Coles County ROSC Council
Transportation and Housing Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 19th, 2026
Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm
Location: Mattoon Public Library & Zoom
Facilitator: Skylar Miller- Coles County ROSC Council Coordinator

Attendees
In-person:
Skylar Miller- Coles County ROSC Council Coordinator
Taylor Jones- Coles County ROSC Council Recovery Navigator

Zoom:
Mariah Witmer- Domestic Violence Public Educator
Liz Pearson- Prevail Legal and Medical Advocate
Kendra King- Prevail IL
Jessica Pauley- Independent Business Consultant, South Central Illinois Continuum of Care
Samantha McCullough- Coles County Regional Planning

Welcome & Introductions

Skylar welcomed attendees and introduced new members.

Educational Materials

Skylar provided an update on the Ride into Recovery Transportation Initiative educational video series. Skylar and Liz have completed their videos, with Skylar introducing the initiative and Liz explaining the role of a volunteer driver. Videos will be shared on social media over several weeks, along with additional content in the series once complete. Kendra told Skylar to shoot her an email and she would be willing to do a video for the initiative.

Progress Updates

Skylar attended and presented at the South-Central Illinois Continuum of Care (CoC) Semi-Annual Training. Her presentation covered the transportation initiative, preliminary FY27 Community Survey data, and a brief Naloxone training. She also shared qualitative survey findings related to transportation and housing barriers in Coles County.

Sam shared a shortened version of their CoC presentation, highlighting feedback from individuals with lived experience of homelessness, including their needs, preferences, and current shelter arrangements. Sam also reported that none of the more than 600 landlords contacted through initial outreach expressed interest in meeting in person. They encouraged using alternative engagement methods, such as surveys and Zoom meetings.

Skylar shared that she connected two volunteer drivers with Officer Adkins of the Charleston Police Department, who is working to revamp the department's Safe Passage Program. This may provide an

opportunity for future collaboration. Skylar also confirmed that her presentation at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Cooks Mills has been rescheduled to November 8th.

FY27 Strategic Plan Objectives

Skylar requested input on developing objectives for the Coles County ROSC Council's FY27 Strategic Plan. While she has drafted several transportation-related objectives, she would like to better align housing objectives with existing efforts and goals across local agencies to avoid duplicating work.

Sam suggested building relationships with established groups, such as landlord associations, and ensuring ROSC is represented in Coles County planning initiatives. Jessica recommended that Sam initiate conversations with landlord associations, with ROSC supporting those efforts as appropriate.

Jessica also discussed landlord mitigation funds used in larger communities to help cover potential property damages. While a similar approach may look different in Coles County, it could be worth exploring local funding opportunities and potential donors.

The committee also discussed blessing boxes, improving access to community resources for individuals experiencing homelessness, and helping those unfamiliar with the area navigate available services. Mariah shared an example from Edgar County, where a community refrigerator provides food access. She also noted that Facebook is used to notify residents when prepared food or leftovers are available in blessing boxes.

Committee members will continue brainstorming ways to incorporate these ideas into measurable objectives that align with the FY27 Strategic Plan goals.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. at the Charleston Carnegie Public Library. A Zoom option will also be available, with the meeting link distributed on the day of the meeting.