

**Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition  
Westside ROSC- ISN 8/26/2022 Meeting Minutes**

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

**Welcome Extended by; Venessa Moreno:** Expressed appreciation for members present, and continued support, and to those who were attending ROSC meetings for the first time. Also mentioned that from now on ROSC will be offering CEU's.

**Goals and Objectives by; Venessa Moreno:** Westside ROSC Councils overall goal is to advocate and assist with guiding and monitoring the development of an integrated system of recovery by creating a shared vision to improve availability of services by building a sustainable ROSC Council. Our objectives 1. To create communities of recovery that encourage and integrate resources for the recovering individual, families, and friends. 2. Develop supportive recovery communities that foster growth, respect and understanding of those who have identified problems in the areas of substance use and mental health. 3. Implement effective communication that will allow for inclusion of PLE's (persons with lived experience) voices to be heard.

**Participant Introductions:** CRCC, Wright Way Association, Rush University, West Care Illinois, C.L.I.C.K Services, West Side Heroin/ Opioid Task Force, Above and Beyond Family Recovery Center, Better Behavioral Choices Inc., Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery, South Side Task Force, Perfectly Flawed Foundation, Guildhaus, PCC Wellness Center, Wright Way Association, NIRCO, Women's Justice Institute, Drexel Counseling, The Path, RUSH, Healthcare Alternative Systems

**Dora Wright:** We will be having a Candlelight Visual on August 31, 2022, from 6 to 8 pm. We also want to remind you of our recovery walk on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at Soldier Field. It is now with great pleasure that I intro our speaker Elizabeth Cruz

- **Speaker: Elizabeth Cruz of Women's Justice Institute**

*Hello everyone thank you and I am glad to be here I work with the Women's Justice Institute. I am a person with lived experiences, and I have 20 years of sobriety. Let's start talking about:*

- **Redefining the narrative**
- **Initial legislative initiatives**
- **GIPA national forum**
- **Implementation of children**
- **Reducing barriers to recover**
- **Gender based violence resentencing**

We have launched a task force to cut incarceration by 50% While also implementing additional legislative initiatives.

- We center on the voices of the women with lived experiences and the rights and needs of women. There are five rights and needs.
- Relationship safety
- Health and well being
- Safe and stable housing
- Economic security and empowerment
- Supported family

We also look at the different pathways to prison. Some women say that treatment feels like prison, so we are taking a good look at how we invest in a failing system and women and their needs. I have a couple of short videos so you can understand our work. We see our gender responsiveness as relational, key to system transformation, strength based, trauma and resiliency informed, culturally responsive and, holistic.

We want to reduce the barriers the more people we partner with the more people we can help. We have partnered with.

- IDOC
- Cook County Health
- Women's Re-entry Initiative

- Haymarket
- Cook County Sheriff
- Cook County Courts and Probation.

While we do focus on Cook County, we do connect people with the help they need in their areas because our system is flawed, and we want to help all that we can. WJI has a reclamation center, and we also have a reclamation circle which we hold because we want women to have a safe place where they can go to get the support they need. We also have survival funds to help women in desperate need like maybe paying their rent or phone bill and putting them up in a hotel when their looking to get away from an abusive situation.

### **Q and A**

Why are there so many places for men than women?

Most treatment models were not designed for woman so that is why we have more places for men, so we are advancing and are looking to expand. Women thrive with relationship support they watch how other people are treated and they too want to heal and feel safe, so we want them to heal and feel safe at the same time.

**Closing comments: Dora Wright** Thank you for such a powerful presentation and PowerPoint we really appreciate all that you do so thanks again I look forward to attending the healing circle tomorrow. Sometimes information falls through the cracks so I will continue to pass it along so that we can help one another.

**Venessa Moreno:** Elizabeth thank you for being here and I will follow up and send out information and also send an update as to when the next ROSC meeting will be.

***Please Join Us in Building***

***A Sustainable Westside ROSC Council***

***This project is supported in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery, as part of the Social Services Block Grant award from the Federal Administration for Children and Families (G-1801ILSOSR)***