



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

Date: September 23rd 2025

Time: 11:00 PM – 12:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Overview

The HLM Recovery R.O.S.C. Will County Council Meeting featured introductions from various members, including Magdalena Campos, Gerald Lott, Ben Rudolph, LeShae Hudson, Allison Thomas, Becca Hebron, Cristina Banda, Danielle Heffernan, Deb Beckmann, Troy Green, Ginni Demko, Amanda Douglas, Paula Ekstrom, Johanna Gonzalez, Elena Rivera, and Aishwarya Balakrishna. Magdalena recapped the previous month's meeting, highlighting efforts to reach Spanish-speaking communities and the success of faith-based support initiatives. Gerald Lott shared his journey and the impact of Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery, emphasizing community support and recovery events like the Recover Con Conference.

Action Items

- Provide transportation assistance to help people get to treatment as needed.
- Post Gerald Lott's event flyers on the meeting platform.
- Coordinate with Gerald Lott and others to promote the upcoming Recover Con conference.

Introductions and Roles off Participants

Celeste Fonseca welcomes everyone and requests introductions, including names, organizations, titles, and upcoming events. Magdalena Campos introduces herself as the program coordinator for Heart Life Ministries, Recovery 180. Gerald Lott introduces himself as executive director of Sauk Valley voices of recovery. Ben Rudolph introduces himself as the Recovery Oriented Systems of Care Technical Assistant for Region Two. LeShae Hudson represents New Day Employment Network and the Justice Alliance. Allison Thomas introduces herself as the Executive Director of Rosecrance. Becca Hebron introduces herself as the NAMI Little Grundy Youth and Young Adult Programs Coordinator. Cristina Banda introduces herself as the Education Coordinator for the Illinois Family Resource Center. Danielle Heffernan introduces herself as the Coordinator of the Recovery Oriented Systems of Care. Deb Beckmann introduces herself as part of the statewide ROSC leadership team. Troy Green introduces himself as the Recovery Support Coordinator at Gateway

Foundation. Ginni Demko introduces herself as the Prevention Specialist for Grundy County at Chestnut Health Systems. Amanda Douglas introduces herself as the ROSC Coordinator for Lake County and with Nirco. Paula Ekstrom introduces herself as the Wilmington Coalition Program Director for southern Will County. Johanna Gonzalez introduces herself as the ROSC Coordinator for the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery. Elena Rivera introduces herself from Family Guidance Centers, Outreach and Harm Reduction Programs. Ginni Demko mentions her colleague, Joy, who is the Will County Prevention Specialist with Chestnut Health Systems. Aishwarya Balakrishna introduces herself as the Will County Health Department Vice President and member of the Will County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.

Recap of previous month will County ROSC meeting

Magdalena Campos recaps the previous month's Will County ROSC meeting held at the Recovery Community Center of Joliet. The meeting focused on reaching the Spanish community and addressing the needs of the Spanish-speaking population. A pastor from a Spanish-speaking church in Joliet was invited to speak about the needs of the community regarding substance use and mental illness. The turnout was great, with many people interested in attending the event on September 13th the Show Up Recovery event was also mentioned, where faith-based leaders discussed supporting people affected by substance use disorder and mental illness.

Faith-Based Support and Recovery

Magdalena Campos highlights the importance of faith-based organizations in supporting people with substance use disorder and mental illness. Reverend Eugene Edwards spoke about the role of faith-based organizations in providing support. The meeting emphasized the need for a spiritual aspect in recovery, alongside psychiatry and counseling. Dr. Karen, a main speaker, discussed the integration of faith and therapy in recovery. The importance of spiritual help in balancing mental and physical recovery was emphasized.

Gerald Lott's Introduction and Recovery Journey

Gerald Lott introduces himself as the Executive Director and Founder of Sauk Valley, Voices of Recovery. He shares his personal recovery journey, starting from his days in Chicago and moving to a small town in Illinois. Gerald emphasizes the importance of having a recovery community for personal growth and support. He describes the initial challenges of building a recovery community in a small town and the success of Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery. The organization now covers four counties and focuses on making recovery visible, accessible, and attractive.

Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery Activities

Gerald Lott details the various activities and events organized by Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery. The organization hosts events like disc golf, cookouts, and trips to haunted houses to engage the community. They also provide sober living homes for men and women, offering a supportive environment for recovery. The importance of creating social interactions and constructive activities in recovery is highlighted. Gerald mentions the Recover Con Conference, an annual event that brings together recovery advocates and professionals.

Transportation and Community Support

Gerald Lott discusses the transportation services provided by Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery. They help people get to treatment centers and provide support during transportation. The organization also

collaborates with other ROSC councils to assist people outside their area. The importance of community support in maintaining recovery is emphasized. Magdalena Campos shares her personal experience of how community support helped her in her recovery journey.

Q&A and Final Remarks

Neesha Stringfellow Tri-County R.O.S.C. asks Gerald about transportation services for people seeking treatment..... Gerald explains the various transportation options, including Uber rides and driving people himself.

Paula Ekstrom inquiries about the counties covered by Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery..... Gerald clarifies that they cover Lee, Whiteside, Ogle, and DeKalb counties but can assist people from other areas as well.

Ben Rudolph and Paul Hempel express their support for the Recover Con Conference and the importance of community connections in recovery.

Attendees:

1. Gerald Lott - introduces himself as the Executive Director of Sauk Valley, Voices of Recovery.
2. Ben Rudolph - introduces himself as the Recovery Oriented Systems of Care Technical Assistant for Region Two.
3. Michelle Pruim - introduces herself as the Executive Director of NAMI Will-Grundy.
4. Cristina Banda - introduces herself as the Education Coordinator for the Illinois Family Resource Center.
5. Allison Thomas - introduces herself as an Outreach Liaison with Rosecrance Behavioral Health.
6. Danielle Heffernan - introduces herself as the Coordinator of the Coors Grant at Serenity House Counseling Services.
7. Danny Sourbis - introduces himself as the Program Supervisor at Serenity House.
8. Deb Beckmann - introduces herself as part of the Statewide ROSC Leadership Team.
9. Troy Green introduces himself as the Recovery Support Coordinator at Gateway Foundation.
10. Becca Hebron - introduces herself as the Youth and Young Adult Programs Coordinator for NAMI Will Grundy.
11. Ginni Demko - introduces herself as a Prevention Specialist for Chestnut Health Systems.
12. Amanda Douglas - introduces herself as the ROSC Coordinator for Lake County.
13. Paula Ekstrom - introduces herself as the Wilmington Coalition Program Director.
14. Connie Dewall - introduces herself as part of the Will County Health Department.
15. Johanna Gonzalez - introduces herself as the ROSC Coordinator for the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery.
16. Elena Rivera - introduces herself from Family Guidance Centers.
17. Joy - introduces herself as the Will County Prevention Specialist with Chestnut Health Systems.
18. Aishwarya Balakrishna - introduces herself as the Vice President of the Will County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.
19. LeSahe Hudson - New Day Employment Network Justice Alliance
20. Christina Ramirez - from Existential Counselor Society introduces herself as the