

Kates Community Initiatives ROSC Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025

Location: Virtual (ZOOM)

Time: 1:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Erica Bledsoe (KCI) at 1:02 PM.

2. Attendees

- Kimberly Haywood (BBC)
- Cherone Mayes (KCI)
- Erica Bledsoe (KCI)
- Ron Bratcher (KCI)
- Jahari Stamps (S.H.A.R.P. Foundation)
- DeShunn Bray (KCI)
- Kenneth Bell (Chestnut)
- Kyara Rush (KCI)
- Letitia Miller (KCI)
- Sheila Hughes (Public Equity)
- Deb Beckman (Statewide ROSC)
- Charles Fischer (Community Peer)
- Mercedes Johnson (Community Peer)
- Donta Herron (Community Peer)
- Rashawn Smith (Community Peer)

3. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes-Cherone Mayes (KCI)
- Second-Deshunn Bray (KCI)

4. Old Business

a. 6th Annual Recovery Conference

- **Hosted by:** United Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Coalition
- **Date:** Friday, September 12, 2025
- **Time:** 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM
- **Location:** Hilton Oak Lawn, 9333 South Cicero Ave.

- **Note:** Flyers were distributed to all attendees and placed on all social media platforms.

The **United Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Coalition's 6th Annual Recovery Conference** was an informative and inspiring event that brought together professionals, advocates, and individuals in recovery to share knowledge, resources, and lived experiences. The conference featured engaging presentations, workshops, and networking opportunities focused on advancing recovery support and community collaboration. A highlight of the event was the presentation of the **Recovery Champion of the Year Award** to **Leonard Noble**, in recognition of his outstanding dedication and contributions to the recovery community.

b. Mental Health and Recovery in the HIV/LGBTQIA+ Marginalized Population

- **Date:** Wednesday, September 24, 2025
- **Time:** 11:00 AM-12:00 PM
- **Location:** Zoom
- **Presenter:** Jahari Stamps (S.H.A.R.P.)

Jahari Stamps, representing the S.H.A.R.P. Foundation, delivered a powerful and deeply personal testimony in which he shared his lived experience as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community and as an individual impacted by substance use. Through his openness and vulnerability, he highlighted the unique challenges faced by marginalized populations, including stigma, discrimination, and barriers to essential care and support. His story conveyed an inspiring message of resilience, advocacy, and the importance of creating safe and equitable spaces where every person is seen, valued, and empowered.

c. Balance and Self-Care in Recovery: Round Table Discussion

- **Date:** Thursday, September 25, 2025
- **Time:** 10:00 AM-11:30 AM
- **Location:** 7810 South Claremont Ave
- **Presenter:** DeShara Shells

DeShara Shells, representing the TEECH Foundation and the Far Southside ROSC Council, delivered an insightful presentation on the vital role of balance and self-care in sustaining personal well-being. She emphasized that maintaining balance is not a luxury but a necessity, especially for individuals serving in demanding roles or supporting others through recovery, healing, and community work. DeShara highlighted practical strategies for nurturing mental, emotional, and physical health, reminding participants that intentional self-care strengthens resilience, prevents burnout, and enhances one's ability to show up fully in both personal and professional spaces. Her message underscored the importance of prioritizing oneself as an essential part of overall success and long-term stability.

d. Strength in Unity: Embracing Recovery Together

- **Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2025
- **Time:** 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- **Location:** Dan Ryan Woods Forest Preserves, 83rd & Western, Grove 3
- **Hosted by:**
 - Far Southside ROSC (TEECH)
 - Breaking Barriers Collectively ROSC (BBC)
 - Kates Community Initiatives ROSC (Kates Training Academy)
 - Alliance Care 360

The collaborative event hosted by Breaking Barriers Collectively, the Far Southside ROSC Initiatives, and the Kates Community Initiatives ROSC Council brought a vibrant and fun-filled day to the community. The celebration featured a lively DJ, delicious food, and activities that created joy for both adults and children. Numerous community vendors were also present, offering a wide range of resources, information, and support services. This collaborative effort not only promoted togetherness and engagement but also ensured that families had access to valuable tools and connections that strengthen health, wellness, and community empowerment.

5. New Business

a. Breaking the Silence-Domestic Violence in Recovery (Celebrating Domestic Violence Month)

- **Date:** Wednesday, October 22, 2025
- **Location:** 7810 South Claremont Ave.
- **Presenter:** Erica Bledsoe

The flyer and Zoom link is forthcoming.

b. Statewide ROSC Meeting

- **Date:** Tuesday and Wednesday, October 28-29, 2025
- **Time:** 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM on October 28th 8:00 AM-12:00PM on October 29th
- **Location:** Holiday Inn Effingham; Effingham, IL. 1301 Ave. of Mid America
- **Hosted by:**
 - Chestnut Systems
- **Description:** In-person statewide ROSC meeting.

c. Community Engagement in Ashburn and Burbank

- Schedule Narcan training with Wrightwood/Ashburn Chicago Public Library-Ashburn Community
- Scheduled Narcan training with Prairie Trails Public Library-Burbank Community
- Find stakeholders for Ashburn and Burbank
- Collecting survey data in Ashburn and Burbank

6. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned by Erica Bledsoe (KCI) at 1:56 PM.