



Kane County ROSC Meeting Minutes

Committee: Kane County Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Council Meeting

Date: October 23, 2024

Time: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Geneva Public Library & Virtual (Hybrid)

Facilitators: Annette Villarreal (Kane County ROSC Coordinator), Jarrett Burton (DuPage County ROSC Coordinator)

Attendees Organization	Adam Pauley Community Member
Marco Fajardo West Suburban Oral Health Care	Vicki Foley Chris Walks Against Substance Abuse
Tony Garcia Kane County Health Department	Brianna Haug Oxford House
Jessica Mino The Conservation Foundation	Carmi Frankovich Good Templar Park
Maureen Horan Suicide Preventivo Servicies	Landen Pote Suicide Preventivo Servicies
Sarah Mendoza Kane County Health Department	Sharon Garcia Kane County Health Department
Scott Kaufmann Kane County Health Department	Bianey Hernandez Aurora University
Malania Hanke AID Cares	Andrea Hasko- Marx AID Cares
Ben Rudolph Region 2 Technical Assistance	Kieth Burton Author "Shadow of Sobriety"
David Meraz Elgin Community College	Juanita Velazquez Recovery Corp
Kathy McNamera DuPage County Probation Office	Mark Matthews Greater Family Health

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Co-facilitators Annette Villarreal and Jarrett Burton. They welcomed the hybrid audience of in-person and virtual attendees.

Icebreaker: Annette posed a seasonal icebreaker question: "What is or was your favorite Halloween costume of all time?" This engaged the group, with shared stories ranging from Wonder Woman and a hobo to a cowboy with bananas in his holsters and a recent Mickey Mantle/Minnie Mouse pun costume.

Roll Call & Introductions: A comprehensive round of introductions was conducted, highlighting the diverse and collaborative nature of the ROSC. Attendees included:



Government & Public Services: Kane County Health Department (Multiple Staff), DuPage County Probation, Kane County Overdose Task Force/Coroner's Office.

Treatment & Recovery Support Providers: Gateway Foundation, Mutual Ground, Serenity House Counseling Services, Endeavor Health Linden Oaks, AID cares, Greater Family Health, Oxford House, Good Templar Park.

Mental Health & Crisis Services: NAMI Mental Health Alliance, Suicide Prevention Services.

Community & Advocacy Organizations: Chris Walk Against Substance Abuse, Live for Lally, The Conservation Foundation (Nature Rx Coalition).

Peers & Lived Experience: Multiple Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialists and individuals with lived experience were present, including Jared Burton and his father, Keith Burton, a recovery author.

2. Primary Presentation: "Vape Shops & Emerging Substances"

Presenter: Jarrett Burton, DuPage County ROSC Coordinator

a) Rationale and Context:

Annette Villarreal opened the topic by presenting selected data from the **Illinois Youth Survey to establish the urgency of the issue.

Key Data Point: When vaping is included in substance use metrics, the rates rise significantly: from 21% to 23% for 8th graders, 29% to 29% for 10th graders, and 33% to 34% for 12th graders in Kane County, indicating that vaping products are a major contributor to youth substance use.

b) Presentation on "Gray Market" Substances:

Jarrett Burton presented findings from first-hand visits to vape shops in Geneva, Batavia, and Sugar Grove. The presentation was informational, designed to raise awareness of the easily accessible and often misunderstood products in these retail environments.

Kratom:

- Description: A substance derived from the *Mitragyna speciosa* tree, native to Southeast Asia.
- Effects: Dose-dependent; stimulating at low doses, sedative and opioid-like at high doses. It binds to the brain's mu- and delta-opioid receptors.



- Risk Profile: Carries a risk of dependence, with users experiencing GI issues, agitation, tachycardia, and withdrawal symptoms upon cessation.
- Market Presence: Sold as raw powder, capsules, and highly potent liquid extracts in small, shot-like bottles. A \$1 billion annual industry in the U.S.

Delta-8 THC:

- Description: A psychoactive cannabinoid found in the cannabis plant, often marketed as "diet weed" and sold under the misleading label of "hemp products."
- Marketing & Appeal: Packaged in brightly colored wrappers that closely resemble mainstream candy (gummies, cookies, chocolates), making them highly appealing to teens.
- Youth Usage Data: Cited a national study finding that 11.9% of 12th graders had used Delta-8 in the past year, with higher usage in the Midwest and states without clear regulations.

Nitrous Oxide:

- Description: Often sold under brand names like "Galaxy Gas" as small, consumer-grade canisters.
- Accessibility: Readily available over the counter at vape shops. Noted that there is no statewide age restriction for its purchase.

7-OH (A Significant Concern):

- Description: A potent semi-synthetic substance. It is an alkaloid found only in trace amounts in the kratom plant; products sold are concentrated and are chemically distinct.
- Marketing Tactics: Brands use names like "Opia" and "Perks" to intentionally evoke prescription opioids (e.g., Opana, Percocet). Marketed deceptively as "all-natural."
- Potency & Danger: Reported to be up to 13 times more potent than morphine.
- High risk of rapid tolerance and severe dependence. Anecdotal reports indicate users need to re-dose every 1-2 hours to stave off withdrawal, which can begin after only 3-4 days of use.
- Regulatory Status: The FDA has recommended it be scheduled, but it remains legally available. Manufacturers pre-empt bans by patenting similar molecular compounds to create immediate replacements.



c) Key Challenges Identified:

- **Age Verification:** Inconsistent or non-existent enforcement of age restrictions (21+) in vape shops and gas stations.
- **Regulatory Lag:** The legal "gray market" allows these substances to be sold before comprehensive research or regulations are in place.
- **Detection Difficulties:** 7-OH does not appear on standard drug tests and is difficult to pinpoint in overdose toxicology reports, leading to underreporting.

3. Community Discussion, Testimonials, and Q&A

This segment provided powerful, on-the-ground validation of the presentation.

- **Provider Perspective:** A clinician asked for guidance on how to discuss these products with clients who use them for "healing" or microdosing.
- **Treatment Perspective:** A representative from a treatment center confirmed admissions related to nitrous oxide use.
- **Community Advocacy:** A council member shared an encounter with a man who vehemently defended kratom as "natural" and safe, illustrating the pervasive misinformation.
- **Evidence of Accessibility:** A council member displayed actual product packaging, emphasizing its candy-like appearance and confirming he is "never carded" when purchasing these items.
- **Youth Impact:** A high school baseball coach delivered a stark account, estimating that roughly 50% (40-45 players) on his team use kratom and Delta-8. He noted the school's consequence, a mere 2-day suspension, is ineffective, as students simply use the products off-campus.

4. Partner Updates, Announcements, and Action Items

Kane County Community Needs Assessment:

- Jarrett Burton promoted the annual Kane County ROSC survey, critical of steering the council's priorities.
- **Action Item:** A QR code was displayed, and hard copies were distributed. Partners were asked to disseminate the survey within their networks and organizations.



Partner Highlights:

Kane County Health Department (Sharon):

- Announced a new virtual support group through Fox Valley Hands of Hope for those grieving a loss to substance use.
- Announced virtual -Naloxone training on November 20th at 2:00 PM.
- Jared Burton: Promoted a local author event featuring his father, Keith Burton, and his book on recovery and familial trauma.

Logistics and Future Meetings:

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2024, from 3:00 - 4:00 PM at Gateway Foundations in Aurora.

- Call for Hosts: Organizations were invited to host future R.O.S.C meetings.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Annette Villarreal at 4:55 PM. The facilitators thanked everyone for their participation and underscored the importance of sharing the day's critical information throughout the community.