

Date: Monday, November 3rd, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Location: LifeSpan Center Auditorium & Zoom

Facilitator: Skylar Miller, Coles County ROSC Coordinator

Welcome & Introductions

Skylar welcomed attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

In-person attendees:

Skylar Miller (Coles County ROSC Coordinator), **Megan Ballard** (Coles County Recovery Navigator), **Stephanie Burton** (Dial-A-Ride Transportation), **Tim St. John** (Salvation Army-Veterans Services), **Gary Stephens** (Wingman Ministries), **Olivia Jenkins** (Hour House Prevention), **Amber Gabbard** (Redemption Contractors), **Gary Stephens** (Wingman Ministries), **Josh Forbes** (Moultrie County ROSC Coordinator)

Zoom attendees:

Deb Beckmann (Statewide ROSC TA), **Tyler Warner** (Hour House BASE), **Camille Gordon** (HOPE), **Samantha Hicks** (Effingham County ROSC Coordinator), **Adam Flack** (Division of Rehabilitation Services program), **Lynn Moore** (Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts), **Kristin Davis** (Family Guidance Center), **Lisa Cook** (Illinois Regional Care Coordination Agency), **Johanna Gonzalez** (Statewide ROSC Coordinator)

Winter Month Resources

Skylar Miller reviewed a list of warming centers from last year, asking the Council for help in confirming their accuracy and operational details. She inquired about the hours of operation for various centers, including Charleston High School, Mattoon Middle School and the YMCA.

Adam Flack mentioned that the Division of Rehabilitation Services office is a Warming Center and it is open from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

Gary Stephens asked if there were any overnight options. No one knew of any. **Skylar** emphasized the urgency of finding overnight options as temperatures drop.

Stephanie mentioned that the LifeSpan Center is also a Warming Center, they are open from 8:30am to 4:00pm.

Family Worship Center bought some zero-degree sleeping bags last year.

The next discussion was about food assistance and holiday meal and gift programs.

Skylar reviewed the list that the ROSC Councils have been working on and the lists that she has seen shared on Facebook. The Salvation Army in Mattoon has a detailed list, as well as Coles County Interagency.

The council reviewed Blessing Boxes around Coles County and **Olivia** informed **Amber** about the Facebook page with all of the Blessing Box locations and their status.

The Family Worship Center in Charleston does a free meal on the last Friday of every month. **Josh** let everyone know that ANYONE is welcome.

Catholic Charities gives Thanksgiving dinner boxes, some roofing companies purchase turkeys for families and the Charleston Fire Department provides meals as well.

The council also discussed programs like Shop with a Cop and One Stop Community Christmas. **Stephanie** added that the registration for those fill up very quickly.

Laundry Day

Skylar let the council know that we are confirmed to partner with Dial-A-Ride to do a Free Laundry Day in Mattoon. The date is November 18th from 10am to 2pm. Transportation is available to Mattoon residents from 10am to 12pm. Community members who would like to utilize this service need to call to reserve their spot starting 11/4. Spots fill up very quickly.

Skylar asked if anyone on the council would like to volunteer the day of the event. **Tyler** spoke up and said that he would be more than willing to help out with Laundry Days.

Priority #1

Skylar led a conversation about enhancing transportation and housing recovery support services in Coles County, suggesting the formation of a committee to address these priorities. She emphasized the need for a ride share program and housing initiatives tailored for women in recovery, particularly those with felony backgrounds. Additionally, **Skylar** proposed developing a volunteer list to facilitate transportation for individuals seeking treatment.

Tim added that the Safe Passage Program utilizes an extensive list of volunteer drivers and said that maybe they would be willing to share that list.

Skylar asked if she planned a meeting specific to strengthening transportation services in Coles County, would people come? **Gary** said that if he could make the date that was planned, he would be there.

Priority #2

Skylar emphasized the importance of working with stakeholders to establish medication assisted recovery (MAR) programs in local jail. She mentioned an upcoming MAR symposium in Douglas County that will address common questions and concerns, particularly for justice-involved individuals. **Skylar** also expressed interest in hosting a similar event in Coles County to enhance local resources.

Action Items from October

Skylar reviewed actions items from the October Council Meeting. There was not a lot of discussion but some are carrying over into November.

Skylar plans to reach out to the Salvation Army to see where ROSC can support Homelessness Awareness Month. She is also going to go back the JAC coffee shop to get permission to do survey outreach at the shop.

Survey Updates

Skylar discussed the goal of collecting 2,500 surveys and noted the current progress in Coles County, emphasizing that December 1st is the cutoff date for survey responses, making this the final push to reach their target. **Megan** and **Skylar** plan to spend their Friday conducting outreach at locations they have not yet visited with **Skylar** specifically aiming to target gaming facilities and churches. She encouraged everyone to share the survey flyer on their Facebook pages and with their community connections to boost participation. **Skylar** also detailed her ongoing efforts to collect surveys by contacting local schools and businesses. She highlighted the importance of community engagement and suggested offering incentives, such as rewards for completed surveys, while also mentioning a recent anonymous donation that could help support these initiatives.

Recovery Navigator Update

Megan got to go to her first in-person Statewide ROSC Conference. She has been in a lot of trainings and is continuing to learn more about her position.

Open Discussion/Partner Updates

Skylar opened the floor and encouraged those in attendance to add anything they would like to the meeting.

Lisa Cook, representing the Illinois Regional Care Coordination Agency (IRCCA), explained their partnership with the Illinois Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery through the Illinois Opioid Settlement Fund. This fund was created from lawsuits filed against pharmaceutical companies for their role in opioid-related fatalities, and it provides resources for innovative strategies to reduce such deaths. Lisa manages the Coalition Project and facilitates regional coalitions for Regions 5 and 6, which includes Coles County. These coalitions bring together individuals with lived experience, service providers, and community members to develop and recommend programs that align with the state's core abatement strategies. Region 6 recently had a recommendation approved to expand a syringe exchange program, addressing a key regional need. Lisa invited anyone from Coles County to join the coalition, which meets quarterly, with the next meeting scheduled for November 19, and offered to share more information via email for those interested.

Lisa's email is lcook@ahpnet.com

Adam Flack shared his cell and office phone number with us in the chat. Cell 217-670-9255

Office 217-235-3154

Contact emails:

Coles County Recovery Navigator

Megan Ballard- Meganb@hourhousererecovery.org

Coles County ROSC Coordinator

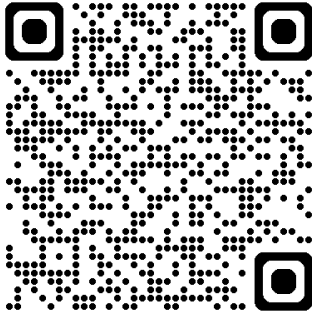
Skylar Miller- skylark@hourhousererecovery.org

ROSC Program Supervisor

Jenna Hays- jennah@hourhousererecovery.org

Where to find past meeting minutes: <https://www.govst.edu/ROSC-GSU/ROSCC>

Coles County ROSC Facebook Page:



Next Coles County Council Meeting**

Date: December 1st, 2025

Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Where: LifeSpan Center or Zoom