing and second-chance employment opportunities.

Council Member of the month

The ROSC Council has started something new—honoring a Council Member of the Month! Each month, we will ask for nominations, and the person with the most nominations will receive a Council Member certificate. We will also feature their biography on our social media.

This is a wonderful way to show appreciation for the hard work and dedication of our council members while also raising awareness of the amazing resources available in Edgar County.

Congratulations to Vicki Dick for being named Council Member of the Month! Thank you, Vicki, for your unwavering support and dedication to our community.

Agency Updates

ECPHD

No update at this time.

Neighborhood Watch

No update at this time.

Recovery Court (Norm Wilson)

No update at this time.

HRC (Dennis Eveland)

Dennis highlighted the comprehensive support services offered to guests in the Living Room, including food, showers, and assistance with Medicaid and Medicare paperwork. He expressed concern about the underutilization of these services, mentioning that the facility is open 24/7 but often sees few visitors. Dennis encouraged attendees to spread the word about the resources available for those in need.

CARE Coalition

No update at this time.

Soup Kitchen (Vicki Dick/ Sue Sheeran)

The Soup Kitchen needs volunteers! They serve anywhere from 80 to 100 individuals a day.

Trafficking Training (Doug)

Doug stated that he is still looking for community stakeholders to partner with for trafficking trainings. The Handle with Care initiative is making great progress in its implementation across Illinois.

RU Recovery (Rick Cook)

Due to illness there has been a lack of attendance.

Celebrate Recovery (Janice Watson)

Celebrate Recovery has started serving a light meal with the collaboration with some of the members of Lake Ridge Church.

Homelessness Initiative (Nate Alexander)

Nate has started a homeless initiative called Doorway to Hope. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 5 PM at Lake Ridge Christian Church. If you would like to get involved, please join us!

National Day of Prayer Freedom Rally (Jack Hoffman/Rick Cook)

The Evening of Hope – Freedom Rally aims to provide deliverance and a path toward permanent sobriety for individuals struggling with addiction while supporting recovery organizations in Paris and Edgar County. The event will take place on Thursday, May 1st, in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer, at First Baptist Church of Paris (201 S. Central Ave.) at 6 PM. It will include a light supper for those in recovery and their guests, followed by an inspiring musical presentation by Doug Roark and Anthem Edition's 180' Mission. Doug, who is in long-term recovery, will share his powerful testimony.

Funds raised for this outreach will support the Freedom Rally, event expenses, and local recovery organizations, including Celebrate Recovery, RU Recovery, and others. Donations will be managed through RU Recovery/Freedom Rally with oversight from Pastor Rick Cook, Pastor Tom Black, and Rev. Jack D. Hoffman, ensuring transparency and accountability. Sponsorship levels range from Bronze Donor (\$99 and below) to Freedom Fighter (\$1,000+), with higher-level sponsors receiving recognition in local media, at the event, and in a group photo with Anthem Edition.

This is an opportunity to support individuals on their recovery journey and make a lasting impact in our community. Join us in bringing hope and healing to Paris and Edgar County by supporting the Freedom Rally.

Next Meeting: March 25th, 2025, at Paris Hospital Conference Room A and on Zoom.

EDGAR COUNTY ROSC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2025

2:30 PM

Via Zoom

Attendees: Nicki Hanks, Jessica Parrill, Lexanna Strader, Lisa Foster

Warming Center

The group discussed the opening of a warming center in their area, which was set to close back out on Sunday due to warmer weather. Nicki and Jessica confirmed that the warming center was being used and that they had been working with local volunteers to ensure cleanliness and supplies.

Planning Community Events and Training

At the meeting, Nicki led the discussion on the upcoming year's community events and training. Since there were no significant updates on the homeless initiative, they decided to focus on planning for the next year. They considered having a "Meet the ROSC event" in Kansas as a potential starting point to integrate themselves into the community. Lisa suggested that they could attend a neighborhood watch meeting in Hume as an opportunity to introduce themselves. They plan to use outdoor games and face painting at future community events. Lisa agreed to inquire about the neighborhood watch meeting in Hume from Scott.

Upcoming Community Events and Volunteers

Nicki mentioned a Saint Patrick's Day party, a bridge to recovery training with Joe from the Champaign Urbana Health Department, and a skate night at the skating rink. Lisa offered to help with the skate night by contacting Mary Jo Becker. The group also planned a yoga event at Westlake Park and a "Paint the Sky event" at Sunrise Park. Nicki expressed the need for volunteers for these events and planned to distribute sign-up sheets at the council meeting. The team also discussed the upcoming Bridge to Recovery training, which they hoped would help break the stigma around harm reduction in their community.

Community Events and Employer Fairs

In the meeting, the team discussed various topics including the distribution of flyers, the need for more law enforcement attendance at events, and the potential for second-chance employer fairs. They also discussed the challenges faced by individuals in recovery, particularly in finding employment. The team agreed on the importance of building relationships with potential employers and the need for more

transportation options in the community. They also discussed the upcoming events and trainings, and the possibility of organizing a second chance employer fair in the upcoming year. The team also discussed the ongoing issue of transportation in the community.

CARE Board Member

Lisa expressed concerns about finding a suitable replacement for a board member who had left their organization, Care. She mentioned that the board member had lived experience, but they were struggling to find someone who could fill the role. Nicki suggested an individual, who has experience with homelessness, as a potential candidate. Lisa agreed to consider this suggestion and asked Nicki to keep her in mind if any other suitable candidates come up.

Next Meeting: March 20th, 2025. via zoom