

Meeting Minutes – September 19,2025

Date: September 19,2025

Attendees:

- In-person: 20 participants
- Virtual: 6 participants via Zoom

Presenters:

- Ms. Jennifer Garoff
- Ms. Hernandez

Key Points Discussed:

1. Introduction to the Care Program:

The presenters from the Chicago Department of Public Health provided an overview of how to access and engage with the Care Program.

2. Outreach and Resources:

A key highlight was the mobile van that patrols neighborhoods, equipped with essential items such as shoes, socks, underwear, sweatsuits, hygiene kits, and Naloxone kits. These resources aim to prevent overdose and trauma, and to reduce the need for hospitalization or incarceration.

3. Trained Clinicians and Community Impact:

The mobile van is staffed with trained clinicians who can provide on-the-spot care and even transport individuals to safe “living rooms” for further support. However, it was noted that there are currently no such living rooms on the South Side of Chicago.

4. Program Challenges:

It was also shared that there are efforts to potentially defund the program due to budget constraints. In response, attendees were encouraged to gather petitions to advocate for the continuation of this vital service.