



Southland Recovery Coalition ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: 12/17/2025 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

LOCATION: Zoom

PRESENTER(S): Yvonne M. Orr, Facilitator

TOPIC: Strategic Planning: Time to Plant More Seeds

ATTENDEES			AFFILIATION			ATTENDEES			AFFILIATION		
1	Angelia F. Smith	Lead Fiscal Agent; Cornerstone ED	11	Marianne Bithos	NAMI South Suburban	1	Angelia F. Smith	Lead Fiscal Agent; Cornerstone ED	11	Marianne Bithos	NAMI South Suburban
2	Yvonne M. Orr	ROSC Coordinator; BEE CDC	12	Christine Cornaccia	Together We Cope	2	Yvonne M. Orr	ROSC Coordinator; BEE CDC	12	Christine Cornaccia	Together We Cope
3	Capucine McGinnis	Cornerstone CDC, Workforce Coor	13	Neesha Stringfellow	Heartlife Ministries/Recovery 180	3	Capucine McGinnis	Cornerstone CDC, Workforce Coor	13	Neesha Stringfellow	Heartlife Ministries/Recovery 180
4	April Thompson	Cornerstone CDC; HHI	14	Maya Crawford	Cornerstone CN; BEE CDC	4	April Thompson	Cornerstone CDC; HHI	14	Maya Crawford	Cornerstone CN; BEE CDC
5	Kathryn Straniero	Together We Cope	15	Andrea Coletta	Together We Cope	5	Kathryn Straniero	Together We Cope	15	Andrea Coletta	Together We Cope
6	Leonard Noble	Cornerstone, Dir – Workforce Dev	16	Kaylon Vaughn	Cornerstone CDC	6	Leonard Noble	Cornerstone, Dir – Workforce Dev	16	Kaylon Vaughn	Cornerstone CDC
7	Kenneth Bell	Region I TA	17	Elena Rivera	Family Guidance Centers	7	Kenneth Bell	Region I TA	17	Elena Rivera	Family Guidance Centers
8	Lamont Wallace	Cornerstone CN; BEE CDC	18	Denise Jones	Tender Touch Inc.	8	Lamont Wallace	Cornerstone CN; BEE CDC	18	Denise Jones	Tender Touch Inc.
9	Souheir Rahman	Together We Cope	19	Katie Huffman	Together We Cope	9	Souheir Rahman	Together We Cope	19	Katie Huffman	Together We Cope
10	Rebecca Moon	Proactive Community Services	20	Yasmeen Hishmeh	Together We Cope	10	Rebecca Moon	Proactive Community Services	20	Yasmeen Hishmeh	Together We Cope

MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting was called to order by Yvonne M. Orr, who welcomed attendees and acknowledged technical difficulties and scheduling conflicts. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and share their organizations in the chat. The meeting included introductions from new and returning members, highlighting the diversity and collaborative spirit of the coalition.

Icebreaker: Midweek Pick-Me-Up

Attendees shared personal routines and practices for staying motivated midweek, including gratitude journaling, prayer, stretching, coffee, and watching comedies. The discussion emphasized the importance of self-care, spirituality, and community support.

PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

Survey Results & Strategic Planning

Yvonne presented findings from the Southland Recovery Coalition Recovery Survey, comparing current and previous years' data. Key insights included:

- Respect for people who use drugs and those with mental illness remains a challenge.
- Neutral responses on medication-assisted recovery (MAR) and harm reduction indicate gaps in community knowledge.
- Difficulty accessing mental health and substance use treatment persists.
- Demographic data shows most respondents are female, African American, and have lower income levels.
- The need for culturally sensitive outreach and targeted communication was discussed.



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Community Engagement

Attendees discussed strategies to increase survey participation and community engagement, including pop-up events, social media, and leveraging community navigators. The importance of addressing stigma and fostering inclusive, trauma-informed care was emphasized.

SMART Objectives

The group reviewed and refined strategic goals, focusing on:

- Enhancing housing stability and wraparound services
- Increasing council outreach and unity
- Addressing opioid use and overdose disparities
- Expanding partnerships and improving data reporting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next in-person meeting: January 28, 2026, at Cornerstone, 943 East Lincoln Hwy, Ford Heights, IL
- Focus will be on clinical perspectives in recovery, including MAR and cognitive behavioral therapy
- Suggestions for new communication channels, including podcasts, were welcomed
- Members were encouraged to share announcements and collaborate on upcoming events and grants

CLOSING

Yvonne thanked attendees for their service and wished everyone a safe and fulfilling holiday season.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:37 AM

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 | 9:30 AM **via Zoom***

Zoom Info: Meeting ID: 836 3638 1377 | Passcode: 746782



ROSC COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

(Recovery Oriented Systems of Care)

Virtual

Standing Monthly Meeting

FYI: SRC ROSC Council Meetings take place monthly on the last Wednesday of the month via Zoom unless noted on the schedule

Mtg ID: 836 3638 1377 | Passcode: 746782



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025 | 9:30 A.M. TO 10:30 A.M.

Strategic Planning: Time to Plant More Seeds

Coming together to discuss how to:



- Address the gaps outlined in SRC's community needs assessment.
- Incorporating updated communication/ outreach plan efforts in the strategic plan.
- What's our demographic? Population?
- Overdose data for the Southland region.
- Reviewing current SRC ROSC council goals, objectives, and activities based on the needs assessment.
- Ensuring they align with achievable milestones.

See you in person for our next ROSC Council Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026 at Cornerstone CDC
943 East Lincoln Highway | Ford Heights, IL 60411

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Always teaching. Always learning. Sharing the experience.

CONTACT SOUTHLAND RECOVERY COALITION
943 EAST LINCOLN HWY • FORD HEIGHTS, IL 60411
708.758.2565 | WWW.SOUTHLANDRECOVERY.ORG

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 | 9:30 A.M. TO 10:30 A.M.

The Realities of Mental Health & Wellness

Guest Speaker: Marianne Bithos, President



South Suburbs
of Chicago



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