



MERC Meeting Minutes

9:00 a.m. via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/97144229718>

June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Council Member Attendees:**

Ashley Ramos- Gateway Foundation  
Bev Holland-CHS Region 5 TA  
Cheyney Evans-CHS/Director of Outreach and Education  
Christinia Manchen-CCBHC Coordinator Centerstone  
Cora Hughs-United Congregation of Metro East  
Dustin Percy- Oxford House  
Elyse Schoen-Macoupin/Montgomery County ROSC  
Jen Nagel-Fischer-Porchlight Collective  
Johanna Gonzalez-DBHR  
Kathy Kehrer-Center for Community Engagement (CCE)  
Katie Wilson-RSOC Coordinator, Madison County MERC  
K Short-CHS/BASE Grant  
Megan Tyler-Sacred Spaces of Care  
Mike Luther-CHS OEND/DOPP  
Paul Fischer- Porch Light Collective  
Sherry Harshbarger-Finding Hope Family Support  
Tracy Dones – Faith and Recovery Collaborative  
Mark Knott- ROSC Coordinator Madison County MERC

**Meeting Notes**

- Guest Speaker: We did not have a guest speaker this month.
- Discussion on Self-Care Tips: what can Self-Care look like? Group discussed ways in which they participate in self-care, such as reading, crafting, walking pets, exercising, attending a gym/ work out class, watching movies and spending time with family.

- 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. The date has changed and will be held in September now for Recovery Month.
  - 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 or Katie.
- Overdose Awareness Day – August 31<sup>st</sup>. Discussing what the council should do to recognize the date. If there is an event that you or your organization is hosting that you would like to partner on, please reach out to Mark and Katie.
- Recovery Month in September – MERC will be hosting the Movie Night in the Park as well as attending some other events in the community. If there is an event that you or your organization is hosting that you would like to partner on, please reach out to Mark and Katie.
- October event: MERC will be partnering with NAMI and Amare to host a trivia night. Details to follow in the coming months.

Opportunities for sharing upcoming events and flyers: Please send any event flyers to us to share with other members and the community.

### **Announcements and upcoming events:**

- At the Edwardsville Library there are monthly Stigma conversations along with Naloxone demonstrations. The next event will be held July 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6pm check the library Facebook page schedule. A link to the Facebook page can be found on their website: [Home | Edwardsville Public Library](#)

### **MERC Upcoming Zoom Meeting**

**July 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.