

Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition
Westside ROSC- ISN 4/23/2021 Meeting Minutes

10:00am-12:00pm
Via Zoom Online

- Welcome extended by; *Dora Dantzler-Wright, Executive Director*

Expressed appreciation for members present, and continued support, and to those who were attending ROSC meeting for the first time.

- **Dora Wright:** Chicago Recovering Communities Coalitions co-founder, shared the continuing mission and vision of CRCC of year two, and the ways in which the organization has grown building relationships to strengthen the network of recovery in the Austin Community. She provided ROSC overview : Reminded all and orientated first time attendees on the purpose of West side ROSC Council work that is 1) centered around supporting individuals in their recovery by 2) providing counseling, 3) transitional supports, and 3) information to address healthy living, and 4) building of network of community stakeholders, community SUD providers, peer advocates, and volunteers to increase visibility and reduce stigma's preventing addicts and affected families from seeking recovery.
- Introductions to all individuals were made: **CRCC, Bethel New Life, CLICK Services, Herbert Bearman Foundation, and Southside Health Center.**
- **Organization Overview: Dora Wright West side Recovery Oriented Systems of Care Council.** The westside ROSC Council was created in September of 2018. Recovery Oriented Systems of Care is a coordinated network of community-based services working together. ROSC Councils will assist the community by building on the strengths and resilience of individuals and families to achieve abstinence and improve health, wellness and quality of life for those with or at risk of alcohol and drug problems or who struggle with mental illnesses. Our goals and responsibilities are to build a community culture that nurtures recovery by collaborating with other community members, A Recovery oriented system of care. Achieve authenticity by valuing all areas of the community and all paths of recovery. Promote the needs of the recovery community and promote infrastructure development through training and education. Respect the sustainability of the ROSC by actively participating in Council meetings and activities and maintaining current information.
- **Alcohol Awareness Month:** In America by providing an opportunity to increase awareness of alcohol addiction in an intense 30-day focus. This is all aimed to bring understanding of alcohol causes, the effective treatments available, plus encouraging people recovery is very possible.

- **The Formation of National Alcohol Awareness Month:** The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) was founded by Marty Mann, an early female member of Alcoholics Anonymous and one of the first women to find success getting sober through the 12-step group. Inspired by her own recovery experience, Mann created a group dedicated to incorporating scientific and medical research into the addiction treatment community, as well as providing in-person counseling and treatment when appropriate. Since the 1980s, NCADD has recognized each April as National Alcohol Awareness Month to promote conversations about alcohol risks and recovery.
- **The importance of Alcohol Awareness Month:** A big part of the work is to point out the stigma that still surrounds alcoholism and substance abuse in general. For many, denial is common trait among those struggling with alcoholism or alcohol abuse. Alcohol Awareness Month gives public health bodies, community centers, and treatment facilities the chance to increase their efforts to reach people who may not fully appreciate the dangers of unhealthy alcohol consumption.
- **Alcohol Consumption & The Pandemic:** “The increase in drinking, particularly among people with anxiety and depression, is consistent with concerns that the pandemic may be triggering an epidemic of problematic alcohol use.” A study in October in the Journal of Addiction Medicine found that between February and April 2020, women had a greater increase in excessive drinking than men did. Respondents who are Black reported greater increases. A November study in the journal Addictive Behaviors, based on an April survey that asked about people’s drinking during the previous month, found that women drank more than men in response to pandemic stress, to the point that their intake levels were roughly equal.
- **Impact of Length of Time of The Pandemic:** Previous disasters, including the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the 2003 SARS outbreak and hurricane Katrina, have been followed by increases in alcohol abuse among those who experienced them and their aftermath. Researchers have never studied the impact on drinking behavior of a catastrophe that lasted as long and was as pervasive as the current pandemic. Nor did those earlier events increase social isolation while also initiating widespread changes in the availability of alcohol through takeout and delivery, as Covid-19 has. There has been more drinking at home, which is associated with domestic violence and child neglect-it is also the social impact on the family and society in general.

Dora Danzler- Wright. This is pertinent to the work we are doing in the council, in the RCO, in recovery support services. It is important that we understand this information to better do our jobs and practice it on the front lines every day.

Meeting was adjourned by Dora Wright, and encouraged all to take information gained, thoughts they may have and share with others, and if members knew of individuals who wanted to volunteer at upcoming events let him know.

Next Westside ROSC Council meeting will be hosted via Zoom on May 28, 2021.

Please Join Us in Building

A Sustainable Westside ROSC Council

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