

Westside ROSC Council

Lead Agency: Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition

Friday, April 25, 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: Johanna Gonzalez, IDHS - SUPR; Lindsay Jablanovec, Individual; Jonathan Zaentz, Chicago Fire Department; Juan P Mercado, COD; Joshua Holliday, PrimeCare Community Health; Beverly Carrington, OEMC; Tiffany Patton-Burnside, CDPH; Mary Dowling, West Side Heroin Opioid Task Force; Ruthie Williams, Faith Way Men's independent; Elena Rivera, Family Guidance Centers, Inc.; Aimee Rabe, CRCC; Kenneth Bell, Statewide ROSC; Anthony Baker, Kalimba Foundation; Joana Aguirre, Individual; Arbutus "Beauty" Winfrey, WESTSIDE TASK FORCE; Lisa K. Long, RICCA; Rae Absher, Perfectly Flawed Foundation; GAIL RICHARDSON, WESTSIDE TASK FORCE; Tanya Lynette Johnson, Behavioral Health Workforce Center; Yulanda A Thomas, CRCC; Walter Houston, Kalimba House; Ed Boone, CRCC; Candyce Banford, CRCC; Venessa Moreno, CRCC; Linda Sharp, Individual; Jocelyn Beckham, Adrian's Purpose Sober Living; Maria Fiorillo, ; Dora Wright, CRCC; Danielle Brown, AREA YOUTH LIAISON OFFICER - CPD; Meghann Cherie, MA, LCPC, Cook County Sheriff's Police Department; Kimberly Kolvitez, Individual; Derrick Brewer, CRCC; Charlotte Estell, Kalimba Foundation; Tom Johnson, CRCC; Mary Dowling, West Side Heroin Opioid Task Force; Kelsey Staley, Trillium Place New Leaf

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: ROSC Coordinator Introduces Meeting Participants

Edward Boone, the ROSC Coordinator, begins the meeting with introductions from all participants. Attendees represent various organizations including the Chicago Department of Public Health, Cook County Sheriff's Police Department, Chicago Fire Department, and several treatment and recovery support centers. The meeting focuses on a topic that is not frequently discussed, as noted by one participant. Edward encourages attendees to network and form partnerships during the meeting.



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Supporting a Diverse Chicago West Side Community

ROSC Council's Integrated Recovery System

The meeting focused on the Ross Council's goals and objectives, particularly advocating for the development of an integrated system of recovery. The council aims to create communities of recovery, develop supportive recovery communities, and implement effective communication. The meeting also highlighted the importance of compassionate care in emergency situations, with a panel discussion featuring representatives from various departments, including the Chicago Fire Department, Cook County Sheriff's Treatment Response Program, Chicago Department of Public Health, and the West Side Heroin Opiate Task Force. The panelists shared their experiences and the role of their departments in providing compassionate care.

Topic Discussion: Emergency Services and Compassionate Care

ROSC Council Speaker: Maria Fiorillo, MPH / Chicago Department of Public Health

The conversation began with a discussion on opioid-related overdose EMS responses in Chicago, with data presented by an epidemiologist Maria Fiorillo, MPH from the Chicago Department of Public Health.

Topic Discussion: Emergency Services and Compassionate Care

ROSC Council Speaker: Beverly Carrington / Office of Emergency Management and Communications

Beverly Carrington of the Office of Emergency Management and Communications discussed her department's role in emergency services, including dispatch operations for police and fire, 3-1-1 for city services, and emergency management. She highlighted the importance of compassionate care in gathering information for responders during mental health calls.

Topic Discussion: Emergency Services and Compassionate Care

ROSC Council Speaker: Chief Jonathan Zaentz / Chicago Fire Department

Jonathan, representing the Chicago Fire Department, expressed his passion for the subject due to the high burden of substance use in the Austin neighborhood. Edward offered condolences to the recently deceased Chicago Fire Chief.

Chicago Fire Department's Compassionate Care Evolution Jonathan discussed the evolution of compassionate care in the Chicago Fire Department, emphasizing the importance of nonjudgmental attitudes and understanding the larger picture of individuals in crisis. He highlighted the department's efforts to address substance abuse issues, including the distribution of Narcan and community awareness programs. Kenneth asked about the pre-pandemic data on overdose responses, to which Jonathan suggested consulting epidemiologists for more accurate information.

Topic Discussion: Emergency Services and Compassionate Care

ROSC Council Speaker: Megann Cherie / Cook County Sheriff's Department Treatment Response Team

Community and Cultural Sensitivity in First Responders Megan from the Cook County Sheriff's Department shared about their Treatment Response Team, established in 2019 to address the opioid epidemic. The team, which includes a licensed clinical professional counselor, provides co-responder services, distributes Narcan, and links individuals to services. They also offer virtual assistance and post-incident follow-ups. Megan emphasized the importance of listening and empathy in compassionate care, and the team's efforts to improve relationships with the community through community events and a diverse team. The team also collaborates with various providers across Cook County to provide services.

Topic Discussion: Emergency Services and Compassionate Care

ROSC Council Speaker: Tiffany Patton-Burnside / Chicago Department of Public Health (CARE)

Tiffany Patton-Burnside from the Chicago Department of Public Health discussed the city's mental health mobile crisis response team, Chicago Care. The team, which includes mental health crisis clinicians and EMTs, operates in six police districts and provides resources to individuals in mental health crises. Tiffany also mentioned the creation of a citywide team to assist individuals with complex cases or special needs. The team's approach is trauma-informed and includes case management and care coordination. Edward and Venessa asked about the possibility of adding more districts to the program, to which Tiffany responded that the team is data-informed and uses call volume data to determine where to operate. She also mentioned that the program is funded by a grant that will expire in 2026, and additional funding would be needed for expansion.



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Improving Collaboration in Crisis Situations

The meeting focused on improving collaboration between first responders and recovery and peer support organizations. The panelists discussed the need for sustainable solutions and resilience in their work, particularly in crisis situations. They emphasized the importance of partnerships and networks to ensure that services are available 24/7. The conversation also touched on the challenges of funding and the need for advocacy to create more services that aren't dependent on billing or insurance. The panelists agreed on the importance of interdisciplinary approaches and open-mindedness to foster growth and collaboration.

Improving Mental Health Community Collaboration

The meeting focused on improving mental health response in the community. Edward emphasized the need for collaboration among agencies and the importance of community education. Tiffany suggested that agencies should advocate for funding and collaborate with their council members. Dora highlighted the need for a sector partner in each category and expressed concern about the lack of collaboration among organizations. The group also discussed the importance of advocacy and education in the community.

Community Partnerships and Collaborations

The meeting focused on community partnerships and collaborations. Edward expressed gratitude for the panelists' contributions and invited them to join the Ross meetings. Beverly emphasized the importance of being prepared for emergencies and offered to share OEMC's website. Maria and Meghann also shared their availability for any future needs. The Chicago Fire Department's Chief Jonathan highlighted the importance of community partnerships and expressed a desire to put himself out of business. Tiffany from the Department of Public Health discussed the expansion of mental health clinics and offered training services. The conversation ended with an invitation to join the next month's celebration of successful women in the community.

Next Steps

1. All attendees to fill out the ROSC attendance form to receive CEUs and stay updated on upcoming council events.
2. Maria Fiorello to share publishable opioid-related EMS response data with interested parties upon request.
3. All attendees to reach out to Cook County Sheriff's Treatment Response Team for potential collaborations and to share information about their programs, especially those in suburban Cook County.
4. Community organizations to partner with area hospitals, particularly emergency rooms, to provide extended services to individuals with overdoses and mental health issues.
5. All attendees to advocate to their aldermen and city council members for securing funding to expand the CARE program citywide and make it 24/7.
6. CRCC to reach out to panelists to offer support and explore collaboration opportunities.
7. Cook County Sheriff's Treatment Response Team to provide mental health, substance use, and Narcan training for community members and businesses upon request.
8. Chicago Department of Public Health CARE team to attend community events, provide outreach, and offer training on psychological first aid, trauma-informed responses, and suicide prevention upon request.
9. All attendees to join next month's ROSC meeting celebrating successful women in the community.

Closing Remarks

Ed: 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 May 23, 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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