



## MERC Meeting Summary

May 21st, 2026

### **Council Members in Attendance:**

Bev Holland- CHS Southern Region TA  
Cheyney Evan-CHS/Director of Outreach  
Christina Manchen-CCBHC Coordinator Centerstone  
Conswala Jones-St. Clair County ROSC Coordinator  
Cora Hughes- United Congregation of Metro East  
Dustin Percy- Oxford House  
Jaci Steltenpohl- AMARE Project Coordinator  
Jason Farley- NAMI Executive Director Southwest IL  
Jessica Marczewski- Perry/Jackson county's ROSC Coordinator  
Johanna Gonzales-DBHR  
Joe Jackson- St. Clair County 708 Mental Health Board  
Kristen Anderson-CHS  
Mark Knott-ROSC Coordinator  
Mike Luther-CHS OEND/DOPP  
Paul Fischer-Porch Light Collective  
Samantha Bandy-Franklin/Williamson County's ROSC Coordinator  
Sheridan Jordan-Clinton County ROSC Coordinator  
Teresa Cornelius-HSHS-HFG/SJH  
Towana Howard-St. Clair County Health Dept.  
Ty Bechel-Business Development Sanna Lake treatment facility  
Violette Book- CHS

### **Guest in attendance**

No guest speaker-

MERC is working with our community partners and council members to plan a Movie Night in the Park. This will be a family-friendly stigma reduction event available to the public. MERC will be sharing resources related to recovery/treatment efforts and community partners are welcome to attend. As of now we are looking at dates in July.

- What we still need: Snacks/Drinks, help with set up & Possible location (outdoor preferred). If you would like to partner with us on this event or provide materials/food, please reach out to Mark.

### **Workgroup updates:**

Attendance at workgroup meetings has been low (thanks so much to those who have attended!). If you have volunteered in the past to participate in one of the workgroups, please contact Mark/Katie to confirm you're still able to participate or if things have changed and you're no longer available. Meeting times are usually on second Tuesday afternoon of the month between 3-4 pm via zoom or teams' invites are sent a week before the meeting. New members are welcome to join

### **Announcements/upcoming events:**

Please see all attached flyers for the upcoming events, there are several from:

- NAMI: Hearts & Minds June 26 also July Smarts for Advocacy Training starting in July
- Oxford House: May 26<sup>th</sup> World Premiere Documentary @ the Granite City Cinema 3:30pm

Ty Bechel spoke on his Pod cast coming soon- Road Tripping For Recovery, this is being posted on his public Facebook and is interviewing individuals in recovery working in the recovery industry along with community members who are making a difference in their community by actively working to provide some form of service. He has primarily been focused on the Illinois communities.

Here are the links for the NAMI events

HEARTS AND MINDS: <https://namiswi.org/hearts-minds/>

PATHWAYS TO HOPE: <https://namiswi.org/pathways-to-hope-conference/>

SMARTS FOR ADVOCACY: <https://namiswi.org/nami-smarts-for-advocacy-4-part-series/>

### **MERC Upcoming Zoom Meeting**

**June 18th , 2026, at 9am/ Target group meeting TBD we will  
send a zoom link the day before the meeting**

**Metro East Recovery Council (MERC) Vision:**

A community system that nurtures and supports individuals and families seeking or maintaining recovery for themselves or a loved one.

**Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) Mission:**

Collaborating to build and empower communities of recovery.