



Westside ROSC Council

Lead Agency: Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition

Friday, August 22, 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: Monique Draper, BUILD; Dr. Angelique Orr, WESTSIDE RISING; Samantha Adamaitis, UPMC; Mary Dowling, West Side Heroin Opioid Task Force; Arbutus Winfrey, Westside Opioid Task Force; Candyce Banford, CRCC; Charlotte Estell, Kalimba Foundation NFP; Devarsh Shah, Individual; Holland Herndon, Association House of Chicago; Shelly McElroy, Child and Family Connections #9; Patricia Zuniga, SGA Youth & Family Services; Albeza V. Ruiz, Cook county Hospital and Health system; Eric Davis, BASE Chicago; John Hardin, CRCC; Ruthie Williams, Faith Way Men Independent Facility; David Troy Stinson, Westside rising; Cristina Banda, Illinois Family Resource Center; Devan Mcdaye, Association house of Chicago; Laronda Castine, Marillac St. Vincent Family Services; Niktoria Julian, Tomorrows Light; Wateka Kleinpeter, Individual; Kimberly Haywood, Breaking Barriers Collectively; Tom Johnson, CRCC; Angelina Sanchez, Brighter Behavior Choices Inc., NFP - The Recovery Cafe Chicago; Derrick Brewer, CRCC; Tanya Johnson, BHW; Lisa Cook, Advocates for Human Potential, Inc.; Aimee Rabe, CRCC; Kenneth Bell, Statewide ROSC; Adam L Scheffler, Individual - Do Not Need CEUs; Jordan Malone, Individual; Edward Boone, CRCC; Steve Hendrickson, Hendrickson Recovery Home; Calandra Hulitt, Individual; Thyrothica Hill, ECHO Development Center; Walter Houston, Kalimba House; Venessa Moreno, CRCC; Helen Land, Where Do We Go From Here; Arlisia Dockery, Echo Development Center; Dora Dantzler-Wright, CRCC;

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: The monthly ROSC meeting focused on youth support and community partnerships, featuring presentations from various organizations and experts discussing recovery-oriented care, mental health services, and youth intervention programs. The panel of experts shared insights about youth resilience, challenges, and the importance of intergenerational collaboration, while highlighting successful stories of youth development and community support. The conversation ended with discussions about community challenges related to mental health and substance abuse, followed by announcements of upcoming events and opportunities for continued collaboration among various organizations.

ROSC Council's Integrated Recovery System

The meeting focused on the ROSC 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

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communication. The panelists shared their experiences and their roles in providing support to individuals and families in the area of recovery, and reentry.

Topic Discussion: Youth Support: Community Services in Action

ROSC Council Presenters: Dr. Angelique Orr / West Side Rising; Monique Draper / BUILD; Devarsh Shah/ CADCA; Eric Davis / The BASE

Summary: Youth: Community in Action

The monthly ROSC meeting began with introductions and attendance form submissions. Edward introduced the theme of Youth: Community in Action and played a song by Gil Scott Heron called "Save the Children" to set the tone. The meeting focused on presentations related to youth, though the content of these presentations was not detailed in the transcript.

Youth Health Initiative Coordination Meeting

The meeting began with introductions from various participants, including initiative coordinators, school-based counselors, administrators, clinicians, community engagement ambassadors, and representatives from various organizations such as Cook County Health, SGA Youth and Family Services, and the West Side Heroin Opiate Task Force. Devarsh Shah, a youth public health advocate, and Dr. Angelique Orr, the executive director of West Side Rising, were introduced as presenters. The conversation ended with introductions of additional presenters, including Eric Davis, the executive director of Base Chicago, and Monique Draper, the chief campus and community officer at Build, an anti-gang and anti-violence organization.

ROSC Goals and Partnership Initiatives

Edward led a meeting to discuss the Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) goals and objectives, emphasizing community-based services and partnerships. He introduced a panel of experts focused on youth support, including Monique Draper, Eric Davis, Dr. Angelique Orr, and Devarsh Shah, who shared their work in education, public health, and community engagement. Edward encouraged attendees to sign a memorandum of understanding to strengthen partnerships and support the organization's mission. Niktoria Julian, founder of Tomorrows Light, expressed interest in collaborating with the group.

Youth Resilience and Digital Adaptation

The panelists discussed the strengths and challenges of today's youth, highlighting their resilience, adaptability, and access to resources through social media and technology. Monique emphasized youth's ability to navigate challenges and find support, while Eric noted the importance of sharing historical stories to inspire future generations. Devarsh highlighted youth creativity and peer support through social media, and Dr. Orr discussed the generational gap but praised young people's adaptability and potential. The panelists agreed on the need for intergenerational collaboration to leverage youth skills and wisdom for community progress.

Youth Mental Health Community Support

The panelists shared their personal inspirations and experiences working with youth and mental health in the community. Dr. Orr discussed his work with Westside Rising, emphasizing the importance of building a supportive village for young people. Eric Davis shared his journey with BUILD, highlighting how the organization's support helped him avoid retaliation after being shot as a teenager. Monique Draper explained her commitment to providing culturally responsive support and resources for young people to build resilience and hope. The panelists also discussed the impact of community organizations like BUILD and Westside Rising in providing safe spaces and alternative activities for youth.

Youth Intervention Program Success Stories

The meeting focused on success stories from a youth intervention program, where Monique shared how a young man with justice involvement was supported through the program, completed it, and is now in his second year at LSU on scholarship. Dr. Orr highlighted how their program helps youth develop social-emotional skills and professional competencies, with David Stinson testifying about his personal growth in community engagement and communication skills. The discussion emphasized the importance of providing mental health support and changing cultural attitudes towards therapy, with participants noting that youth are increasingly seeking and embracing mental health services.



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Westside Recovery Council Collaboration Initiative

The meeting focused on the Westside ROSC Council's mission to connect organizations providing recovery support services across 13 communities in Chicago. John Wright, a co-founder of CRCC, explained that the council received state funding to help agencies share resources and collaborate, emphasizing the importance of creating a continuum of care that addresses physical, spiritual, and mental needs. Edward highlighted the need for better coordination between the four main West Side coalitions, urging organizations like Tomorrow Light, founded by Niktoria Julian, to join these coalitions and participate in an upcoming December meeting at Malcolm X. The discussion stressed collaboration over competition, with a shared goal of saving lives and improving community well-being.

Cross-Community Collaboration and Empowerment

Kimberly Haywood, a new ROSC Coordinator from the South Side, expressed enthusiasm about collaborating with the West Side team and praised their efforts in providing community services. She emphasized the importance of cross-community collaboration and empowering young people. Derrick shared his personal journey and appreciation for the community support that inspired his current advocacy work. The panelists discussed what motivates their continued efforts, with Dr. Orr highlighting the progress and confidence gained by young people through investment, and Eric sharing his personal connection to Cabrini Green and his mission to give back to the community that supported his family.

Community Building Through Peace Treaty

Eric shared his experience growing up in Chicago and his involvement in setting up a Peace Treaty in 1990, which later expanded to Los Angeles. He emphasized the importance of community over personal career interests and expressed a desire to see his work become unnecessary as the community addresses its issues through education, entrepreneurship, and trust. Edward acknowledged the influence of Marion Stamps and others in his life, highlighting the positive impact of certain police officers in their community.

Early Intervention and Workforce Initiatives

Shelly, who works for early intervention, discussed her organization's efforts to support children from birth to three and their families by connecting them with community resources. She announced an upcoming "Pump It Up" fair at Build on September 20th, inviting vendors to provide services for families. Tanya shared her work on a behavioral health workforce curriculum aimed at encouraging youth with lived experience to pursue careers in the field, and Devarsh described how he overcame initial skepticism from peers about his community work by using social media to demonstrate his impact.

Youth Mental Health and Substance Abuse Challenges

The group discussed pressing challenges in the community related to mental health and substance abuse, particularly among youth. Monique highlighted increases in violence, trauma, and substance use as coping mechanisms, while Dr. Orr emphasized the complex layers of trauma affecting both young people and adults. Eric shared insights on housing insecurity, addiction, and the influence of social media and rap culture, noting how these factors contribute to risky behaviors and mental health issues. Devarsh emphasized the need to shift from reactive to preventive measures and highlighted the lack of mentors and role models as a significant barrier for youth seeking alternative paths.

Community Events and Announcements

The conversation ended with various community announcements and upcoming events shared by participants. Kimberly announced the second ROSC Council meeting on the third Friday of each month and a collaborative event at Dan Ryan Woods on September 27th. Niktoria highlighted the second annual Hill of Hood event on September 12th, while Mary discussed International Opioid Overdose Awareness Day on August 30th. Monique shared details about a Peace Ride on August 30th, and Dr. Orr invited everyone to a youth symposium follow-up meeting on August 26th. Eric mentioned an annual stock investment and entrepreneurial club for young people, and participants were encouraged to reach out to Edward for further information and collaboration opportunities.

Next steps

- Attendees: Fill out the attendance form via the Google form shared in the chat to receive CEUs.
- Attendees: Reach out to Edward at 773-317-1554 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding and establish a formal partnership.
- Edward: Organize the December meeting bringing together the four West Side coalitions.



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- Laronda and Edward: Connect regarding potential partnership initiatives between their organizations.
- All panelists: Put their contact information in the chat.
- All panelists: Collaborate with Tomorrow's Light organization for youth empowerment initiatives.
- Niktoria Julian: Connect with the West Side ROSC Coalition, West Side Opioid Task Force, and West Side Stakeholders to expand Tomorrow's Light partnerships.
- All partners: Attend the December meeting at Malcolm X for the Alliance of Coalitions event.
- John Wright: Continue facilitating connections between organizations through the continuum of care model.
- Westside ROSC partners: Share resources and referral information to strengthen the community support network.
- Shelly: Organize the "Pump It Up" fair at Build on September 20th for families to connect with community resources.
- Shelly: Collect contact information from meeting participants for potential vendor participation at the "Pump It Up" fair.
- Shelly: Send information about the "Pump It Up" fair to Edward and Venessa for circulation to the Council.
- Venessa and Edward: Help circulate information about the "Pump It Up" fair to Council members.
- Tanya: Seek a school to pilot the behavioral health career pathways curriculum for FY26.
- Devarsh: Continue community work through the "Let's Rise" movement and provide updates on social media.
- Kimberly: Share information about the ROSC Council meeting on the 3rd Friday of the month with Edward and Venessa.
- Community members: Attend/support the Hill of Hood event on September 12th at 900 North Laverne Avenue.
- Community members: Attend the International Opioid Overdose Awareness Day event on August 30th at Lake and Central.
- Community members: Attend the Illinois Association of Extended Care event on September 20th at 2622 West Jackson.
- Community members: Register for the Peace Ride in Austin on August 30th starting from the Build location.
- Organizations: Attend the youth symposium continuation on Tuesday at the firehouse at 4:30 PM.
- Edward: Disseminate Eric's information about the annual stock investment and entrepreneurial club for young people.
- John Wright: Send copies of the chat to Edward and other participants who requested it.
- Community members: Attend the ROSC Council meeting on the 3rd Friday of the month organized by Kimberly Haywood.
- Community members: Join next month's ROSC meeting focused on recovery featuring Dora Wright's presentation.
- Attendees: Submit questions for the panelists during the Q&A portion of the meeting.

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 by Zoom on September 26, 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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