

# THREE CORDS STRONG ROSC ALLIANCE MEETING AGENDA

## TRANSITIONAL TRAINING SERVICES

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

**DATE:** 4/24/2025

**Facilitator:** Marjorie Howard

**Facilitator:** Vawnshekia Oklah

**Speaker:** Carolyn Howard Esq.

**TIME:** 09:30 AM – 11:45 AM

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

**I. Call to Order:** Vawnshekia Oklah

**II. OPENING STATEMENTS** - Vawnshekia Oklah

- A coalition is a group of people who get together and have a common goal.
- Different people of different aspects, different walks of life, and backgrounds, with one common problem.
- How can we contribute to the solution?
- Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care: Our goal is to help move the recovery community forward.
- Community-based: concerned about how our community is progressing, or concerned that our community has not been progressing as much as we want.
- The recidivism rate has not changed.
- The rates of imprisonment for Black and brown people have not changed
- Replaced jobs, housing, and work with prison.

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

- At Three Cords Strong, we aim to empower individuals on their unique recovery journeys by weaving together the essential strands of personal growth, family support, and community resilience. Recovery is a continuous journey rather than a final destination and strives 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.
- Agenda
- Recap from last meeting
- Introducing the topic and focus for this meeting

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

- Three-year strategic plan with three priorities
- Workforce development: People do not have places to work.
- People who are coming out of the prison system (justice-involved individuals) have the

- proper support to achieve housing and jobs.
- It is hard to achieve when you have nothing to live for.
- Deflection and Diversion: Instead of putting you in the system and charging you, the police should refer you to a recovery program (Deflection).
- Recovery is currently listed as a disease because it alters the mind, and people need help.
- We put all the pressure on the person and forget that we need help.
- Deflection refers to pre-arrest or pre-charge initiatives that redirect individuals to community-based resources and supports, preventing them from entering the formal legal system.
- Diversion involves intervention after the individual has been arrested or charged, offering alternatives to prosecution, time, and potential criminal records.

## **V. Speaker – Carolyn Howard Esq. , Vawnshekia Oklah**

### **Attorney Carolyn Howard Esq**

- The power of diversion, legal alternatives that heal and not harm
- New Millennium Law Firm
- A system that prosecutes people who have known convictions, who are poor, and in need of justice
- Criminal prosecution is when you have been charged with a crime. You can be charged with a felony or a misdemeanor
- Federal felonies or state felonies
- When talking about drugs and a diversion program, we are speaking of a second chance program.
- Make sure the police know about the diversion programs before you make a statement.
- When you are arrested, you can produce evidence against yourself
- When being arrested, do not make a statement
- Have an attorney mention the diversion programs
- Cupcake Brown is an author who was arrested several times, raised in the system, involved in gangbanging, and addicted to drugs she sold
- Cupcake Brown worked at a law firm
- Her law firm sent her to rehab. After rehab, she passed the bar exam, began law school, and became a lawyer.
- One thing a person has that outlasts the crime is their hope.
- Your hope can sustain you through the pain you are going through to create a better existence for yourself.
- We have to have grit and fight and know how to use the tools
- ROSC gives us tools to move past what we may have been arrested for
- Being arrested can be one of the lowest points that one can experience
- You have a right to say you would like to look into a diversion program
- The attorney can open a conversation using a tool to help you further your life and get better
- The duty of confidentiality: whatever you tell your lawyer, even when they get angry, they can not tell someone else and is the most powerful restrictions
- Subsequent remedial measure: not an admission of guilt
- TASC: an alternative treatment program that many people qualify for
- Attach your current situation to your dreams, goals, and ambitions
- We need more conversations with young people about how crime can be a quick come-up, but not thinking of the amount of time and money it can take to fight that case.

It would not be worth it

- The only way for our community to change is if we fight for the change
- Resources will not be impactful unless we fight for them
- The youth are not adequately educated on dealing with law enforcement
- Drug court: The judge monitors your case from start to finish
- You can find drug treatment programs that the court has not heard of, and be able to show interest
- When you enter into a diversion program, you have to embrace that discipline
- Your higher purpose is your goals and ambition
- If you get arrested, only speak with your lawyer

### **People Empowerment Project**

- Provide resources to eliminate recidivism
- Re-entry Assistant program
- Workforce/ workshop Wednesdays
- Program starts April 30th, 10 am-12 pm
- Help you create a resume
- Provide interview preparation
- Job search assistance

### **Vawnshekia Oklah**

- Stigma around substance use
- Makes a barrier to treatment
- Name Calling
- People stop being human once they have an addiction
- Reduce stigma
- If you feel like you have been a victim of stigma, there are confidential 60-minute focus groups with a gift card upon completion.
- Police officers tend to use deflection processes at their discretion
- Policing 7 years ago looks different than what it is today
- Every officer has to do training every year, regardless of how long they have been on the force
- We have to start healing our communities
- We want to ensure that our relationship with the police officers is so strong that they know who is in the community.
- We have to keep going forward with progress. Otherwise, you are part of the problem.
- We need open communication with the police.
- The first time seeing a police officer should not be only when something goes wrong.
- We have to be willing to have conversations about addressing and healing trauma.
- We have to embrace healing

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

- How can we stop so many black men and women from going into custody? Complete the diversion program and tell others about the program and how it helped you
- Do you feel diversion programs are better than prison? Absolutely

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

- **Carolyn Howard**- Attorney, New Millennium Law Firm
- **Angela**- TCA Health outreach enrollment specialist
- **Nicole**- People Empowerment Project

#### **VIII. GROUP DISCUSSION – Three-Year Strategic Plan**

#### **IX. NEXT ACTION STEPS**

- a) Invitation to join ROSC
- b) Invitation to next meeting – May 29, 2025, 9:30 am
- c) Stipend for PLE Members who come to meetings
- d) Invitation to join our Think Tank

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