

Grand Boulevard Prevention Services (GBPS) Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC)
Council Meeting Date: March 24, 2025 Time: 12:30 CDT Location: Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Attendees:

- Simuel Walton
- Amy (mentioned, but did not speak)
- GRCC's iPhone lu p (Obedelli)
- Marvell Singletary (Activist Inc.)
- Stacy Monroe (Evaluator, GPS)
- Carolyn Wadlington, EdD (Intern, GBPS)
- Kenneth Bell (Statewide ROSC Technical Assistant, Region One)
- Nicole Fryison (Chicago Public Schools, Dietz High School)
- Elizabeth Kellogg (Community Outreach Engager, GBPS)
- Destiny Bryant (Program Coordinator, GBPS)
- Cecilia Butler (Washington Parks)
- Isaetta Walton
- Maysa Hasan (mentioned, provided definition of recovery)

1. Call to Order and Welcome

- The meeting was called to order by Obedelli.
- Attendees were asked to sign in via the chat function, which would serve as the official sign-in sheet.
- Attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations.

2. Acknowledgements

- Obedelli acknowledged the efforts of ROSC groups, noting an article in the Chicago Sun-Times (March 6, 2025) announcing a decrease in overdose deaths in Illinois.
- The article highlighted the availability of Narcan and outreach efforts as contributing factors.
- Obedelli commended all ROSC groups for their work in getting Narcan into communities, stating their efforts have contributed to the decline in overdoses.

3. Strategic Plan Input

- Obedelli stated that the primary focus of the meeting was to gather input for the strategic plan, which needs to be submitted by the end of April.
- HRDI did not participate in this month's meeting to prioritize the strategic plan.
- Attendees were informed that while the ROSC Council does not provide direct services, all suggestions related to raising awareness and supporting recovery were welcome.

4. Upcoming Events and Announcements

- Marvell Singletary (Activist Inc.) partnered with Grand Boulevard Prevention Services for a Narcan and Fentanyl strip giveaway in the Fuller Park community at the Grand Boulevard Plaza Mall on the past Saturday. Obedelli thanked Marvell and his team for their participation.
- Destiny Bryant announced the "Washington Park with Love" event at the Washington Park Fieldhouse (5555 S. King Drive) on Saturday, April 29th, featuring the author of the book. The time was initially thought to be 10:00 AM and would be confirmed in the chat.
- Stacy Monroe mentioned a successful resource fair hosted by Destiny Bryant and Cecilia Butler at the Washington Park Fieldhouse on the previous Saturday.

5. History of ROSC (Stacy Monroe)

- Stacy Monroe provided a brief overview of the history of Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC).
- ROSC emerged in the late 1990s and early 2000s, driven by community advocates and individuals with lived experience.
- The focus shifted from solely treating symptoms to a more holistic approach promoting a full life in recovery, integrating community and family.
- Past clinical treatment models were criticized for focusing on the individual, excluding community and family, ending at discharge without ongoing support, emphasizing problems over strengths, and criminalizing substance use.
- Recovery community organizations began to form, and SAMHSA provided support and funding to broaden the definition of recovery.
- Stacy shared her definition of recovery as treating the whole person, ensuring a full life, and understanding addiction as a relapsing disease where ongoing support and community intervention are crucial for sustained recovery.
- Maysa Hasan defined recovery as restoration, encompassing overall well-being, physical health, and knowing one's purpose in life.
- Isaetta Walton stated that recovery initially encompassed behavior modification to live without the drug of choice. She noted that current approaches also include meeting individuals where they are, acknowledging the possibility of use without overuse.
- Stacy outlined the spectrum of ROSC, including promotion, prevention, treatment, and recovery.
- She mentioned SAMHSA's four dimensions of recovery: health, home, purpose, and community.
- The community needs assessment revealed high poverty and unemployment, status as a transportation desert, a higher number of homeless individuals, and continued overdose deaths in the service area.
- Community strengths include resilience, beautiful parks and schools, proximity to renowned institutions, and various social activities.
- Stacy posed the question of how to prioritize community needs in the strategic planning process.

6. Strategic Plan Goals and Input

- Stacy outlined potential goals for the next year's strategic plan:

- Expanding council membership.
- Offering sober recreational events and socializing activities.
- Continuing harm reduction efforts (Narcan and fentanyl strip distribution).
- Supporting the council through training and collaboration opportunities.
- Obedelli suggested celebrating sobriety and individuals in recovery through sober events. This idea was positively received by Cecilia Butler and Destiny Bryant.
- Cecilia Butler raised the issue that the Park District does not currently offer Narcan or fentanyl strips and suggested exploring how to address this. Obedelli agreed to reach out to the Chicago Park District with the assistance of Laurel Dudley. Training and education were highlighted as important components.
- Isaetta Walton emphasized the need for training and education, particularly job training, to provide individuals in recovery with better opportunities. She also highlighted the need for training on how to use Narcan and fentanyl strips. Obedelli agreed that hosting such training sessions with community organizations could be impactful.

7. Next Steps and Adjournment

- Obedelli thanked everyone for their participation and input.
- Further discussion on the strategic plan may continue.
- The meeting was adjourned.