



Kankakee County R.O.S.C. Council Meeting Minutes Nov.25, 2025

Attendees: Carol Kilgallon; Dr. Ashley Kuhl Piwowarski; Benjamin Rudolph; Latrena Silas; Gloria Kennedy; Luke Durfey; Deyna Lorena Penalosa; Magdalena Campos, Neesha Stringfellow, Tarcia Leak; Celeste Fonseca

Notes

- **Overview:** Neesha Stringfellow, Executive Director of HLM Recovery Kankakee, led a meeting emphasizing gratitude and the importance of collaboration in mental health and substance use recovery. Participants shared their gratitude for various aspects of life, including family, faith, and community support. Dr. Ashley Kuhl Piwowarski and Carol Kilgallon from Hartgrove Behavioral Health System discussed their Schoolhouse Counseling Center, which provides outpatient mental health services in schools. They highlighted the prevalence of mental health issues among teenagers, barriers to accessing care, and their program's efforts to address these challenges through in-person and telehealth services. The program aims to support students, families, and school staff, offering a range of counseling and psychiatric services. Discusses the role of Heartlife Ministries in providing resources and support for mental health, substance use disorder, and other services. Heartlife Ministries Recovery 180 is funded in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Behavioral Health Division. The organization has been serving recovery spaces for families for 25 years and is currently serving Will County, Grundy County, and Kankakee County. Neesha mentions an upcoming open house on December 18 for partners and friends to network and collaborate.
- **Dr. Ashley Kuhl Piwowarski's Presentation on Schoolhouse Counseling Center:** Dr. Kuhl Piwowarski begins her presentation at the Schoolhouse Counseling Center, a school-based branch of outpatient services. The mission of the Schoolhouse Counseling Center is to provide compassionate behavioral health care right where students and families learn and grow. Discusses the prevalence of mental health challenges among teenagers, citing data from the CDC. She highlights the barriers to accessing behavioral health services, such as proximity to providers, transportation, and social stigma.
- **Hartgrove Behavioral Health System Services:** Dr. Kuhl Piwowarski provides an overview of Hartgrove Behavioral Health System's continuum of care, including inpatient, partial hospitalization, and intensive outpatient programs. The outpatient programs are community-based and offer services in Oak Park and Chatham, Chicago.

The Schoolhouse Counseling Center provides counseling and psychiatric support in schools, offering in-person and telehealth services. The program aims to support the entire family system and school district, including staff and their family members.

- **Operational Details of Schoolhouse Counseling Center:** Dr. Kuhl Piwowarski explains the operational details of the Schoolhouse Counseling Center, including the establishment of community partner contracts and the provision of dedicated space within school districts. The program offers individual, family, couple, and group counseling, as well as psychiatric evaluations and medication monitoring. The team consists of masters-prepared clinicians, board-certified psychiatric providers, and support staff. The program operates as a fee-for-service organization, billing insurance plans and offering counseling sessions for \$50 per session for those without insurance.
- **Q&A Session and Additional Information:**
 - Gloria Kennedy asks about the age group served by the program, and Dr. Kuhl Piwowarski confirms they treat children as young as four.
 - Latrena Silas inquires about substance use services, and Dr. Kuhl Piwowarski explains that the program primarily focuses on mental health but can refer for substance use services if needed.
 - Celeste Fonseca asks about serving patients outside of Illinois, and Dr. Kuhl Piwowarski clarifies that their providers are only licensed in Illinois.
 - Neesha Stringfellow and Luke Durfey discuss potential collaborations and connections for expanding services to Indiana.
 - Dr. Kuhl Piwowarski adds that their traditional clinics in Oak Park and Chatham offer telehealth services for clients living in Illinois.

Action items (Updates from Council Members and Partners)

- Heartlife Ministries will host an open house on December 18th from 10 am to 4 pm, and participants should RSVP.
- Send open house invitations via email to attendees joining from other platforms who request them.
- Attend ROSC council meetings in the northern region to become familiar with catchment area needs (Latrena indicated intent to participate).
- Heartgrove Behavioral Health System to continue providing presentations on their Schoolhouse Counseling Center program at future ROSC council meetings.

Attendees Contact Information:

- **Carol Kilgallon-** Group Director of Business Development @ Garfield Park Behavioral Hospital & Hartgrove Behavioral Health System. (Carol.Kilgallon@uhsinc.com)
- **Dr. Ashley Kuhl Piwowarski Psy.D.-** Licensed Clinical Psychologist , Executive Director of Outpatient Services @ Hartgrove Behavioral Health System (ashleykuhl.piwowarski@uhsinc.com)
- **Benjamin Rudolph-** Region 2 ROSC Technical Assistance @ Chestnut (berudolph@chestnut.org)
- **Latrena Silas-** DBHR/ Women, Youth and Family Services Specialist (Ltarena.silas2@illinois.gov)
- **Gloria Kennedy-** Violence Prevention Program @ Duane Dean Behavioral Health Center (gkennedy@duanedeambhc.com) 773-640-9817
- **Luke Durfey-** Team Leader for Substance Use Prevention @ Rosecrance Behavioral Health in Kankakee (ldurfey@rosecrance.org) 815-720-4941
- **Deyna Lorena Penaloza-** Parenting Program Manager @ Spanish Community Center (parenting@spanishcenter.org) 779-399-0077
- **Magdalena Campos** - Program Coordinator @ HLM (magdalena.hlmrecovery@gmail.com)
- **Neesha Stringfellow** - Exec. Director @ HLM (neesha.hlmrecovery@gmail.com)
- **Tarcia Leak** - Operations Director @ HLM (tash.hlmrecovery@gmail.com)
- **Celeste Fonseca** - Exec. Outreach Admin. Assist. @ HLM (celeste.hlmrecovery@gmail.com)