

Westside ROSC Council

Lead Agency: Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition

Thursday, October 23rd, 2025

10am – 12pm

Zoom Meeting Information

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/695761637?pwd=eVVOUzJlN3VUcXl6WFJzSnVNOVJXdz09>

Meeting ID: 695 761 637 | Password: 038839

Meeting Minutes

Welcome Extended by Ed Boone: The meeting began with Ed welcoming attendees and providing an attendance link for ROSC Council meetings and events. He confirmed audio and video functionality for participants, including Loretta Omale, who joined later. Ed emphasized the importance of filling out the attendance form for staying connected and updated on future meetings and events and continued support, also mentioned that ROSC will offer CEU's.

Participant Introductions: Linda Sharp, Individual; Gail Richardson, Westside taskforce; Stacy Zawacki, The Perfectly Flawed Foundation; DeCarla Musa, GEO Reentry Services; Mario L Scott, HSI; Carla Garcia, Metropolitan Family Services; Nicole Parson, Habilitative System Inc.; Vegletta E. Lewis, Loretto Hospital; Mary Dowling, West Side Heroin Opioid Task Force; Ruthie Williams, Faith Way Men's Independent Living; Arbutus Winfrey, Westside opioid task force; Carla Garcia, Metropolitan Family Services; Candyce Banford, CRCC; Marcia Teverbaugh, Trilogy Inc; Tom Johnson, CRCC; Niktoria Julian, Tomorrow's Light; ReGina White, Trilogy Mental Well-being; Michael Ferguson, Family guidance center.; Liz Johnson, The LifeHouse Group; Helen Land, Where Do We Go From Here, Inc.; Carolyn Hartfield, Hartfield Consultants; Belinda Farr, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois; Ve Lewis, Crisis Services Coordinator; Tiffany Webb, Healthcare Alternative Systems; Flora Crew, Individual; Edward Boone, CRCC; Aimee Potter, VA; Jessica Omena, Individual; Brigitte Broadway, Loretto Hospital; Kenneth Bell, Statewide ROSC; Christopher Evans, Individual; Stephany Baca, Metropolitan Family Services; Dora Dantzler-Wright, CRCC; John Wright, CRCC; Jocelyn Beckham, Adrian's Purpose; Venessa Moreno, CRCC;

Our council is made up of members including Hospitals, Treatment Centers, Mental Health Facilities, First Responders, Recovery Programs, Schools, Local Government, Employment Agencies, and importantly persons with lived experience.

Goals and Objectives; Ed Boone: Westside ROSC Councils overall goal is to advocate and assist with guiding and monitoring the development of an integrated system of recovery by creating a shared vision to improve availability of services by building a sustainable ROSC Council. Our objectives 1. To create communities of recovery that encourage and integrate resources for the recovering individual, families, and friends. 2. Develop supportive recovery communities that foster growth, respect and understanding of communication, those who have identified problems in the areas of substance use and mental health. 3. Implement effective that will allow for the inclusion of PLE's (persons with lived experience) voices to be heard:

MOU's & Linkage Agreements; Ed Boone: Reminded the attendees that an MOU and linkage agreement between CRCC/ROSC and all partners should be signed. He noted that the MOU and linkage agreement defines the working relationships between agencies, defines collaborative roles and responsibilities of the two agencies with respect to improving the local infrastructure supporting the establishment of a ROSC council. He noted that a link to the MOU was placed in the chat.

ROSC Council's Integrated Recovery System

The meeting focused on the ROSC Council's goals and objectives, particularly advocating for the development of an integrated system of recovery. The council aims to create communities of recovery, develop supportive recovery communities, and implement effective communication. The panelists shared their experiences and their roles in providing support to individuals and families in the area of recovery.

Topic Discussion: Domestic Violence: Breaking The Silence: Healing Through Recovery & Mental Health Support

ROSC Council Presenters: Ve Lewis, M.A., Crisis Worker, Loretto Hospital; Carla Garcia, LSW, DV Social Worker, Metropolitan Family Services North Center; Stephany Baca, LSW, DV Social Worker, Metropolitan Family Service North Center

Summary

The meeting began with introductions and discussions about strengthening partnerships through memorandums of understanding and linkage agreements, with a focus on domestic violence awareness as the main topic. A needs assessment survey was presented, followed by a panel discussion featuring mental health professionals and representatives from various organizations who shared data on domestic violence prevalence and legislative progress in Illinois. The meeting explored the intersection of gambling problems, domestic violence, and mental health, with participants discussing support services, challenges in education and reporting, and the importance of creating safe spaces for victims while addressing underreporting issues and stigma.

Domestic Violence Prevention Partnership Meeting

The meeting began with introductions from various participants, including representatives from CRCC, Loretto Hospital, and other organizations involved in substance abuse and domestic violence prevention. Edward emphasized the importance of signing memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and linkage agreements to strengthen partnerships and improve local infrastructure. The meeting focused on domestic violence as the main topic, with plans to discuss this issue further in the panel discussion. Participants were reminded to fill out the attendance link to receive CEUs for the meeting.

Domestic Violence Awareness and Survey

The meeting focused on a needs assessment survey and a panel discussion on domestic violence awareness. Venessa introduced the survey, emphasizing its importance for gathering community data and reporting to the state. Edward explained the meeting's adjusted schedule due to an upcoming all-day training. The panel discussion, themed "Breaking the Silence: Healing Through Recovery and Mental Health Support," featured V. Lewis, a mental health professional, and Stephanie Baca and Carla Garcia from Metropolitan Family Services. Ve presented data on domestic violence prevalence across Illinois and neighboring states, highlighting the need for robust intervention strategies and trauma-informed care.

Illinois Domestic Violence Legislative Updates

Ve discussed Illinois' legislative progress in 2025 to strengthen protections and support for domestic violence survivors, highlighting three key bills: HB3281, which enhances law enforcement response and introduces a rehabilitative approach for juvenile offenders; SB1470, which establishes a statewide domestic violence hotline; and HB3370, which enhances privacy protections for survivors seeking emergency orders of protection. Ve also suggested improvements, including expanding shelter capacity, strengthening firearm relinquishment protocols, increasing funding for trauma-informed mental health services, and implementing community-based prevention education. The discussion concluded with an overview of domestic violence awareness initiatives in Illinois, emphasizing the importance of mental health and recovery support, trauma-informed care, and support for emotional and financial abuse.

Addressing Gambling and Domestic Violence

The meeting focused on the intersection of gambling problems and domestic violence, with Tiffany Webb highlighting the need for addressing these issues together in communities. Edward inquired about support for rural domestic violence organizations from urban ones, which Ve acknowledged as an area for potential advocacy. Christopher discussed the challenges of educating individuals about domestic violence and the lack of support for those affected, while Tiffany emphasized the correlation between gambling and intimate violence, particularly in urban areas with increased gambling opportunities. Brigitte asked about the impact of domestic violence on mental illness, which Ve noted as an area requiring further exploration.

Domestic Violence and Mental Health

Venessa discussed the impact of domestic violence and mental illness in Illinois, noting an increase in homelessness among women with children, particularly in urban areas. She explained that schools have social workers and guidance counselors trained to recognize signs of domestic violence and provide support to affected children. The discussion also touched on the need for funding to support mental health programs, with Venessa expressing concern about potential funding gaps due to the government shutdown. Christopher highlighted the importance of addressing mental health and the transgenerational impact of domestic violence, while advocating for more awareness and support.

Domestic Violence Awareness and Support

The meeting focused on domestic violence awareness and support services, with Ve from Loretto Hospital providing information about their services. Ve confirmed that 58% of domestic violence cases in Illinois are reported and explained that Loretto Hospital offers support services in multiple languages including Spanish and English, with male staff available to work with male victims. The discussion highlighted the connection between gambling and domestic violence, particularly regarding financial abuse, and concluded with a question about deformatizing domestic violence, which Ve addressed by emphasizing the importance of providing safe spaces and resources for victims.

Understanding Domestic Violence

Carla and Stephany presented domestic violence, defining it as a pattern of harmful behaviors used to maintain power and control within relationships. They discussed common myths surrounding domestic violence and highlighted that it affects individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic status. The presentation covered examples of domestic violence, including emotional, economic, and sexual abuse, as well as the cycle of violence, which consists of tension-building, explosion, and the honeymoon phase. The speakers emphasized the importance of client-centered approaches and safety planning in working with survivors of domestic violence.

Understanding Domestic Violence Dynamics

Carla and Stephany discussed the causes, effects, and characteristics of domestic violence, emphasizing that it is a learned behavior influenced by cultural and family dynamics. They highlighted that abusers can come from any socioeconomic or demographic background and often exhibit controlling and rigid gender role beliefs. Stephany outlined the effects of domestic violence on survivors and their children, including mental health issues, academic problems, and physical injuries. She also stressed the importance of supporting survivors by offering choices and understanding their individual circumstances. The discussion concluded with information on local and national domestic violence hotlines and resources.



Westside ROSC Council

Supporting a Diverse Chicago West Side Community

Supporting Survivors in Digital Spaces

The meeting focused on the intersection of mental health and domestic violence, with Carla explaining how stress, anxiety, and PTSD can manifest physically in survivors. The discussion explored how social media can both help and harm domestic violence survivors, with Carla noting that GPS tracking and livestreaming can provide evidence for legal proceedings, while Stephany highlighted the risks of abusers using social media to track victims and the importance of careful online behavior after leaving an abusive relationship. Venessa shared a personal story about her sister's murder by an ex-partner, emphasizing the ongoing dangers even after leaving an abusive situation and the importance of taking all threats seriously.

Domestic Violence Awareness and Support

The meeting focused on domestic violence awareness and support, with Carla and Vanessa sharing their experiences and insights. They discussed the importance of supporting victims, creating safe spaces for them to share their experiences, and the need to reduce stigma surrounding domestic violence. The panelists also addressed the underreporting of male victims of domestic violence and the challenges in verifying the truthfulness of claims. The conversation ended with a call for participants to complete a community assessment survey and a reminder to keep porch lights purple in support of Domestic Violence Month.

Next steps:

- Ve Lewis to provide the contact number for Loretto Hospital's outpatient services to Tiffany and other attendees.
- Ve Lewis to research and share information about what support is available between urban and rural domestic violence organizations in Illinois.
- Ve Lewis to provide statistics on the percentage of male victims in domestic violence cases in Illinois.
- Edward to follow up with Ve Lewis regarding a memorandum of understanding between their organizations.
- All attendees complete the community assessment survey shared in the chat.
- All attendees consider signing memorandums of understanding with CRCC if they haven't already done so.
- All attendees share the community assessment survey with their colleagues, family members, and program participants.

Closing by; Ed Boone:

Thanked the membership for sharing openly and respectfully and we will see everyone next month. Next Westside ROSC Council meeting will be hosted by Zoom on November 21, 2025. The conversation ended with a reminder to fill out the attendance form for those who wanted to receive CEUs.

Please Join Us in Building a Sustainable Westside ROSC Council

Funded in whole or in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services,
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery.