

Westside ROSC Council

Lead Agency: Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition

Friday, March 28, 2025

10am – 12pm

Zoom Meeting Information

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/695761637?pwd=eVVOUzJlN3VUcXl6WFJzSnVNOVJXdz09>

Meeting ID: 695 761 637 | Password: 038839

Meeting Minutes

Welcome Extended by; Ed Boone: Expressed appreciation for members present, and continued support, also mentioned that ROSC will offer CEU's.

Participant Introductions: Bahiyyah Khalilallah, SROSC; Tanya Johnson, Behavioral Health Workforce Center; Joshua Holliday, PrimeCare Community Health West Town - Chicago, Illinois; Kenisha Dale, Trilogy; Sandra Harrison, DVA Leadership & Development Training Consultants; James Berge, IMNH / TASC; Allison Mallory-Teas, TASC; Carolyn Hartfield, Hartfield Consultants; Tom Johnson, CRCC; Aimee Rabe, crcc; Mary Dowling, West Side Heroin Opioid Task Force; Timothy Hooper, Chicago Recovery Community Coalition; Diamond Armstrong, Oxford House, Inc.; Ruthie Williams, Faith Way Men's Independent; Kenneth Bell, Statewide ROSC; Candyce Banford, CRCC; Angel Crowder, CRCC; Charlotte A Estell, Kalimba Foundation; Lindsay Jablanovec, Individual; Anthony Baker, Kalimba Foundation; Cristina Banda, Illinois Family Resource Center; Yulanda A Thomas, CRCC; Pastor Michael Murray, multitude of Zion Mens Resident; Inga Totty, Individual; Debra Laws, Renewed Hope Community Services; Sandy R Mays, Individual; Dora Dantzler-Wright, CRCC; Linda Sharp, CPD..Police Administration Clerk.; Helen Land, Where Do We Go From Here; Venessa Moreno, CRCC; Van Asher, Perfectly Flawed Foundation; Aiyana Ross, ; Dr. Nance, C.L.I.C.K. Services NFP; Myleka Johnson, TASC IMNH; Darryl Harrison, DVA Training; Ed Boone, CRCC

Our council is made up of members including Hospitals, Treatment Centers, Mental Health Facilities, First Responders, Recovery Programs, Schools, Local Government, Employment Agencies, and importantly persons with lived experience.

Goals and Objectives by; Ed Boone: 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 communication, those who have identified problems in the areas of substance use and mental health. 3. Implement effective that will allow for the inclusion of PLE's (persons with lived experience) voices to be heard.

Summary: Summary: The meeting focused on discussing updates and resources related to substance use and recovery, with a particular emphasis on the Intramuscular Naloxone Hub (IMNH) program. The participants also discussed the importance of addressing the mind, body, and spirit in the recovery process, and the role of faith, commitment, and determination in overcoming addiction. The conversation ended with a discussion on the distribution of free resources, including naloxone and fentanyl testing strips, and the potential for partnerships in providing naloxone training.



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Substance Use and Recovery Updates

The meeting began with introductions from all participants, including Edward Boone, the facilitator, and various professionals from different organizations. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss updates and resources related to substance use and recovery. Sandra Harrison provided technical assistance, and Edward Boone led the discussion.

Council Updates by Ed: Ed discussed Council goals and objectives. Provided updates on deliverables and the importance of the community needs assessment and requested that all individuals on the call fill it out and encouraged them to share with their network and participants.

Topic Discussion: Addiction and Faith in Recovery

ROSC Council Speaker: Mr. Sandy Mays

Mr. Sandy Mays, the author of two books on addiction and recovery, was invited to share his views on the process of recovery. Mr. Mays discussed the physical, psychological, and spiritual challenges of substance abuse and the importance of restoration in all three areas for a successful recovery. He also shared his personal story of addiction and the impact of heroin on his life.

Addiction and Spirituality

Mr. Mays discussed the spiritual and mental aspects of addiction, emphasizing that it is a stronghold. He explained that evil uses addiction as a tool to gain and maintain control over individuals, often targeting those who are spiritually weak. Mr. Mays also highlighted that addiction is not limited to drug abuse but can manifest in various forms of abusive behavior. He shared his personal journey of becoming addicted to heroin, attributing it to negative influence and the gateway it opened for more chaos to enter. Mr. Mays emphasized the importance of understanding the source of addiction to effectively recover from it.

Recovery Process from Substance Abuse

Mr. Mays discussed the recovery process from substance abuse, emphasizing the importance of addressing the mind, body, and spirit. He highlighted the need to understand one's body and its functions, and the importance of seeking treatment. He also stressed the need for follow-up examinations with a physician, a healthy diet, and regular exercise to restore the body. He noted that the recovery process may vary from person to person and may take time. He also touched on the challenges of admitting and submitting to the need for help, emphasizing the importance of taking that first step in the mind.

Addiction Recovery and Faith

Mr. Mays discussed his journey with addiction and recovery, emphasizing the importance of submitting to God's will and listening for instructions. He shared his experiences of receiving help through unexpected sources and the challenges of distinguishing God's voice amidst societal noise. Mr. Mays highlighted the role of faith, commitment, and determination in the recovery process, as well as the need for prayer and supplication. He also stressed the importance of meditation and enlightenment through revelation for achieving a higher level of consciousness. Mr. Mays concluded by emphasizing the need for effective treatment of addiction as a mental illness and the impact of substance abuse on society.

Topic Discussion: Intramuscular Naloxone Hub Program Overview

ROSC Council Speaker: Ms. Myleka Johnson

Myleka Johnson, a regional outreach worker for the Intramuscular Naloxone Hub (IMNH) program, is introduced as the next presenter. She has nearly 6 years of experience at TASS and has been dedicated to the IMNH program for the past 5 months. Myleka's work focuses on opioid overdose prevention and establishing a strong community presence for harm reduction.



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Intramuscular Naloxone Hub Program Overview

Ms. Myleka Johnson discussed the Intramuscular Naloxone Hub (IMNH) program, a grant-funded harm reduction initiative in Illinois. The program provides free overdose reversal supplies, streamlines ordering and distribution, addresses barriers to naloxone access, and empowers community-led harm reduction efforts. The IMNH program offers injectable naloxone, Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips, and assembles kits with 2 naloxone valves, 2 disposable needles, 2 alcohol wipes, a helpline insert, and a never use alone insert. The program aims to prevent opiate overdoses and deaths by ensuring widespread availability of naloxone, expanding access to free harm reduction resources, and promoting evidence-based harm reduction strategies.

Naloxone and Fentanyl Testing Distribution

Edward and Myleka discussed the distribution of free resources, including naloxone and fentanyl testing strips, to communities. Myleka clarified that there are no limits on the number of resources an organization can order. Edward suggested a potential partnership for providing naloxone training, which Myleka agreed to consider. Dora emphasized the importance of reducing stigma around substance abuse and the need for naloxone and fentanyl testing strips. Edward also announced the next meeting's focus on first responders and compassionate care.

Next Steps

1. Edward to share contact information for CRCC to provide Naloxone administration training to organizations partnering with IMNH.
2. Myleka to reach out to Edward at CRCC to collaborate on providing Naloxone administration training.
3. Sandy Mays to share information about IMNH program with churches he knows for potential partnerships.
4. Myleka to follow up with Dora Wright regarding partnership and ordering of intramuscular Naloxone kits.
5. IMNH team to complete certification for providing Naloxone administration training.
6. Edward to organize and promote the next Ross meeting on April 25th focusing on first responders and compassionate care.
7. All attendees to fill out the attendance link in the chat for CEU credits if not already done.

Closing Remarks

Thanked the membership for sharing openly and respectfully and we will see everyone next month. Next Westside ROSC Council meeting will be hosted via Zoom on April 25, 2025. The conversation ended with a reminder to fill out the attendance form for those who wanted to receive CEUs.

Please Join Us in Building a Sustainable Westside ROSC Council

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