



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

**Date:** July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025

**Time:** 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** Virtual

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## Overview

The HLM Recovery R.O.S.C. meeting began with introductions from new attendees, including Jack Goldenbacker from the Village of Manuka, Andrea Barron from Ignite City Church, and Joe Biel from Heart Grove Hospital. Dr. Mary Roberson from NIRCO/LC ROSC shared insights on mental health in Black communities, highlighting statistics like 7.9% Black adults with co-occurring disorders and 15.3% with mental health issues. She emphasized the importance of reducing stigma and community support. The meeting concluded with a discussion on active partnership within the network and breakout rooms for further collaboration.

## Action Items

- Determine the best day and time for ROSC meetings for each county (Will, Grundy, Kankakee) before 3 PM on Tuesdays.
- Connect with school districts in the service area to collaborate on initiatives.
- Organize a faith-based leaders' brunch to engage the faith community in the ROSC efforts.

## Opening Remarks and Introductions

- Neesha Stringfellow welcomes everyone to the HLM Recovery R.O.S.C. meeting and mentions the start time.
- Neesha opens the meeting with a prayer, thanking God for the day, summertime, and the work of recovery and healing.
- Neesha invites new attendees to introduce themselves and their organizations.
- Jack Goldenbacker from the Village of Manuka introduces himself as a community development officer focusing on economic development and amenities.
- Andrea Barron from Ignite City Church introduces herself and her role in the Ignite Center recovery home.

## **Further Introductions and Meeting Goals**

- Andrea Barron explains her role as a seizure coordinator at the Joliet Latino Economic Development Association, focusing on clean energy careers.
- Joe Biel from Heart Grove Hospital introduces himself and explains their mental health services, including trauma programs for children and adolescents.
- Carol Kilgallon introduces herself as the Group Director of Business Development for Heart Grove and Garfield.
- Angela Bailey from Catholic Charities introduces herself and her role in senior communities.
- Marie Washington Hall from NIRCO introduces herself and mentions her invitation by Dr. Mary.

## **Explanation of ROSC and New Fiscal Year**

Neesha explains the ROSC (Recovery Oriented Systems of Care) and its focus on building a coordinated network of community-based services.

announces the expansion of the ROSC to include Kankakee County, making it a Tri-County ROSC.

emphasizes the importance of collaboration and building relationships within the ROSC network.

invites attendees to share their best times for meetings, considering the new expanded area.

## **Dr. Mary Roberson's Presentation on Mental Health in Black Communities.**

Neesha introduces Dr. Mary Roberson, CEO and founder of the Northern Illinois Recovery Community Organization (NIRCO). Dr. Mary shares her personal journey in recovery and the importance of community in healing. Discusses the stigma surrounding mental health and substance use disorders in Black and African American communities. Dr. Mary highlights statistics from SAMHSA, including the prevalence of co-occurring disorders and mental health conditions in Black communities. Placing emphasis on the importance of reducing stigma and shame in discussing mental health and substance use disorders. She shares her experience with trauma and the impact of triggers on individuals in recovery, discussing the role of NIRCO in providing support and resources for individuals and families affected by mental health and substance use disorders. Lastly Dr. Mary highlights the importance of self-care for leaders in the recovery field and the need to address their own mental health challenges.

## **Q&A and Breakout Room Discussions**

- Neesha asks Dr. Mary about handling the loss of a staff member and the importance of self-care for leaders.
- Dr. Mary shares her experience with staff loss and the importance of community and self-care in dealing with grief.
- Dr. Mary provides an overview of NIRCO's services, including Narcan training, recovery support services, and justice-impacted projects.
- Neesha transitions the meeting to breakout room discussions, led by Tarcia Leak, to address questions and strategies for meaningful change within the ROSC network.

## **Attendees:**

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