



NEAR SOUTH SIDE

MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: Virtual - Zoom

DATE: 09/09/2025

ATTENDEES:

- Gloria Prowell (Near South Side Community Coordinator), Daniel Mendez (EDDR Foundation), Halle Berghoff (EDDR Foundation), Leslie Givens (Alliance Care 360), Florence Wright (South Side Heroin Opioid Task Force), Bahiyyah Khalilallah (Statewide ROSC), Cristina Banda (Hour House Recovery), Karma Wilson (Lurie Children's Hospital Violence Prevention), Mariah Foster (Life is Work), Nina Martinez (Chicago Coalition to End Homelessness), Quinella Penermon (TASC), Tiffany Webb (Healthcare Alternative Systems), Kimberly Haywood (Breaking Barriers Collectively ROSC Council)

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: Chicago Department of Health's Summer Overdose Response Overview.** The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) operates 5 vending machines for harm reduction supplies in Chicago. These machines contain items like Narcan, Fentanyl Test Kits, Pregnancy Tests, Socks

and Underwear, amongst others. These machines are free to use and there are instructions for use on each machine. As of June 25th, 2025 a total of 23,073 products were distributed from all of these machines. CPDH also noted a few potential hot spots in the city of Opioid related overdoses as of 9/4/2025 including many on the West side of the city.

IV. Presentation: Recovery is Possible: Supporting National Recovery Month

Recovery Basic Foundations: Recovery is a process of change through which people improve their health and lives, working towards reaching their full potential. There are currently more than 23 million Americans living in recovery.

Abstinence or Reduction: For some recovery means no longer using alcohol or drugs, while for others it may mean safer use and minimizing harm. Use of things like Naloxone, safe ride programs, and medication are all examples of harm reduction approaches in recovery.

Myths vs. Truths About Recovery: Recovery is an ongoing process of growth and healing with lots of ups and downs. It is different for everyone, and can include moments of relapse within the process. Those in recovery are able to build strong relationships and careers and it is a process strengthened by those connections.

Language Matters: When talking to or about those in recovery it is extremely important to use person-first language. You should avoid using language which perpetuates harmful stereotypes surrounding recovery, and focuses instead on reducing stigma.

Ways to Support Recovery: Use of supportive language, listening without judgement, encouraging connection, and celebrating progress are all ways to support recovery and those in the process of recovery.

V. Presentation: Near South Side ROSC – Community Survey

Community Survey The community survey is complete and ready for distribution. The 15 questions are designed to highlight current public opinion and stigma against those with SUD and mental health issues. **Demographics** Specific demographics were highlighted, namely transgender, gender fluid/nonbinary, female, and Hispanic or Latino populations who are all at high risk of SUD and mental health issues. The 2023 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey revealed 26% of transgender and questioning students attempted suicide and 72% of transgender students experienced persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessness. Most SUD programs are gender-segregated (men or women only) with nonbinary not being recognized and without an affirming space. Women continue to constitute 1/3 of adults reporting a SUD and are more likely to have histories of trauma including sexual/physical abuse or witnessing abuse in childhood. Nearly 90% of Hispanic and Latinos with SUD do not receive treatment due to stigma, discrimination, and systematic barriers such as fear of legal punishment such as deportation.

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?

VI. ROSC in Action,

- a. Request for all those in attendance to fill out our community survey.

- b. Open call to encourage participants to invite someone who may be interested in joining the ROSC.
- c. Reminder of the Overdose Awareness Day Health Fair being hosted on September 27th.
- d. Health Resources in Action is looking to interview those who have received medication assisted treatment for Opioid and/or Alcohol Use Disorders.
- e. The Chicago Police Department is asking for feedback on three policies, to ensure they are comprehensive, accurate, coherent, and reflective of voices in the community.

VII. Cook County Events and Trainings – SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Tuesday, September 9, 2025	Supporting Black & Latina Tran Women in the Workplace
Wednesday, September 10, 2025	CPD Community Dialogue Policy Session on Use of Force
Wednesday, September 10, 2025	September Workshop – Feed Your Mind: Using the Circle of Care Tools
Friday, September 12, 2025	Bi-Monthly Bullying and Suicide Prevention Program Meeting
Tuesday, September 16, 2025	Southside Treatment & Recovery Providers Summit “Empowering Providers to Serve and Self Care”
Thursday, September 18, 2025	Navigating Recovery Services in Illinois: Panel Discussion
Thursday, September 25, 2025	Parenting Again: Exploring Kinship Care
Thursday, September 25, 2025	CPD Community Dialogue Policy Session on Use of Force
Saturday, September 27, 2025	Overdose Awareness Day Health Fair – “Overdose is Preventable. Awareness is Powerful.”

VIII. ROSC Council Member Updates/Discussion/Questions:

- a. Brief discussion on upcoming events that ROSC members are hosting.

IX. Adjournment