



HLM Recovery R.O.S.C. Council Meeting Minutes

Date: May 27, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Attendees:

Tarcia Leak, Annie Ramos, Dana Fedenia, Megan Gonzales, Amie Toste, Heather Drew, Magdalena Campos, Matisha Green, Alonzo Whyte, Ben Rudolph, Raven Fisher, Samantha Rosenthal, Jaron Nabors, Angela Solis, LeShae Hudson, Joliet Township Government, Jaron Nabors, Michelle N. DeMato, Allison Thomas, Johanna Gonzalez, Elena Rivera, Cristina Ramirez, Luz Aranda, Debra Beckmann, Paul Hempel, Stephanie Hook, Aishwarya Balakrishna, Danny Sourbis, Cristina (IFRC), Connie Dewall, Paula Ekstrom, Kathleen Burke PhD, Jarrett Burton, John Lucanza, Jan Dombrowski, Caitlin Daly, Kayla DeCant, Blake Worman

Opening Remarks:

Ben Rudolf opened the meeting with a unifying prayer, blending a traditional Jewish blessing—**“Baruch atah, Adonai, Eloheinu, melech ha’olam”**—asking the Creator of the Universe to guide and protect us, with a reflection on the Lord’s Prayer, focusing on:

“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

He emphasized that both prayers ask for divine guidance and protection, reminding us:

“Alone, we will fail. But if we work together, we will prevail.”

He closed by dedicating the meeting to God, praying for unity, collaboration, and hope in addressing mental health and substance use challenges.

Introductions & Welcome

HeartLife Ministries – Will/Grundy County R.O.S.C. Council Meeting

Tarcia warmly welcomed everyone and transitioned into introductions by inviting first-time attendees to briefly share who they are and where they're from.

Guest Speaker Introduction:

Dana Fedenia from OPVEE

Dana was invited to present on the topic of OPVEE, a recovery medication option. Tarcia acknowledged that the topic may spark varying perspectives and encouraged everyone to listen with openness. Following Dana's presentation, there would be time for questions and discussion.

Presentation by Dana Fedenia:

- Dana introduced herself and Alonzo Whyte from the medical team, then explained that the presentation would focus on OPVEE — a nasal spray opioid overdose rescue medication designed specifically for synthetic opioids like fentanyl.
- Unlike Narcan, which uses naloxone, OPVEE contains nalmefene, offering faster and longer-lasting effects. In studies, it restored breathing in about 2.5 minutes and maintained effectiveness for over 11 hours, addressing the high potency and long duration of synthetic opioids.
- OPVEE is currently being used by first responders in select areas like Will County, IL, and Oakland County, MI. It's easy to administer, has a 3-year shelf life, and offers a vital tool in combating today's opioid overdose crisis.

Questions and Discussion

- **Is this available for nonprofits or free?**
It's available statewide but not free yet. We're working on grants—currently costs about \$75 a box.
- **Can Narcan and Opvee be used together safely?**
Yes, both can be used with no safety issues. Use whatever is available to save a life.
- **Was the study independent or replicated?**
Yes, an independent group conducted it, and other studies show similar positive results.
- **Can this medication be given if unsure about an overdose?**
Yes, like Narcan, it's safe to give if someone isn't breathing, unless there's an allergy.
- **How widely is it used?**
Used by several agencies in Illinois with multiple successful reversals; growing nationwide.

- **Important:** Always call emergency services after giving any overdose medication.

Welcome and Introduction of Magdalena Campos

- HeartLife Ministries is proud to announce Magdalena Campos as the new Program Coordinator for our Recovery 180 initiative, addressing substance use, mental health, homelessness, and unemployment.
- Magdalena is well known in Will County for her inspiring recovery journey. A former registered nurse, she has personally faced addiction and mental illness. After surviving multiple overdoses, Magdalena found healing through spirituality, 12-step programs, and community support.
- She says, "Recovery is my heart and my purpose." Magdalena is passionate about helping others navigate their own recovery with hope and faith. We're excited to have her work at HeartLife Ministries.

Community Events

Tarcia gave a brief overview of upcoming community events and outreach efforts. She highlighted current engagement opportunities and encouraged continued participation and collaboration.

Adjournment

With no further comments, the meeting was concluded approximately 10 minutes early. Attendees were thanked for their time and reminded that the next meeting will be held on June 24. Meeting notes will be shared soon.