

Lee/Whiteside ROSC Minutes

1/15/2025

3pm

Attendees- Gerald Lott (Executive Director), Lauren Metzler (SVVOR ROSC Co-Coordinator/ Operations Director), Katie Ruetten (SVVOR Peer recovery specialist), Ashley O'Dell (SVVOR Recovery Corp), Eric Harrell (SVVOR Recovery Corp), Clare Williams (SVVOR Secretary), Whitney Miller (LCSW Roberts Counseling), Melanie Marrantino (NAMI: Gigi's Virtual Playhouse), Karl Arellano (Sterling VA Clinic), Sara Stage (Acute Care Services), Sarah Snow (CGH Medical Center), Kourtnee Mezo (Sinnissippi), Kenneth Bell (Statewide ROSC TA), Ben Rudolph (ROSC TA).

Presenter: Todd Noak (Life Connections)

Gerald

- SVVOR had a meeting with our local AA, as we have had a feud with our Lee/Whiteside District for a while. We are waiting for response after their district meeting.
- We have a planning session with TASC where they are going to give us a grant to hire 3 more people dedicated to interfacing with the local police.
 - Will be on February 6th in our Rochelle Office from 9-5.
- As of New Years, Highlight Healthcare donated two buildings to SVVOR. One building will open in February and will be a transitional home for women. The other building will hopefully become a treatment center.
 - Penny Stark is leading a work group to explore options for the other building. Please email Gerald, Lauren, or Penny if you are interested in joining the work group.
- We had 37 intakes in December: 6-Whiteside, 5-Ogle, 4-DeKalb, 13-Lee, and 9 from other counties.

Presenter: Todd Noak (Life Connections)

- Started in 2016, peer-run organization and respite. Kind of like a BnB for emotional distress and life interruptions.
- To stay, we do a small screening when they call or come in. The questions are very direct and easy to understand. Some questions include "Do you have a place to return to? Can you be near a school? Can you care for yourself? etc.
- Each person who comes in needs to bring their own food and clothes, but we try to support them in any way we can.
- The house is male and female, and they can stay up to 7 days. We have a set of guidelines, with copies put into every room. Some of these guidelines include no substances and no inappropriate interactions.
- Working with the police departments was brought about because we found a few officers who did not have a stigma against homeless people or people in distress. We built a relationship with them, and they helped us spread the word in the departments.
 - Here is the link to the website and testimonial page:
<https://lifeconnectionsrecovery.org/testimonials/>

How can ROSC Help you?

Melanie Marrantino

- Nami is still looking for volunteers to be group facilitators or presenters.

Whitney Miller

- Lauren and I are hosting more grief counseling meetings.