

LC ROSC Monthly Meeting
March 27, 2025
10:30 am- 11:35 am

Dr. Mary Roberson opened the meeting by inviting attendees to share how they celebrated Black History month.

Attendees introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of how they celebrated Black History month.

Dr. Mary Roberson gave a recap on NIRCO making grant history by being the only ROSC Council in Lake County and receiving the first BCOR grant ever given by SAMSHA.

Dr. Mary Roberson states we have two newly funded projects.

Barbara Young introduced Jessica Baynes.

Jessica introduced herself as project coordinator to our other newly funded project, Justice Impacted Families. She shared the following about the program:

It is a groundbreaking initiative designed to provide comprehensive support for individuals and families impacted by the justice system. Whether affected by the juvenile system, court system, Department of Corrections (DOC), county jail, or Department of Children and Families (DCF), this project addresses the unique challenges faced by these families with compassion and purpose.

The Justice Impacted Families Project offers a wide range of resources to meet the needs of parents, children, and youth affected by incarceration and justice involvement. Key services include:

- Substance Use Treatment
- Wellness and Recovery Support (addressing trauma and other recovery needs)
- Employment and Housing Assistance
- Youth Development Programs
- Family Reunification Support
- Recidivism Reduction Services

Jessica then introduced Lasheena Jenkins.

Lasheena Jenkins introduced herself as project coordinator to one of our newly funded projects, Warm Handoff.

She took us on a journey by asking the question, “What’s in your hands?”

Lasheena described said, “This is not a program, but a way of life.”

NIRCO's Warm Handoff Program offers peer support to individuals with Opioid and Polysubstance Use Disorders, especially those transitioning from jail, treatment centers, or homelessness. We help you connect with resources, build stability, and find hope.

This program offers the following:

- Peer Recovery Support: 1:1 guidance from trained Peer Recovery Coaches who understand your journey.
- Seamless Transitions: Support as you move from facilities like jail or inpatient treatment to the community.
- Community Resources: Links to housing, employment support, health care, and more.
- Personalized Assistance: Helping you build a stable, fulfilling life in recovery.

Jeffrey Roberson shared the success of the Men's Game Night hosted at NIRCO. Theme: The Man Behind The Mask, host Bob Cardi. There were 45 attendees.

During the meeting collaborations were made.

- Ally from CLC mentions she wants to be involved in the Justice Impacted Families project.
- Shelly Reiman from gateway introduces herself and states she recently met with Lasheena Jenkins and Lasheena asked about the DEI initiatives put into place at Gateway? Shelly contacted the marketing department at Gateway for requests on this matter.
- Kimberly Watts wants to connect with Warm Handoff.

Questions and Discussions:

Shelly Reeman asked about Narcan vending machines and what would that look like, what the legal and policy issues are?

Dr. Mary asks for the cost for one machine with the response they can be up to 15k. Bruce Johnson mentions they are costly, but he has seen it done in other counties.

Shelly Reeman from Gateway also discusses that there are always 16 detox beds in Gateway that are separate than the residential and to refer people we may know.

Janet Bartin is good at supplying Narcan and Narcan training.

Dawn Steffen introduced herself, she is with Big Brothers Big Sisters. She cautiously shared their event at the Brewery tonight February 27 from 5:00-7:00 if anyone would like to come.

Yara Balderas from 211 wants to make sure all their info is up to date, and they can reach everyone's specific needs.

Council Member Announcements:

CJ Jarvis- Eddie Washington Center Graduation, 17 graduates this session.
4/3/205 at the Patricia Jones Center, 11:00 am, Judge Reginal Matthews is the Keynote Speaker.

Chris Reddin- Roslyn Franklin University, Spring Symposium
4/4/2025, the flyer is included in the chat.

Andrea Taylor- Prairie State Legal Services- Expungement & Reinstatement Fair
1/17/2025, 420 Clayton St, Waukegan, 11:00 am 2:00 pm

William Negron- The Strong Friend, "Changing the Narrative"
4/19/2025, Mosaic House Ministries, 10:00 – 2:00 pm.

Jessica Baynes- Women's Round Table with Lake County Jail
4/18/2025

Amanda Douglas shared that all flyers were included in the chat box.

Dr. Mary Roberson ends the meeting.

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 10:30 am via Zoom.