

# THREE CORDS STRONG ROSC ALLIANCE MEETING AGENDA

## TRANSITIONAL TRAINING SERVICES

**LOCATION:** 4455 S KING DRIVE SUITE 101-B

**DATE:** 3/27/2025

**Facilitator:** Marjorie Howard

**Facilitator:** Vawnshekia Oklah

**Facilitator:** Je'Taun Scott

**Speaker:** Pat Beamon

**TIME:** 09:30 AM – 11:45 AM

**ZOOM MEETING ID:** Hybrid- in person and on zoom

**I. Call to Order:** Je'Taun Scott

**II. OPENING STATEMENTS - Je'Taun Scott**

**III. 3 CORDS MISSION, VISION, PAST MEETING REVIEW- Vawnshekia Oklah**

- At Three Cords Strong, our mission is to empower individuals on their recovery journeys by weaving together the essential strands of personal growth, family support, and community resilience. We believe that recovery is a continuous journey rather than a final destination and strive to embrace and support individuals on their unique paths to recovery.
- Three Cords Strong ROSC Alliance envisions a world where recovery is celebrated as a lifelong journey, weaving the threads of personal growth, family bonds, and community support into a resilient tapestry not easily broken.
- What is ROSC
- Recap from last meeting
- Introducing the topic and focus for this meeting

**IV. INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER AND TOPICS – VAWNSHEKIA OKLAH**

- Vawnshekia Oklah- Three Cords Strong
- Pat Beamon- MAT/MAR Harm Reduction

**V. Speaker – Pat Beamon, Vawnshekia Oklah**

### Pat Beamon

- Barriers to women seeking treatment
- Barrier is something that blocks, prohibits, an obstacle that stop or delays
- Some barriers for women can include limited access to treatment services, child care issues, stigma, guilt/shame, childhood and/or adult trauma
- Recognize that women are not the same as men
- They requires gender specific care
- Destigmatize our perception of women needing care
- Contact our elected officials for much needed funding for women's services
- Co-occurring disorders is mental health disorders in addition to substance abuse actively working at the same time
- People transfer what they're feelings are about that individual uses/abuses substance
- People tend to categorize everybody in the same boat
- The difference between men and women in treatment environments is that Women bring completely different issues to the table than men when in treatment; there needs to be some specialized services.

- People who are not trained to deal with people dealing with trauma, abandonment, sexual assault, molestation
- It is not strictly to women but the numbers weigh more on the side of women than men
- A woman who has dealt with trauma from men will be less cooperative and isolated in a co-ed group because they do not feel safe speaking to them
- If the abuse is related from a police officer then her encounter with police will be nervous, angry, and traumatic and causes to shut down
- The need of services that are gender specific because of the issues that women bring to treatment experience
- Legislation was signed that eliminated over \$153B out of the budget; being \$20B only Illinois
  - The categories included health and human services, substance abuse, and mental health disorders
  - Feels that more money should be PUT INTO those categories
- We can individually start the process to destigmatize the image of women that need to go into treatment. Instead, We can look at that person as someone who is suffering and in need of care and services
- We can look at what's going on in our communities and make a decision about what it is that we can do and make a change and we have the power to do that.
- There is strength in numbers
- A lot of programs that we use were started by the Black Panther Party (WIC, early preschool, headstart) these were things that were not government dictated but the government saw it was working
- There are things that are within our control but it has to start with where our heart and head is coming from
- If our perception changes then it can become our reality because we look at it from a different view point
- Even though they may be limited, there is still services out there
- If you can instill hope into a person then that can sustain them
- Substance use is equal opportunity
- Can impact all of us at any time and in any place
- They may be your love one and you may have compassion but you have to give tough love
- You have the information, you use the information that you have but it is up to individual to use the resources and do something with them
- No is a complete sentence with no explanation

#### **Nicole Stokes- New Harris Temple**

- P.E.P ( People Empowerment Project)
- Wednesday, April 30th 10am-12pm
- At New Harris Temple Church
- Workforce workshop wednesday
- Help people with resumes
- Free to everybody
- Feel confident about going into the workforce

#### **Vawnshekia Oklah**

- Community needs assessment
- Recovery ROSC specifically tailored to the re entry population
- Job cooperative resource
- More work relationship with the police force
- People between the ages of 30-70 are highest in the black population for overdose
- White and Hispanic overdose numbers are going down
- Black population numbers have stayed consistent while other populations have dropped
- Black population are in the thousands while other populations are in the hundreds
- Life expectancy for a black man is 72-74
- A lot of narcotic use happens in nursing homes
- Target every disparity unique to black communities
- Getting introduced to narcotics use at a very young age and not kicking it
- We need more resources in our community
- Other communities have more resources than ours
- Resources are not intentionally nor culturally relevant and not focused on us
- More focused on our communities
- Substance use challenges are not solely on the drugs being in our areas, it is no jobs or resources in our areas
- The type of work we are employed by is selling drugs

- We do not have the luxury of two parent households or two income households
- Single women with kids have to depend on the state
- Women with men in their life lose out on resources
- We can not afford to be married
- Men have to go across town to find actual jobs that do not pay liveable wage therefore turning to selling drugs to make enough money to live
- Selling these drugs to their own people
- Our problems are culturally unique
- We need to have community based solutions if we are going to start healing
- We want others to be involved (PLEs)
- Substance use disease is not easily stopped
- We feel so trapped that we make jokes about our own suffering
- ROSC is about community, we do not provide services
- A community that thinks and problem solves
- Once you die, you can not recover

## **VI. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION—**

What can we do? If they are cutting those dollars, where does it leave us? We do have power and some authority. There is power that we have to change some things. We have to demand some things but if we never exercise our rights, the money will not come to where we need

How do we be understanding on the receiving end of someone belligerent? Having a better understanding of what it is and who it is. Take away the who and focus on the what it is the substance use disorders

## **VII. COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENTATION –**

- **Sharon Batiest-** TCA Health- Insurance Enrollment Specialist- Assist people with signing up with Medicaid or Marketplace Health Insurance, SNAP, redetermination, and primary doctor appointment
- **Bahiyyah-** Outreach coordinator- Statewide ROSC
- **Kenneth Bell-** Technical Assistant- Statewide ROSC
- **Don Gordon-** To Equip His People
- **Nicole Stokes-** New Harris Temple

## **VIII.GROUP DISCUSSION – COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY**

## **IX. NEXT ACTION STEPS**

- a) Invitation to join ROSC
- b) Invitation to next meeting – April 24, 2025, 9:30am
- c) Stipend for PLE Members who come to meetings
- d) Invitation to join our Think Tank

## **X. MEETING CLOSE – VAWNSHEKIA OKLAH**