



HLM Recovery Kankakee R.O.S.C. Council Meeting Minutes

Date: September 23rd 2025

Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Overview

The HLM Recovery Kankakee County Council Meeting focused on addressing substance use disorder and mental health challenges. Renae Palmer highlighted the success of Kankakee County's drug court, with only two participants terminated this year, and emphasized the urgent need for housing and employment opportunities. Magdalena Campos shared her personal recovery journey through the mental health court. Key challenges include the lack of housing, nighttime substance abuse treatment, and employment specialists. Solutions discussed included supportive housing from Existential Counselor Society and potential updates on Rosecrance outpatient services. The meeting aimed to bridge gaps and enhance recovery resources in the community.

Action Items

- Distribute the ROSC survey to all staff and partners to identify gaps and resources in the community.
- Connect with Kankakee County ROSC Council members individually to further discuss collaboration opportunities.
- Provide HLM Recovery 180 with information about the services and resources offered by each organization to be shared on their platforms.

Opening Remarks and Introductions

- Celeste Fonseca introduces herself as the executive outreach administrative assistant for ROSC Heartlife Ministries.
- Renae Palmer introduces herself as the adult probation officer for Kankakee County, running the drug court program.
- Kate Reed introduces herself as the Illinois public health analyst with the CDC Foundation, focusing on overdose prevention and trauma-informed care.

- Ben Rudolph introduces himself as the recovery-oriented systems of care technical assistance serving region two.
- Tavaris introduces himself as a CRSS at mental health and drug court and Serenity House counseling services.

Further Introductions and Meeting Goals

- Cristyna Ramirez introduces herself as the Director of Business Development at Existential Society.
- Michelle Hibberd introduces herself as the community outreach for Rosecrance, behavioral health, covering Kate Key Area.
- Rosalinda Chavez introduces herself as an employee at Project Son, a mental health referral service in Kankakee County.
- Gabriel M Garcia introduces himself as the violence prevention community convener for Joliet Township, overseeing violence prevention operations in various regions.
- Chris Thompson introduces himself as a peer support advocate at Serenity House, focusing on mental health court and employment opportunities.

What is the R.O.S.C.

Neesha explains the ROSC (Recovery Oriented Systems of Care) and its focus on building a coordinated network of community-based services.

announces the expansion of the ROSC to include Kankakee County, making it a Tri-County ROSC. emphasizes the importance of collaboration and building relationships within the ROSC network. invites attendees to share their best times for meetings, considering the new expanded area.

HLM Recovery 180's Endeavors and Resources

Neesha highlights the focus on prevention services for youth and working with drug court and court systems for re-entry. She emphasizes the importance of partnering with treatment centers to fill gaps in services across different counties. Neesha mentions the upcoming survey to identify gaps and needs in the community. She encourages participants to share their resources and information with HLM Recovery 180 for dissemination through social media and newsletters.

Discussion on housing and employment challenges

Renae discusses the urgent need for housing, noting the lack of available housing options in Kankakee County. She mentions the difficulty in finding housing for participants who have completed residential treatment but still need a stable living environment. Renae highlights the lack of employment specialists, and the challenges participants face when trying to find jobs due to their backgrounds. Neesha opens the floor for problem-solving and asks for suggestions from other participants on addressing these challenges.

Existential Counselor Society's Supportive Housing Program: Cristyna Ramirez from Existential Counselor Society shares that they have supportive housing available for participants who complete their residential treatment program. She explains that the housing program is open-ended, with

participants able to stay as long as they need if they are making progress. Cristyna mentions a participant who has been in the housing program for two and a half years and is doing well. Magdalena Campos asks if participants can remain in the program if they move to a different county, and Renae confirms that they can as long as they are supervised by their home county.

Rosecrance Update on Outpatient Services

Renae asks for an update on Rosecrance outpatient services, specifically Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) and Continuing Care (CC).

Michelle from Rosecrance responds that they are working to get everything up and running for both mental health and substance use services. Renae and other participants express interest in the availability of these services and their impact on the community.

The meeting concludes with a focus on continuing collaboration and addressing the identified challenges in housing and employment.

Attendees:

Kate Reed - Illinois public health analyst with the CDC Foundation,

Ben Rudolph – Region 2 technical assist

Tavaris - CRSS at mental health and drug court and Serenity House counseling services

Cristyna Ramirez - Director of Business Development for Existential Society

Michelle Hebb - community outreach for Rosecrance, covering the Kankakee area.

Rosalinda Chavez - Project Son, a mental health referral service in Kankakee County

Gabriel M Garcia - Violence prevention community convener

Chris Thompson - Peer support advocate at Serenity House in Addison, Illinois, assigned to the Kankakee mental health court.

Renae Palmer - Adult probation officer and assistant court coordinator for drug court in Kankakee County.

Danny Sourbis - Serenity House counseling

Danielle Heffernan - Coordinator of the Coors Grant at Serenity House Counseling Services.

Neesha Stringfellow – HLM Recovery Tri-County ROSC

Magdalena Campos - HLM Recovery Tri-County ROSC

Celeste Fonseca - HLM Recovery Tri-County ROSC

Tarcia Leak- HLM Recovery Tri-County ROSC