



Kankakee County R.O.S.C. Council Meeting Minutes Oct. 28, 2025

Attendees: Anthony (Tony) Begesha; Minister Sunceray Crawford; Celeste Fonseca; Cristyna Ramirez; Gloria Kennedy; Rev. Dr. Eugene Edwards; Kate Drayton(Reed); Sonja Handson; Chris Thompson; Tavaris Prince; Michelle Hebb; Danielle Heffernan; Neesha Stringfellow; Magdalena Campos; Tarcia Leak

Notes

- **Tony Begesha's Presentation on Kankakee County Health Department:** Introduces himself as the head of the opioid program at the Kankakee County Health Department. Outlines the various programs and services offered by the health department, including immunizations, STD testing, and food sanitation checks. Discusses the maternal health division, the smoke-free Illinois Act, and the car seat program. Highlights the opioid program, which trains and educates community members and organizations on the use of naloxone.
- **Statistics and Community Impact:** Tony shares statistics about the opioid program, including the number of kits distributed and the number of people trained on how to use Narcan. Mentions the collaboration with various organizations and the Narcan routes that distribute naloxone to local businesses. Discusses the challenges faced by the community, such as homelessness, transportation issues, and lack of funding for programs. Opens the floor for suggestions on how to improve community issues and invites participants to share their perspectives.

- **Discussion on Community Barriers and Solutions:**
 - Gloria Kennedy asks about the availability of navigators for the Narcan routes and their eligibility criteria.
 - Chris Thompson raises issues related to obtaining credentials and phones for justice-involved individuals.
 - Gloria and Sonja discuss local organizations that help with obtaining IDs and other services for the homeless.
 - Michelle mentions the availability of a mobile DMV service that can be requested for on-site services.
- **Additional Challenges and Resources:**
 - Sunceray Crawford asks about the free clinic in Kankakee and its services.
 - Cristyna Ramirez inquires about the denial of the homeless center and its implications.
 - Gloria provides more details on the denial and the lack of support from the aldermen.
 - Sunceray and Michelle discuss the need for a comprehensive list of food pantries and other resources.

Action items

- ☐ Anthony Begesha appreciates the valuable information shared by participants and plans to compile a list of resources.
- ☐ Neesha from HeartLife Ministries emphasizes the importance of sharing information on the recovery website.
- ☐ Sunceray Crawford mentions the community needs surveys and encourages participants to contribute their insights.
- ☐ The meeting concludes with a focus on continuing collaboration and addressing the identified community needs.

Attendees Information:

- **Anthony (Tony) Begesha** - Health Coordinator @ KCHD (abegesha@kankakeehealth.org)
- **Minister Sunceray** - Community Outreach @ Genesis Community Ministries (peculiartreasure22@gmail.com)
- **Celeste Fonseca** - Exec. Outreach Admin. Assist. @ HLM (celeste.hlmrecovery@gmail.com)
- **Cristyna Ramirez** - Dir. Of Business Development Existential Counselors Society (cramirez2442@gmail.com) 773-559-9650
- **Gloria Kennedy** - The Crew (GKennedy@duanedeanbhc.com)
- **Rev. Dr. Eugene Edwards** - Program Coordinator @ The Crew Duane Dean Behavioral Health Center (eedwards@duanedeanbhc.com) 779-236-1438 ext. 383
- **Kate Drayton (Reed)** - Public Health Analyst - Overdose Response Strategy Illinois (kreed@cdcfoundation.org) 260-446-1794
- **Sonja Handson** - The CREW Duane Dean Behavioral Health Center, Violence Intervention Prevention (SHandson@duanedeanbhc.com)
- **Chris Thompson** - Peer Support Advocate @ Serenity House Kankakee mental health court.
- **Tavaris Prince** - CRSS mental health and drug court @ Serenity House Counseling Services. Tavaris.prince@DupageRosc.org
- **Michelle Hebb** - Community Outreach @ Rosecrance
- **Danielle Heffernan** - Coordinator of the Coors Grant @ Serenity House Counseling Services. (Danielle.Heffernan@dupagerosc.org)
- **Neesha Stringfellow** - Exec. Director @ HLM (neesha.hlmrecovery@gmail.com)
- **Tarcia Leak** - Operations Director @ HLM (tash.hlmrecovery@gmail.com)
- **Magdalena Campos** - Program Coordinator @ HLM (magdalena.hlmrecovery@gmail.com)