



## **HLM Recovery Kankakee County ROSC Council Meeting**

**Date:** August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Time:** 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Location:** Virtual

### **Overview**

The HLM Recovery Kankakee County Council Meeting focused on introducing community partners and discussing the Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) initiative. Key participants included Susan Dobbs from the 13th Judicial Circuit, Gloria Kennedy from Dwayne Dean's violence prevention program, and Danielle Heffernan from Serenity House Counseling Services. The meeting emphasized the importance of networking, providing free services, and addressing transportation challenges. Specific initiatives discussed included partnering with free clinics, supporting Medicaid and Medicare services, and enhancing telehealth capabilities. The goal is to create a collaborative network to support recovery and improve community well-being.

### **Action Items**

- Tarcia Leak - Distribute comfort bags provided by the Illinois Family Resource Center to support children with parents suffering from substance use disorders, utilizing the HLM Recovery 180 facility as a distribution center.
- Magdalena Campos - Explore opportunities to bring educational classes and technology training to Kankakee County to address barriers such as lack of transportation.
- Neesha Stringfellow - Partner with free service providers and organizations that accept Medicaid/Medicare to connect individuals to substance use recovery support.
- Tarcia Leak - Explore the possibility of establishing a Nami (National Alliance on Mental Illness) chapter in Kankakee County, as there currently is not one, but the Nami Will Grundy chapter may be able to provide support.
- Identify and connect with additional free or low-cost resources and services in the Kankakee County area that can be leveraged to support individuals in recovery.

## **Opening Prayer and Introductions**

- Sunceray Crawford opens the meeting with a prayer, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to discuss community issues and seek resolutions.
- Neesha Stringfellow introduces the meeting, expressing excitement about working with Kankakee County and its community partners.
- Neesha Stringfellow calls on Susan Dobbs to introduce herself, who shares her role as the director of probation for the 13th Judicial Circuit, covering Bureau County, LaSalle County, and Grundy County.
- Susan Dobbs emphasizes the importance of networking and collaboration across different counties to provide better services.

## **Introductions of Key Participants**

- Neesha Stringfellow introduces Gloria Kennedy, who works with Dwayne Dean's violence prevention program and the Greater Kankakee Black Chamber of Commerce.
- Gloria Kennedy highlights her work with community events, youth development, and minority-owned businesses, emphasizing the importance of networking and collaboration.
- Donta Gee introduces herself, mentioning her work with circle curriculum, prevention and recovery services, and hosting open mics.
- Anthony Beesha from Kankakee County Health Department introduces himself, explaining his role in running the opioid program and distributing Narcan and naloxone training.

## **Further Introductions and Roles**

- Danielle Heffernan introduces herself, coordinating the CORES grant at Serenity House Counseling Services, covering eight counties, including Kankakee.
- Celeste Fonseca from HLM introduces herself and passes the mic to Kate Reed, who serves as the Illinois public health analyst with the CDC Foundation.
- Peggy Sue Monday introduces herself, working in Will County for Morning Star Mission, focusing on donor management and fundraising.
- Ben Rudolph introduces himself as the recovery-oriented systems of care (ROSC) region two technical assistance, aiming to support ROSC councils in their deliverables.

## **Role of ROSC and Community Collaboration**

- Neesha Stringfellow emphasizes the importance of community collaboration and the role of ROSC in providing resources and support for recovery.
- Magdalena Campos explains the ROSC's mission to create an infrastructure for community-based services and supports, focusing on mental health and substance use disorders.
- Magdalena Campos highlights the importance of breaking stigmas and providing resources for families and communities to heal from trauma.
- Tarcia Leak discusses the practical aspects of ROSC, emphasizing the need for strong community partnerships and collaborative efforts to address community needs.

## **Initiatives and Strategies for Community Support**

- Neesha Stringfellow outlines the initiatives to connect individuals with substance use recovery support, including finding free services and partnering with organizations that accept Medicaid and Medicare.
- Neesha Stringfellow mentions the importance of partnering with behavioral health departments and organizations like NAMI to provide comprehensive support.
- Magdalena Campos discusses the need for transportation and technology education to overcome barriers to accessing services.
- Tarcia Leak provides a practical example of partnering with the Illinois Family Resource Center to distribute comfort bags for children with parents suffering from substance use disorders.

## **Closing Remarks and Next Steps**

- Neesha Stringfellow expresses gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality from Kankakee County, emphasizing the importance of community collaboration.
- Tarcia Leak highlights the need for continued involvement and partnership to address community needs and provide support for recovery.
- Magdalena Campos and Tarcia Leak emphasize the importance of identifying community needs and working collaboratively to develop strategies and solutions.
- The meeting concludes with a commitment to continue working together to build a strong recovery-oriented system of care for Kankakee County.

## **Attendees:**

- Tarcia Leak-HLM
- Magdalena Campos-HLM
- Neesha Stringfellow-HLM
- Ben Rudolph-Chestnut Health Systems
- Celeste Fonseca- Indiana Department of Health
- Danielle Heffernan- DuPage ROSC
- Eugene Edwards-Violence Prevention Program
- Kate Reed- Kankakee County states attorney's office
- Sunceray Crawford-Community member and Activist
- Susan Dobbs- LaSalle County
- Anthony Begesha-KCHD
- Gloria Kennedy- Greater Kankakee Black Chamber of Commerce
- Michelle H- Rosecrance
- Peggy Sue Munday-Kankakee County Board member
- Owaysha Williams- Kankakee office of public works