

Coles County ROSC Council

Housing Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 9th, 2026

Time: 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Location: Mattoon Public Library & Zoom

Facilitator: Skylar Miller- Coles County ROSC Council Coordinator

Attendees

In-person:

Skylar Miller- Coles County ROSC Council Coordinator

Megan Ballard- Coles County ROSC Council Recovery Navigator

Andy Brandenburg- Community Outreach & Recovery Support (CORS) Coordinator

Brandy Schlanser- Community Outreach & Recovery Support Navigator

Zoom:

Craig Magni- Hope of East Central Illinois Case Manager

Welcome & Introductions

Skylar thanked all attendees for attending the housing committee meeting. There were no introductions because all attendees were from earlier transportation committee meeting.

Housing & Recovery

Skylar gave a quick overview of the FY26 housing piece of the Coles County ROSC Council priority project; "Strengthen transportation and housing recovery support services in Coles County by June 30th, 2026."

The meeting focused on identifying housing-related barriers for people in recovery in Coles County and exploring community-driven solutions, including educational sessions, landlord outreach, and sober-living options. Skylar reviewed grant goals, including hosting a speaker session by April 30 and developing a landlord list and anti-stigma campaign.

The group discussed practical supports such as job readiness, expungement/clean slate implications, and partnerships with ERBA and other agencies, while noting ERBA attendance and staffing challenges.

What's Working & What's Not

Craig described HOPE's transitional housing model and intake/referral pathways, noting confidentiality and transportation constraints for clients. Skylar and participants discussed specific local provider capacity and gaps.

There are some independent sober-living homes and the Hour House does have halfway houses and extended care. There used to be a few other homes available but they are not safe space for people who are in recovery.

Housing Barriers & Community Experience

Skylar shared her personal experience with landlord bias toward renting to people in recovery.

Other barriers discussed was criminal backgrounds and long waitlists at places like the Haven, Mathew 25 and STU Unit at Hour House.

Ideas, Solutions & Next Steps

Andy mentioned that Douglas County is doing a roundtable with all of these big employers to see what would keep them from hiring people with backgrounds so maybe we could do something like that with landlords. If we could find someone to speak and possibly reduce stigma then we could see who is willing to work with us.

Megan will reach out to an existing program called Sisters Rise.

Skylar will gather information from owners of existing sober-living homes.

Craig will share the landlord list he has.

Wrap-Up

The next meeting will be on March 9th, 2026 from 1pm to 2pm at the Mattoon Public Library and via Zoom.

We will discuss information gathered by committee members and decide on a name for the committee.