

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, June 15, 2026

ROSC Coordinator: Maggie Memmott, ROSC Coordinator

1. **Attendees – Maggie Memmott (DeWitt County ROSC Coordinator); Tony Kirkman (PCMHC); Cory Baxter (Heritage Behavioral Health); Teagan Skull (Heritage Behavioral Health); Victoria Dahman (Medical Assisted Treatment); Jamie Porter (PCMHC); Kristen Davis; Linda Coleman (Advocate); Alexandra Marks (PLE); Michele Eliason (PCMHC); Megan Pole (PLE); Jordan Follwell (PLE); Karissa West; Carmen Lanham; Ashlyn Burrs (DOVE); Megan M; Lisa Cook (MAR); Minutes**

Maggie Memmott called the meeting to order, welcoming all attendees and outlining the strategic agenda items established for the upcoming fiscal year.

- **Naloxone Training Postponement:** Maggie informed the group that a recently scheduled community Naloxone (Narcan) training had to be postponed due to the sudden hospitalization of the designated trainer. The committee expressed their well-wishes for a speedy recovery. Expanding Naloxone training and distribution remains an active, high-priority agenda item for the upcoming outreach cycle.
- **Photo Presentation & Annual Retrospective:** Maggie presented an extensive collection of media capturing the past year's events, including sobriety milestone celebrations, the community art contest, Thanksgiving outreach, and the speaker jam. The visual review highlighted strong community participation, robust volunteer mobilization, and effective food and resource distribution. Maggie requested feedback from attendees regarding the pacing, visibility, and layout of the presentation to optimize future media showcases.
- **Volunteer Recognition:** Reflecting on the logistical challenges of the past year, Maggie emphasized that the broad scope of ROSC's community impact is entirely dependent on the dedication of its volunteer network. She expressed deep personal gratitude to everyone involved for their time and commitment to local recovery efforts. Members were also encouraged to monitor regional partner platforms on Facebook for ongoing collaboration and event inspiration.

2. Guest Presentation: Evolution and Integration of Peer Support

Guest Speaker: Cory Baxter

Cory Baxter delivered an educational presentation on the history, systemic value, and practical application of peer support services within behavioral health ecosystems.

- **Historical and Policy Context:** Peer support services have moved from informal, mutual-aid roots and mid-20th-century developments (such as 12-step frameworks and the Wellness Recovery Action Plan, or WRAP) into formal healthcare structures. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) officially recognized peer support as an evidence-based practice in 2007. In Illinois, updated credentialing standards and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) requirements now systematically mandate and fund peer support positions.
- **Clinical vs. Peer Support Frameworks:** Cory provided a comparative breakdown contrasting traditional clinical intervention with peer-led care:
 - **The Clinical Model:** Operates on a structured medical model. It utilizes formal assessments, diagnostic criteria, and treatment planning, which naturally creates a hierarchical dynamic between the clinician and the individual. This approach is fundamentally framed around the question, "*What is wrong with you?*"
 - **The Peer Support Model:** Roots itself in a non-hierarchical, parallel relationship based on shared lived experience. It is recovery-oriented, strength-based, and shifts the diagnostic inquiry to an empathetic framing: "*What happened to you?*"
- **Field Impact & Organizational Adoption:** To illustrate the real-world value of this model, Cory shared an incident from a hospital emergency department. A peer support worker utilized strategic self-disclosure and immediate rapport to rapidly de-escalate a high-tension crisis. This intervention significantly improved the patient's experience and stabilized the clinical environment. Cory noted that training with ROSC effectively transformed her initial clinical skepticism into deep professional respect, leading her agency to hire its first dedicated peer support worker in March.

3. Outreach Strategy, Demographics & Youth Engagement Challenges

The committee engaged in a comprehensive evaluation of current school-based outreach programs—specifically lunchtime trivia and resource tables—and analyzed barriers to broader community engagement.

- **School Outreach Efficacy:** Meeting participants debated the effectiveness of current methods, noting that sending educational materials home in student backpacks is highly unreliable, as the materials rarely reach parents or prompt actionable responses. Furthermore, the committee reviewed low participation rates in the recent *Clinton Celebrates America 250* contests, identifying a general challenge in securing youth engagement through traditional academic or essay-based channels. Future initiatives will look to diversify tactics across elementary, high school, and adult-education demographics.
- **Core Strategic Alignment:** The group reaffirmed that all future outreach deployment, resource allocation, and project selection must directly align with ROSC's core strategic pillars: **harm reduction, stigma reduction, and transportation accessibility.**
- **Target Demographic Enhancements:**
 - **Senior Populations:** Participants emphasized a critical need for targeted senior outreach. Local data and personal accounts indicate that older adults face

significant risks regarding prescription opioid misuse, often because they do not recognize the inherent dangers or potential for dependency associated with medications prescribed by doctors.

- **Kratom and Unregulated Supplements:** The council recommended designing public education materials regarding the risks of Kratom and over-the-counter supplements, noting these products are widely available and poorly understood by both youth and adults.
- **IWS Survey Data:** New Illinois Youth Survey (IWS) data has been released. Michele volunteered to analyze the findings and prepare a formal data presentation for the council at the upcoming August meeting.
- **"Hidden in Plain Sight" Initiative:** To improve parent engagement, the group proposed partnering with the Illinois National Guard to bring their "Hidden in Plain Sight" mobile trailer to DeWitt County. The trailer replicates a teenager's bedroom to teach parents how to spot subtle signs of substance use. To maximize parental attendance, the event will feature a concurrent weekend "fun day" with child-friendly activities and supervision. A committee member volunteered to source the official contact details required to submit the formal Guard request.

4. Upcoming Event Logistics & Project Planning

Family Day Picnic

- **Date & Time:** Saturday, July 18, 2026, at 5:00 PM
- **Location:** Weldon Springs, Clinton, IL
- **Logistics & Menu:** The main food offering will be hot dogs. Entertainment will feature live music and a variety of lawn games, including cornhole, tic-tac-toe, and a ring toss/dartboard setup.
- **Coordination:** Maggie will draft and distribute a comprehensive sign-up email to track side dish and dessert donations, outline specific item quantities, schedule volunteer shifts, and organize a pre-event planning and clean-up meeting.

Annual Community Banquet

- **Date & Time:** Saturday, September 5, 2026, at 5:00 PM
- **Location:** Local Country Club
- **Program:** The formal evening will feature an invited guest speaker alongside community presentations highlighting ROSC's county-wide milestones and metrics.
- **Menu Details:** Dinner will consist of roast beef, grilled chicken, a salad bar, mashed potatoes, green beans, and large pies for dessert.
- **Interactive Element:** The committee will incorporate an interactive handprint art activity during the event, providing a collaborative, visual symbol of community connection and mutual support. An RSVP structure will be established in the coming weeks.