



NEAR SOUTH SIDE

MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: Virtual - Zoom

DATE: 08/13/2025

ATTENDEES:

- Gloria Prowell (Near South Side Community Coordinator), Daniel Mendez (EDDR Foundation), Halle Berghoff (EDDR Foundation) Mimi Tsang (MAHA, McK-UDOS), Kenneth Bell (ROSC Region 1 TA), Deb Beckman (SROSC), Dante Harris (PRCC), Antonio King (CPDH Public Health Administrator), Ricardo Jimenez (PRCC Director of Public Health), Leslie Givens (Alliance Care 360), Ricca Louissant (Hope Center Foundation), Florence Wright (South Side Heroin Opioid Task Force)

TIME: 10:30am – 11:30am

AGENDA ITEMS

- I. **Introductions: Name, Organization, how to stay in touch.**
- II. **ROSC Overview: What is the ROSC and why is it important to the community?**
- III. **Data: Fentanyl in Marijuana – Discourse on Previously Reported Data** There were previous reports of fentanyl-laced marijuana, but lab tests have shown that these claims were errors. Two specific cases, one from 12/2021 in Springfield, MA and one from 11/2021 in Connecticut have been proven false. There has been a 14% decrease in overdose rates, which goes against claims of fentanyl being in the marijuana supply.

IV. **Presentation:** Near South Side ROSC – FY2026 Kick-Off

Community Survey The community survey will be put out at the end of August. This is a series of questions put out to try and identify any gaps within targeted areas. **Health Fair** There will be an Overdose Awareness Day Health Fair hosted on September 27th. Overdose Awareness Day is officially on August 31st, so this is a delayed celebration. **Recovery Month** September is Recovery Month. As such there are many more events to be announced as it gets closer.

Discussion Questions:

While we have you here, have you identified gaps in the recovery community? What issues are not being addressed? What services are not being provided?

V. **ROSC in Action,**

- a. Open call to encourage participants to invite someone who may be interested in joining the ROSC.

VI. **Cook County Events and Trainings – AUGUST EVENTS**

Tuesday, August 12, 2025	Introducing Flexibility in OTP Care: Implementing Federal Regulation Changes.
Tuesday, August 19, 2025	The Impact of Compassion Fatigues, Burnout, and Bullying.

VII. **ROSC Council Member Updates/Discussion/Questions:**

- a. Discussion explored the upcoming Community Survey, and how it could be improved from the previous survey. These improvements included new questions, translations, and changing wording to ensure the largest group possible could participate.
- b. The standard survey questions provided by the state cannot be edited, though more questions can be added, which the Near Southside ROSC can write. The state is aware of issues with the readability of the survey but has chosen not to change questions for this year.
- c. Questions brought up included: How can the demographics collected can be used within the ROSC Council? Is there a chance to share resources with those who participate in the survey? What history has someone experienced which may impact their recovery journey?

VIII. **Adjournment**