

THREE CORDS STRONG ROSC ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES

TRANSITIONAL TRAINING SERVICES

LOCATION: 4455 S KING DRIVE SUITE 101-B

DATE: 11/20/25

Facilitator: Vawnshekia Oklah

CO-Facilitator: Marjorie Howard

Speaker: Francis Oklah

TIME: 09:30 AM – 11:45 AM

ZOOM MEETING ID: Hybrid- in person and on Zoom

I. Call to Order: Marjorie Howard

II. OPENING STATEMENTS - Vawnshekia Oklah

- Welcomed ROSC members and visitors and defined a ROSC meeting.
- Why people should join our ROSC and why the community needs ROSC.
- Address the challenges and substance use in the community and how much it's impacted.
- Presented: the Agenda, the ROSC Mission, and the vision plan for the community.
- Next Meeting Date and details.

III. Speaker – Dr. Francis Oklah

- Deflection and diversion in the US are strategies used to redirect individuals with substance use disorders, mental health issues or low- level offenses away from the criminal justice system.
- These strategies try to reduce unnecessary arrests, decrease jail populations, and connect people with services instead of punishment.
- An example of a legislatively authorized self - referral program is Kentucky's angel initiative.
- Individuals struggling with substance use can go to any Kentucky State Police post and request a connection to treatment.
- State law prohibits arrest of any individual requesting assistance and provides immunity from certain criminal charges if they turn in illicit substances and paraphernalia.

- Active outreach programs are built by allowing law enforcement, other first responders and colleagues including clinicians or peer support specialists to identify or seek out individuals in their community that need services.
- For example, the Tucson Police Department (Arizona) operates three specialized units that conduct targeted outreach to taking referrals from 911 and peers in traditional patrol roles.
- Post- overdose programs operate similarly to active outreach programs with health professionals and law enforcement working together to provide resources and treatment information to individuals after first responders have been called to the scene of overdose.
- Deletion programs are often led by police.
- Diversion programs are typically led by prosecutors and where there is both an arrest and a requirement to engage and complete treatment in exchange for dismissal of charges.

IV. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION— Marjorie Howard

- **What is the main goal of Deflection?** The main goal of deflection is to help people avoid jail by connecting them to recovery services.
- **What type of support might someone receive through deflection?** Some examples of support someone might receive will be housing, treatment, or recovery support.
- **When does deflection happen?** Deflection happens before the arrest.
- **Which situation is best suited for deflection?** The best time to deflect from a situation will be when someone is in need of help with substance use or mental health challenges or needs.
- **Which statement best describes the difference between deflection and diversion?** The best way to describe deflection and diversion will be that deflection is before the arrest while diversion is after charges.
- **What might motivate someone to accept deflection services?** One example that motivates someone to accept deflection services might be wanting to improve their life and everyday choices.
- **What are some examples that can help someone stay engaged in services?** Some examples that can help someone stay engaged in services are recovery coach , peer support , outreach worker.
- **What is one thing deflection tries to reduce?** The main thing that is often to be prevented is repeated 911 calls.
- **What is a positive outcome of deflation?** A positive outcome of deflection will be more people getting the help they need.

Deflection	Diversion
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No threat of criminal charges	Threat of criminal charges
No Arrest or jail booking	Arrest and potential jail booking
Police make ultimate decisions about who to deflect	Prosecutors make the ultimate decision about who receives diversion.
Previous deflections do not make you ineligible for future deflections	Previous participation in a diversion program can make you ineligible for future opportunities.

V. ORDER OF BUSINESS - 3 CORDS MISSION, VISION, PAST MEETING REVIEW- VAWNSHEKIA OKLAH

- **Serious Need for Adult Deflection in Chicago:** Adult deflection programs are built around the idea of pre-arrest diversion for adults (18 and over)
 - **Substance related offense :** Possession of small amounts of drugs or clear signs of substance use disorders often to deflect into treatment programs rather than arrest.
 - **First- time, non- violent offenders :** Illinois diversion statutes (730 ILCS 5/5-6-3.3) Prioritize rehabilitation for first- time offenders charged with misdemeanors.
 - **Behavioral health crises:** Police can direct individuals experiencing mental health issues to crisis intervention services instead of jail.
 - **Excluded crimes :** Violent crimes , serious felonies, and offenses posing public safety risks are not eligible.

VI. COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENTATION

- Partner Presentations

VII. NEXT ACTION STEPS

- Join our ROSC
- Take and Disseminate Surveys
- Be a part of the solution in your circle of influence
- Destigmatize
- Speak up, especially for those who need help
- Upcoming community service

- Attend movie screenings and workshops on harm reduction and stigma reduction, and become better equipped to support recovery and re-entry efforts.
- Invitation to next meeting— December 18, 2025

VIII. MEETING CLOSE – VAWNSHEKIA OKLAH

IX. MEETING ATTENDANCE

1. Marjorie Howard
2. Vawnshekia Oklah
3. Francis Oklah
4. Sondra Muhammad
5. Joulyn Munloya
6. Cameron Hawthrone
7. TCA Health Rep
8. Melvin Shaw
9. Michael Griffin
10. Brianna Gibbs
11. Terrance Clay
12. Donald Harris
13. Jamaal Cary
14. Stanly Howard
15. Ladonna Denson
16. Demon Dukes
17. Brionna Fort- Davis
18. Marcus Fox
19. Natasha Jones
20. Carolyn Howard
21. Ms. White
22. Jaridian Lee
23. Denitra Carr
24. Azeez Muhammad
25. Marquelah Bell
26. Zamaria Howard
27. Sharon Bates
28. Yvette Camper
29. Angel Morgan
30. Julia Clippard
31. Aaron Swan