

Coles County ROSC Council Housing and Transportation Meeting Minutes

Date: September 14th, 2026

Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Location: Charleston Carnegie 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

Samantha McCullough- Coles County Regional Planning

Zoom:

Mariah Witmer- Domestic Violence Public Educator

Liz Pearson- Prevail Medical Advocate

Kendra King- Prevail

Welcome & Introductions

Skylar welcomed all attendees and did introductions for new individuals in attendance.

Educational Materials

The committee revisited plans to create short Facebook and Tik Tok videos because flyers are not always effective in recruiting transportation volunteers. Proposed content included driver responsibilities, dealing with different passengers and point-of-view videos. Skylar committed to working with Taylor on the videos and offered scripts, a microphone, and filming assistance to committee members who wanted to participate.

Liz volunteered to do a video, Skylar will send her a few scripts to choose from!

Progress

Skylar reported positive outreach at Charleston Rotary, including interest from potential volunteers and universal Narcan training among the attendees surveyed. Members of the Rotary discussed liability concerns and confirmed that drivers could bring an additional person with them. Skylar also reviewed planned presentations at both the Mattoon Rotary and Pleasant Grove Baptist.

Updates with Sam- Coles County Regional Planning

Sam clarified that the Continuum of Care's upcoming event will combine a training, a regular meeting, and a housing and homelessness forum. The event is expected to include a draft plan, professional information about factors contributing to homelessness, and opportunities for attendees to provide input. Skylar and Sam discussed clarifying speaking responsibilities and reviewing draft materials in advance.

Sam reported that their focus group outreach resulted in 638 valid landlord responses that were gathered across an 18-county service area. Sam described plans for the survey that would collect landlord perspectives, identify geographic and ownership information, measure willingness to participate, and support development of a landlord resource list.

The committee selected three preferred virtual-session times for focus groups to accommodate landlords from multiple counties. Sam planned to use registration, explain information-use and opt-out provisions, invite community partners, and structure the sessions as approximately two-hour discussions with survey walkthroughs and time for questions.

Sam described how regional planning and county-related pages respond to public inquiries, including requests for help from people experiencing homelessness. The discussion then turned to the strong landlord survey response and the need to manage potentially negative perceptions by creating a constructive conversation focused on solutions, explanations, and continued dialogue.

Skylar Miller that she would send everyone the landlord survey that Sam has created for further input before it is sent out.

Wrap Up

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 19th, 2026 at 12:00pm at the Mattoon Public Library. It is also available on Zoom and the link will be sent day of the meeting.