OCTOBER 26, 2026 MACOUPIN AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES ROSC MEETING MINUTES

Location: Litchfield HSHS St. Francis Hospital, LL Conference room/zoom link

Time: 2-3pm

Lead Coordinator: Elyse Schoen

Attendance

In person

Committee members: Kevin Schott- community member, Chris "Kit" Stanford- TASC, Samantha Brown- 5th Street Renaissance

Non-committee members/guests: Laia Klein- Birth to 5 IL, Shane Grammer- Litchfield Police, Breann Vazquez- City of Litchfield, Juliet Milton- MCPHD/Domestic Violence and Insurance Navigator

Online

Committee members: Carissa Vandenberk Clark- SFW LCSW/St. Louis University, Shawn Howard- peer support specialist, Ailee Taylor- Staunton Helping Hands/Net Church, Greg Santoni- TASC Deflection, Breanne Stayton- Social services coordinator at MCPHD, Becky Folies- Carlinville Area Hospital, Heather Nah- Birth to 5

Non-committee members/guests: Cameron Corbin- Locust Street Resource Center, Dustin Pearcy- Oxford House, Toni Randall- Statewide ROSC/Chestnut

*If you would like to become a member of our local ROSC, please fill out form here: Macoupin and Montgomery Counties ROSC Member Registration Form – Fill out form

Quick recap

This ROSC meeting focused on two main topics: the community survey and the potential establishment of an Oxford House recovery home in Litchfield. The committee discussed their current survey response rate of 30-40 people with a goal of reaching 300-400 respondents, and agreed to share the survey through social media, community partnerships, and municipal contacts. Dustin presented detailed information about Oxford House, explaining it as a self-run recovery home requiring at least 6 residents in properties with 4+ bedrooms, and outlined concerns about Litchfield including limited meetings, high property costs, and community support. The committee expressed concerns about serving local residents first rather than bringing in people from outside the area and discussed the need for local landlord partnerships and adequate transportation. Key questions were raised about resident screening, past offenses,

and interview processes, with the group agreeing to explore partnerships with local organizations like St. Francis Way and to consider locations beyond Litchfield including Carlinville.

Next steps

Leah Klein

- Send the complete crowd list of groups and meetings from Illinois Region 3.

ROSC Coordinators

- Send the community survey QR code and online link to committee members
    - https://shared.outlook.inky.com/link?domain=illinois.qualtrics.com&t=h.eJxdj0EOgjAURK9iuhZaBEphpVfQ6NbU_k9aLW2FYqLGu0s3LlxNMpO8mXmTebSkWxEdY5g6So21xnkz5fdZ2jgaNeXKD_TaI-39ONDD6cz867QL9-OeQ8nqI1mvyC0hBqn8HIzLFnHxmWlcCDoDDJHipLRHtx1U0JA7XBwJHCVjoLhgwFtR1qK-MATRYFk2PS2alrVVu2mqvOBsI3iVmjA1PaTF0eBl-1uLMKcUUvpvxnSw-HwB3HBKcg.MEYCIQDmBM76rX9YPDEp1tSwtRHsSvXtiCcQzWsG1pTaKWsUlwIhALjXPLRf2NzIv5QktBsqqFiIJxPMxypNZgvE5EaJnyXL

- Reach out to municipalities and city leaders to share the community survey and request their help in distribution.

- Follow up on the possibility of using the RCORP grant to provide incentives (e.g., gift card) for survey completion.

- Schedule a meeting with Jon Magnuson and Probation lead, Banee, to discuss their experience with the Haven Home in Hillsboro and get their input on the Oxford House proposal.

- Identify and contact potential local landlords in Litchfield and other areas (e.g., Carlinville, Mount Olive, Benld) who may be willing to rent or sell a property for an Oxford House.

- Coordinate with law enforcement, including the Chief of Carlinville and other officers, to involve them in the Oxford House discussion and potential vetting process.

Officer Shane Grammer/Breann Vazquez

- Follow up with the mayor to ensure he stays informed about the ROSC discussions and the Oxford House proposal.

Shawn Howard

- Expand and update the list of nearby meetings and support groups in the Litchfield area and share it with the group.

Collaboration

- Committee members: Share the community survey on their Facebook pages, listservs, and within their agencies to increase the number of respondents.

Summary

ROSC Meeting Updates and Announcements

The meeting began with introductions for new ROSC members and announcements. The first responders event was canceled due to low registration and will be rescheduled. Juliet provided information about insurance navigation services and open enrollment starting November 1st. The ROSC community survey was discussed, with approximately 30-40 responses collected so far and a goal of 300 respondents being proposed.

ROSC Community Needs Survey Participation Strategy

The committee discussed strategies to increase survey participation for mental health and substance use service gaps in Macoupin and Montgomery counties. Carissa offered to provide population percentages and suggested distributing the survey through Facebook pages and agency listservs. The group agreed to share the survey with municipalities and consider incentivizing responses with a small incentive system, potentially funded through MCPHD's new RCORP grant. The conversation ended early with plans to discuss Oxford House in the remaining time.

Oxford House Recovery Home Planning

Dustin provided an overview of Oxford House, a self-run recovery home organization with over 4,400 houses nationwide, explaining its structure, requirements, and success rates. He expressed interest in potentially opening an Oxford House in Litchfield but raised concerns about the availability of meetings, transportation, employment opportunities, and community support in the area. Dustin also highlighted the importance of community acceptance and legal compliance in establishing such facilities.

Oxford House System Discussion

Dustin explained the Oxford House system, including how vacancy information is updated weekly through a text system, and addressed concerns about consistency in updates. Shawn shared information about recovery resources available in Litchfield, including meetings at St. Francis Way Clinic and support from the NEXT Network. The conversation ended with Kevin suggesting

that Jon Magnuson from Hillsboro's Haven Home should be involved in future discussions due to his experience with recovery housing, and a question was raised about monitoring organizations for multiple Oxford Houses in the area.

Oxford House Operations and Housing

Dustin explained the process for handling relapses in Oxford Houses, noting that house members can vote out individuals who relapse, and chapter officers or Dustin himself will intervene if needed. He discussed the challenges of finding affordable housing in Litchfield due to high property prices, expressing a preference for working with local landlords rather than large-scale property owners. Dustin clarified that Oxford Houses are self-supporting, with a $4,000 government loan used to purchase furniture, and typically house between 6 and 11 people, with 8 being the ideal number.

Oxford House Facility Concerns Discussion

MCPHD raised concerns about whether new Oxford House facilities would serve local residents or people from surrounding areas, expressing worry about helping the community first. Dustin explained that while some residents from outside the area might use the facility, he believed it would likely serve local people due to existing capacity in nearby cities. The discussion also covered Oxford House's policies regarding residents with past offenses, with Dustin clarifying that while houses conduct interviews and can ask about criminal history, there are no organizational restrictions beyond requiring residents to be substance-free and self-supporting.

Litchfield Partnership Planning Meeting

Carissa suggested considering partnerships with local agencies in Litchfield to help establish meetings near potential new Oxford House locations. Dustin confirmed he would be involved in selecting initial residents for a new house in Litchfield, including conducting interviews if necessary, and expressed openness to involving law enforcement in the vetting process. Dustin emphasized the importance of collaboration between different organizations in addressing the need for sober living facilities.

Oxford House Recovery Program Discussion

The meeting focused on discussing Oxford House, a recovery housing program, with Dustin providing insights about how residents typically enter the program. Dustin explained that approximately 70% of residents come from treatment programs, 10-20% from prison reentry programs, and only a small percentage from the streets. The group identified several action items to move forward, including spreading the community needs survey on social media, identifying potential locations for new Oxford Houses beyond Litchfield, expanding partnerships with law enforcement and treatment providers, and updating and distributing information about local

recovery meetings and support groups. The next meeting was scheduled for November 23rd from 2-3 PM.