



Southland Recovery Coalition ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: 6/25/2025 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

LOCATION: Zoom

PRESENTER(S): Yvonne M. Orr-Blake, Meeting Facilitator

TOPIC: Community Impact: What does it really look like?

ATTENDEES		AFFILIATION	ATTENDEES		AFFILIATION
1	Angelia F. Smith	Cornerstone, Lead Partner Agency	12	Eula Burge	Proactive Community Services
2	Yvonne M. Orr-Blake	ICSC, Partner Agency	13	Souheir Rahman	Together We Cope
3	Kathryn Straniero	Together We Cope, Partner Agency	14	Elena Rivera	Family Guidance
4	Capucine McGinnis	Cornerstone, Workforce Coor	15	Denise Jones	Tender Touch Inc.
5	Kamil Walton	Cornerstone, Deputy Director	16	Ed Boone	West Side ROSC
6	April Thompson	HHI, Cornerstone	17	Denise Holman	Opioid Health Educator, CCDPH
7	Leonard Noble	Cornerstone, Workforce Dev Dir	18	Kenneth Bell	Region I TA, Statewide ROSC
8	Lamont Wallace	PLE, Comm Nav, Cornerstone; ICSC	19	Yasmeen Hismeh	Together We Cope
9	Sherri Keyes	Family Guidance Center, Prog Mgr	20	Katie Huffman	Together We Cope
10	Johanna Gonzalez	ROSC Coord, IDHS	21	Neesha Stringfellow	Will County Grundy ROSC
11	Michael Ferguson	Family Guidance Center, Prog Mgr	22	Denise Holman	Opioid Health Educator, CCDPH
12	Deb Beckmann	Statewide ROSC			

MEETING SUMMARY: Southland Recovery Coalition ROSC Council Meeting

The meeting opened with introductions and updates from various participants, including new roles and the start of FY26, along with the addition of new councils in Cook County. Southland presented survey results and discussed the growing opioid abuse crisis in the south suburbs, highlighting demographic trends and economic factors contributing to the issue. The conversation ended with announcements about upcoming events and initiatives, including health fairs and the installation of Naloxone dropboxes, along with reminders about fiscal year changes and renewal grant opportunities.

FY26 Updates and New Councils

The meeting began with introductions and updates from various participants, including Yvonne, who mentioned her temporary role with the Indigenous Community Service Center and upcoming position with Build, Engage, and Elevate Community Development Corporation. Kenneth shared updates on the start of FY26 on July 1st and the addition of new councils in Cook County, expressing excitement to integrate them into the group. Southland discussed the results of recent surveys completed by participants, which will be reviewed in detail, and introduced Deborah Beckman, a key member of the Statewide ROSC leadership team, who contributes to training and creative ideas.

Southland's Opioid Abuse Crisis Update

Southland discussed the growing opioid abuse crisis in the south suburbs, noting that many survey respondents did not fully understand questions about treatment programs and Narcan distribution. She highlighted an increase in opioid use among older white males and teenagers, with some teens mixing opioids with CBD products. Southland attributed the rise in older adult opioid use to economic factors such as housing and job loss.



Southland Recovery Coalition ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: 6/25/2025 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Announcements

The meeting covered updates on upcoming events and initiatives. Southland announced a mini conference hosted by Bremen Township on July 23rd from 9 to noon, celebrating recovery champion Myron Graham. Kenneth mentioned a community health fair hosted by the Southside Heroin Opioid Task Force. April reminded attendees of Cornerstone's health and wellness fair on August 9th. Denise discussed the installation of Naloxone dropboxes in the Western South suburbs to combat drug use, with Southland confirming four locations, including Cornerstone.

The conversation ended with a reminder for attendees to stay tuned for upcoming emails about fiscal year changes and renewal grant opportunities.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:09 am

Next Meeting:



presents its
**MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO
RECOVERY CONFERENCE**
WED., JUL 23, 2025
9:00 AM to Noon



SCAN THE QR CODE OR
CLICK THE LINK TO REGISTER

<https://bit.ly/SRCconf72325>



Keynote Speaker
JERRY DAVIS-EL
LCSW, LPHA, CADC, CDOP1

Bremen Township
15350 OAK PARK AVE, BLDG A
OAK FOREST, IL 60452-1500



LEAD PARTNER
AGENCY



honoring the
**2025 RECOVERY
CHAMPION**

*Myron
Graham*



**FREE GIVEAWAYS,
PRIZES, SNACKS
& MORE!**

SOUTHLAND RECOVERY COALITION
943 EAST LINCOLN HWY • FORD HEIGHTS, IL 60411
708.758.2565 | WWW.SOUTHLANDRECOVERY.ORG

Changing Communities...Restoring Lives!
SRC ROSC COUNCIL PARTNER AGENCIES
Cornerstone Community Development Corporation, NFP (Lead Fiscal Agent)
Indigenous Community Service Center • Together We Cope (Partner Agencies)



Funded in whole or in part by the Illinois Department of Human
Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery