



Kane County Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year 2026

I. Council Vision

Kane County ROSC Council envisions a community where recovery from substance use challenges is not only attainable but is actively supported, and joyfully celebrated. Kane County ROSC Council strives to be a beacon of hope, health, and lasting wellness for all individuals and families living in the county.

II. Council Mission Statement

Our mission is to champion, coordinate, and support a person-centered, strength-based, and fully- integrated Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC). Our system is designed to

foster robust community partnerships and empower both people in recovery and their friends, families, and loved ones.

III. Needs Assessment

Kane County, Illinois: Community Demographic and Mortality Profile (2024)

Kane County, Illinois, with an estimated population of 531,000 residents, is a diverse and dynamic community within the greater Chicago metropolitan area. Understanding its demographic structure—including age, race, ethnicity, language, and socioeconomic factors—is vital for the Kane County Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Council as it develops inclusive public health strategies. This profile combines the most recent data to inform the council's FY2025 planning, with special attention to priority populations identified by community leadership.

The county's total population informs all service planning. A key demographic focus is the senior population; individuals aged 65 and older represent 14.2% of residents, or approximately 75,400 people. ROSC Council Member Cheryl Crier, a Batavia business owner and person in long-term recovery, emphasized the need for targeted resources: "My passion is for our seniors. They are often isolated and struggle with substance use related to pain management, but they are completely left out of the conversation. I came here today to make sure that as we build this new system, we remember to build a door for them, too. We need specialized resources, so they don't get left behind." This underscores the necessity for age-appropriate outreach, pain management support, and recovery pathways specifically designed for older adults.

Kane County's population is diverse in terms of race, ethnicity, and language. Non-Hispanic White residents constitute the largest racial group at 58.8% (approximately 312,200 people). The Hispanic or Latino community, which may include individuals of any race, is the largest ethnic minority at 31.9% (about 169,400 people). Reflecting this diversity, Spanish is the most widely spoken non-English language in the county. Other significant groups include Non-Hispanic Black or African American residents (5.2%, about 27,600), Non-Hispanic Asian residents (4.1%, about 21,800), and those identifying as Two or More Races (3.2%, about 17,000). The Asian community further enriches linguistic diversity, with languages such as Mandarin, Arabic, and French spoken in local households. In total, 23.5% of residents aged 5 and above speak a language other than English at home, highlighting the importance of bilingual services, translated materials, and culturally competent outreach.

Socioeconomic status significantly affects health and recovery outcomes. Kane County's median household income is \$84,236, slightly above the national average, yet economic disparities persist. About 10.5% of residents (roughly 55,800 people) live below the federal poverty line. These vulnerabilities intersect with age, race, and language proficiency, creating additional barriers to treatment, medication, and sustainable recovery, especially for uninsured or underinsured residents.

Kane County Coroner's Office: 2024 Data Summary & Community Profile

There were 21 opiate-related deaths, including 4 involving xylazine and 5 involving Bromazolam (Benzodiazepine). Additionally, 59 deaths were attributed to accidental drug or alcohol intoxication.

Several critical service gaps and vulnerable groups have been identified:

- Seniors & Substance Use: Isolated older adults, especially those managing pain, are frequently overlooked in support systems, as highlighted by Cheryl Crier's testimony.
- Language Access: With 37.2% of households speaking a language other than English at home, there is a significant need for Spanish-language and culturally competent outreach to ensure equitable access to services.

Community Partnerships and Prevention Efforts

Kane County's response to substance use, violence, and at-risk populations includes: The Kane County Opioid Taskforce, The Kane County Major Crimes Task Force, which supports homicide and violent crime investigations, The Region 2 Adult At-Risk Fatality Review Team, which examines cases involving older adults and adults with disabilities, and the Narcan Machine Installation projects, funded by coroner's office grants, designed to reduce overdose fatalities.

IV. Council Outreach and Communication Plan

Purpose: The Kane County ROSC Council Communication Plan is designed to establish a structured, efficient and interesting/fun ways to communicate with our members. We will ensure that all members, partner organizations, volunteers, etc remain informed, engaged, and aligned with the council's mission.

Objectives: Facilitate seamless information flow among council members, committees, and workgroups, inform and involve community partners in council work, promote ROSC

principles, promote events, new programs, etc., and provide timely internal communication during unexpected events

Target Audiences & Key Contacts

Communications are tailored to specific audience segments. The following table identifies each segment, the key organizations or representatives, and the primary contact method. This directory is maintained and updated regularly.

Audience Segment	Key Organizations/Representatives	Primary Contact Method
Internal Council	All voting members, committee chairs, workgroup leads, Council Chair, Project Coordinator	Email, Internal Chat (Slack/Teams), Monthly Meetings
Core Service Partners	Kane County Health Dept; Presence Mercy & Rush Copley Medical Centers; Ecker Center; Kenneth Young Center; Gateway Foundation; Association for Individual Development (AID)	Email Newsletter, Partner Meetings, Direct Liaison
Recovery & Housing Supports	Kane County ROX; Hope Haven of Aurora; Oxford House representatives; Live4Lali Kane County	Email, Resource Directories, Collaborative Events
Judicial & Law Enforcement	Kane County Drug Court, Probation, Sheriff's Office; Aurora, Elgin, and St. Charles Police Depts.	Formal Email, Briefings, MOA Communications
Government & Funders	Kane County Board, City of Aurora/Elgin Mayor's Offices, IDHS/SUPR Region 2	Formal Reports, Grant Updates, Scheduled Calls

Community & Safety Net	Mutual Ground, Community Crisis Center, Veterans Assistance, Workforce Development, Area Food Pantries	Email Newsletter, Community Forum Invites
Education & Prevention	School District U-46, Elgin Community College, Aurora University, local prevention providers	Presentations, Educational Materials, Joint Initiatives
Persons with Lived Experience (PLE) & Families	PLE Council representatives, family support group facilitators, peer recovery specialists	Peer Networks, Support Meetings, Accessible Formats
Media & Public	Aurora Beacon-News, Daily Herald, local radio, online community forums	Press Releases, Media Kits, social media

Key Messages: Recovery is real, collaboration is key, community drives everything and hope and support is available.

Roles & Responsibilities

- **Council Chair:** Responsible for final approval of major external communications and serves as primary media spokesperson.
- **Project Coordinator:** Oversees execution of the communication plan and ensures alignment with strategic goals.
- **Communications Lead:** Manages the content calendar, coordinates communication channels, and drafts newsletters and press releases.
- **Social Media Lead:** Creates and posts content, engages with followers, and monitors comments and insights on social platforms.
- **Committee/Workgroup Leads:** Provide regular updates from their groups to the Communications Lead.
- **Crisis Communication Lead:** Activates crisis protocols and coordinates urgent internal and external messaging.

Tools & Platforms

- Whatsapp: Facilitate real-time internal communication and file sharing, as well as referral assistance as needed
- Canva / Adobe: Used for creating social media graphics, flyers, and simple reports.
- Facebook / YouTube/Tik Tok/Instagram: Tools for social media scheduling and monitoring.
- Zoom: Platforms for hosting virtual meetings and public webinars.

Evaluation & Feedback

- Monthly: social media engagement metrics, and website traffic to assess communication effectiveness.
- Bi-Annually: Assess alignment and reporting for DBHR Strategic Plan requirements.
- Annually: Conduct a comprehensive communication audit, review feedback trends, and update the plan as needed.

V. Kane County ROSC Council Strategic Plan: FY26 Goals & Objectives

Integrated Strategic Plan

Goal A: Develop and Strengthen Kane County ROSC Membership

Goal: The Kane ROSC Council will have

Objective 1: Diversify and Formalize Council Membership

- Implement a formal recruitment strategy to address gaps in six key sectors: medical, media, faith-based, law enforcement, business, and LGBTQIA+ advocates.
- Maintain an average meeting attendance greater than 30 participants.
- Fill gaps in at least four of the six targeted sectors.
- Host four quarterly off-site meetings.
- Provide orientation for 100% of new members.
- Utilize a “Member-Get-A-Member” campaign, conduct meetings at partner venues, and implement structured orientation sessions.
- Ensuring diverse representation is crucial for legitimate, community-wide system change.
- Launch the recruitment drive in Q2 and assess gaps quarterly.
- Track attendance through logs, update membership rosters, and maintain orientation records.

Objective 2: Enhance Leadership & Strategic Direction

- Activate a standing committee (Outreach Committee)
- Conduct a SWOT analysis to support strategic planning.
- Ensure all three committees are active with workplans by June 2026
- Complete the SWOT analysis by March 2026
- Maintain committee attendance and minutes, and report back to council on committee work

Objective 3: Publicize the ROSC Mission and Resources

- Specific: Launch Kane County ROSC social media channels (Facebook, YouTube, Tik Tok, Linkedin, Instagram) by Q3 2026
- Grow the Facebook group to 100 members by June 2026
- Grow the Tik Tok to 100 followers by June 2026
- Grow the YouTube to 50 subscribers by June 2026
- Leverage volunteer expertise and utilize free or low-cost digital platforms.
- Collaborate with community stakeholders on social media posts

Goal B: Reduce Stigma Through Kane ROSC Initiatives

Objective B.1: Execute a Targeted Stigma Reduction Campaign by June 2026

- Develop a “Language Matters” guide to help reduce stigmatizing language around substance use and mental health
- Secure a partnership with an organization from each ROSC sector to participate
- Create series of five social media posts highlighting different forms of stigmatizing language and the more appropriate replacements
- Execute the campaign in May 2026, which is Mental Health month
- Document social media engagement, as well as 2027 Community Needs Survey data on stigma-related questions

Goal C: Expand Access to and Knowledge of Recovery Support Services

Objective 1: Improve Access to Recovery Services in Kane County

- Publish a public resource guide including all locations to pick up Narcan, by June 2026

- Utilize each monthly ROSC meeting to spotlight one local service or organization
- Run demonstrations of how to utilize digital resource guide at monthly ROSC meetings, or during separate onboarding sessions for new members

Objective 2: Develop Peer Recovery Support Infrastructure

- Promote Certified Recovery Support Specialist (CRSS) certification programs, including pathways to employment, at monthly council meetings
- Present Peer Recovery Support Services (PRSS)/CRSS information at 100% of meetings.
- Engage Elgin Community College and College of DuPage to promote their free CRSS courses
- Present twice yearly on Kane ROSC at Elgin Community College and College of DuPage, to involve students in those programs
- Use meeting minutes, partnership agreements, and funding research summaries for documentation.

Goal D: Ensuring equity of services and cultural understanding

Goal: By June 2026, Kane ROSC will launch at least one targeted initiative for an underserved population, and formalize two or more partnerships to promote culturally competent care.

Objective 1: Reduce Linguistic and Cultural Barriers

- Recruit at least four dual language council members by June 2026
- Use contracted translation services and targeted outreach to recruit members.
- Complete ability to provide all ROSC materials and communications in dual language by June 2026
- Keep an archive of translated materials, update membership roster, and maintain the subgroup charter.

Objective 2: Advocate for Underserved Community

- Specific: Create LGBTQIA+ workgroup by Q4
- Invite two different LGBTQIA+ organizations/individuals to present at a monthly council meeting
- Build on community input from Q1 and leverage existing networks.
- Time-bound: Form the workgroup in Q4, start collaboration in Q1 FY27
- Maintain workgroup minutes, a collaboration activity log, and drafts of policy documents.

VII. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- Council Health: Average meeting attendance; number of sectors represented; number of new members oriented.
- Stigma Reduction: Number of “Language Matters” kits distributed; number of attendees at stigma-focused events; results from pre- and post-event surveys.
- Service Access: Number of providers included in the resource guide; number of new harm reduction access points; number of attendees at MAR and harm reduction events.
- Equity: Number of resources translated; number of bilingual members recruited; formation of senior and LGBTQIA+ workgroups.

VIII. Governance & Membership

- Membership protocols and expectations are adopted as outlined in the KYC ROSC document, including member responsibilities, orientation, and commitment to the strategic plan.
- The ROSC Coordinator manages daily operations.
- The ROSC Council provides strategic oversight, with three standing committees advancing the work.
- People with Lived Experience (PLEs) play a central role in all committees, planning efforts, and decision-making processes.