

THREE CORDS STRONG ROSC ALLIANCE MEETING AGENDA

TRANSITIONAL TRAINING SERVICES

LOCATION: 4455 S KING DRIVE SUITE 101-B

DATE: 08/28/2025

Facilitator: Vawnshekia Oklah

CO-Facilitator: Marjorie Howard/ Francis Oklah

Speaker: Vawnshekia Oklah

TIME: 09:30 AM – 11:45 AM

ZOOM MEETING ID: Hybrid- in person and on Zoom

I. Call to Order: Marjorie Howard

II. OPENING STATEMENTS - Vawnshekia Oklah

- Welcomed ROSC members and visitors and gave a definition of a ROSC meeting.
- Gave personal Testimony.
- Concluded with why people should join our ROSC and why the community was in need of ROSC.
- Address the challenges and substance use in the community and how much it's impacted.
- Presented: the Agenda, the ROSC Mission, and vision plan for the community.
- Next Meeting Date and details.

III. Speaker – Vawnshekia Oklah

- The greatest asset in life is your brain and thoughts. What you think about can change your perception of life.
- Addiction Recovery doesn't look the same for any individual ROSC wants to acknowledge individuals giving support in the community and make them feel accepted.
- We are determined to make sure the world we create is the world we can recover together as a community.
- Addiction affects the community as a whole, your family and friends and peers around you. The community as a collective is affected.
- Recovery is celebrated,
- Addressing how to build a system that uplift one another.
- Rainbow Push Correlation (Jessie Jackson I Am Somebody).
- Substance abuse challenges the black community heavily and other minority communities..
- Embracing the support for recovery!
- Personal growth.
- Family Bond.
- Statistics show the southside of Chicago has a high rate of substance use challenges.
- African Americans have a higher drug use than other cultures.
- Statistics show 73% Male and 26% Female for drug abuse.
- Statistics, alcohol and fentanyl are most used.
- Statistics Fentanyl abuse for the Black population is at 950 white population 421 latino population 256.
- Training on NARCAN.
- People need to know you, understand you, support you and uplift you!
- Encouraging employers to hire those with a background.

V. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION— Vawnshekia Oklah

- **What are the obstacles and improvements needed in the community?** Inequality & discrimination barriers due to race, gender, socioeconomic status, or disability often affect access to resources and representation.
- **B Goals : Building a support network of services of those seeking jobs. Why is this important?** This is important because it is hard to find a job in the community with any background. Judgment of skin, appearance is an issue.
- **What are the obstacles to employment once you have a background?** Some obstacles are lack of experience, Increases stigma in employment. Being too assertive or aggressive. Many employers are hesitant to hire individuals with a criminal record due to concerns about trustworthiness, safety, and potential liability. Studies show that the stigma of a criminal record alone is a significant reason employers avoid these applicants.
- **Obstacles and Solutions**
 - **Judgment Stereotypes** ~ Change appearance and training in day to day work.
 - **Charges** ~ Check if eligible to clear or seal criminal records. Reentry Programs: Join programs that connect people with records to job opportunities such as Second Chance programs, nonprofits like The Doe Fund, or local workforce development centers.
 - **Self Esteem** ~ Therapy or peer support can help rebuild self-worth.
 - **Computer Skills** ~ Websites like GCFGlobal, Coursera, or YouTube provide beginner-friendly tutorials.
 - **Confidence** ~ Practice with a friend, mentor, or workforce coach.
 - **Background** ~ Gaining experience through internships, apprenticeships, or volunteering can build up a resume. Filling educational gaps can open more doors.

VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS Creating a recovery-oriented system of care for the re-entry population

3 CORDS MISSION, VISION, PAST MEETING REVIEW- VAWNSHEKIA OKLAH

- At Three Cords Strong, our mission is to empower individuals on their recovery journeys by weaving together the essential strands of personal growth, family support, and community resilience. We believe that recovery is a continuous journey rather than a final destination and strive to embrace and support individuals on their unique paths to recovery.
- Three Cords Strong ROSC Alliance envisions a world where recovery is celebrated as a lifelong journey, weaving the threads of personal growth, family bonds, and community support into a resilient tapestry not easily broken.
- Building a supportive network of services for those seeking jobs
- Work with law enforcement to establish alternatives to arrest for those with SUD
- Assessment and capacity building
- Implementation and expansion
- Sustainability and policy integration
- Rapid Influence of substance abuse.
- Expanding the workforce, encouraging employers to hire with a background.
- Building a support network of services for those seeking jobs.
- Expanding workforce development programs
- What are some of the obstacles to employment once you have a background
- Three Main Goals :
 - Creating an recovery oriented system for the re-entry population (people with backgrounds, criminal records, etc)

- Building a supportive network for those seeking jobs.
- Work with law enforcement to establish alternative arrest with substance-use challenge.

VII. COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENTATION –

- Sharon Batiest- TCA Health- Insurance Enrollment Specialist- Assists people with signing up with Medicaid or Marketplace Health Insurance, SNAP, redetermination, and primary doctor appointments
- ROSC Partners
- Millennium Law
- Transitional Training Board Members
 - Yvette Camperk

VIII. NEXT ACTION STEPS

- Join our ROSC
- Participate in our think tanks
- Be a part of the solution in your circle of influence
- Destigmatize
- Speak up, especially for those who need help
- Upcoming community service
- Attend workshops on harm reduction and stigma reduction, and become better equipped to support recovery and re-entry efforts
- Community resource mapping
- Invitation to next meeting— September 25, 2025

IX. MEETING CLOSE – VAWNSHEKIA OKLAH

X. MEETING ATTENDANCE

1. Tony Sain
2. Keon Brown
3. Aaron Jefferson
4. Reba Hundley
5. Karrissa Smith
6. Akeem Ray
7. Quinton Sanders
8. Deloris Howard
9. Ceeli White
10. Deontae Ruth
11. Marquelah Bell
12. Kendrea Herrod
13. Brain Brown
14. Janeen Aleen
15. Tamara Stevenson
16. Jabril Carey
17. Jarquita Lipscomb
18. Bruce Scoot Jr
19. Quinton Sanders
20. Elazia Key
21. Bruce Scott
22. Marjorie Howard
23. Yvette Camper
24. Lisa Smith
25. Carolyn Howard
26. Sharon Batist
27. Angela Morgan

28. (Can't read name as written)
29. Vawnshekia Oklah
30. Francis Oklah
31. Stanley Howard
32. Dalton Brown
33. Kinya Brown
34. Sondra Muhammad
35. Azzeez Muhammad
36. Norberto Brown
37. Tony Rogers
38. Pierre Boyson
39. De'Angelo Amos
40. Olowunmi Jackee Kaffo
41. Jacara Hampton
42. Norman Bradley
43. Ceeli White
44. Johntay Washington
45. Shamari Harton
46. Jevet Stevenson
47. Lanier Strange
48. Kendall Wimberly
49. Duke B
50. Angel Morgan