

Kates Community Initiatives ROSC Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, January 16, 2026

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)
- Daniel Mendez (Far Southside ROSC)
- Ron Bratcher (KCI)
- Kenneth Bell (Chestnut)
- DeShunn Bray (KCI)
- Aaron Saunders (Community Peer)
- Vawnshekia Brown (3 Chords Strong ROSC)
- Dawn Escobal (Community Peer)
- Angela Harlan (Community Peer)
- Christopher Williams (Community Peer)
- Jahari Stamps (S.H.A.R.P. Organization)
- Curtis Simpson (Community Peer)
- Shaquita Harris (BB2L)
- Kimberly Heywood (BBC)
- Johanna Gonzolas (DBHR)
- Mariah Horne (KCI)
- Wilma Abi-Rashed (KCI)
- Erica Bledsoe (KCI)

3. Approval of Minutes

There are no minutes to approve for the month of December. No December meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

4. Old Business

a. a Community Engagement in Wrightwood/Ashburn and Stigney/Burbank

- Naloxone Training
- Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2025
- Location: Chicago Public Library (Wrightwood-Ashburn Branch) 8530 South Kedzie Ave, Chicago
- **Kate's Community Initiative (KCI) ROSC Council** hosted a Naloxone (Narcan) Training at the Wrightwood/Ashburn Branch Library, providing community members with life-saving education on overdose prevention and response. The training focused on recognizing the signs of an opioid overdose, administering naloxone safely and effectively, and understanding the importance of harm reduction within a Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC). Participants received hands-on instruction, practical resources, and information on local recovery supports. This event reinforced KCI's commitment to empowering the community, reducing overdose fatalities, and promoting recovery, wellness, and hope.

- Naloxone Training
- Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026
- Location: Prairie Trails Public Library 8449 S Moody Ave, Burbank
- **Kate's Community Initiative (KCI) ROSC Council** facilitated a Naloxone (Narcan) Training at the Prairie Trails Library in Burbank, offering community members essential education on overdose prevention and response. The session provided instruction on identifying opioid overdose symptoms, administering naloxone correctly, and taking safe, effective action in emergency situations. Participants also learned about harm reduction strategies and were connected to local recovery resources within the Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC). This training highlighted KCI's dedication to community empowerment, overdose prevention, and advancing recovery-focused support and awareness.

- Men and Women in Recovery
- Location: Kates Community Initiative ROSC Council 7810 S Claremont Ave
- Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2025
- **Kate's Community Initiative (KCI) ROSC Council** hosted a Men's and Women's Health in Recovery training presented by **Ms. DeShunn Bray and Ronald Bratcher**, focusing on the intersection of long-term recovery and cancer survivorship. The training addressed living with **prostate and breast cancer while in long-term recovery**, highlighting the physical, emotional, and mental health challenges individuals may face. Presenters discussed how substance use can negatively impact the body while battling cancer, interfere with treatment and healing, and increase health risks. The session emphasized the importance of informed health choices, self-advocacy, and ongoing support within a Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC), reinforcing the message that recovery and health go hand in hand.

b. Raw Survey Data

Kates Community Initiatives ROSC Council collects raw survey data to capture direct, unfiltered feedback from community members, service providers, and individuals with

lived experience. The purpose of collecting raw data is to better understand community needs, service accessibility, recovery support, and gaps within the local Recovery-Oriented System of Care.

Surveys are administered through multiple formats, including paper-based surveys, online platforms, and in-person distribution at community events and ROSC meetings. Demographic information is collected to ensure representation across age, gender, race/ethnicity, geographic area, and recovery status, while maintaining participant confidentiality and voluntary participation.

The raw data collected serves as the foundation for data analysis, reporting, and continuous quality improvement. Findings are used to inform program development, guide strategic planning, strengthen partnerships, and support data-driven decision-making that enhances recovery outcomes across the community.

c. Strategic Plan

The strategic plan for Kates Community Initiatives ROSC Council outlines a three-year roadmap (2025–2028) to strengthen a coordinated, community-driven Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC). The plan focuses on enhancing infrastructure, expanding community engagement, improving data collection and evaluation, and increasing access to recovery supports.

It emphasizes the meaningful inclusion of individuals with lived experience, trauma-informed practices, and equity in service delivery. Through clear priorities, actionable goals, and measurable outcomes, the plan guides the Council in fostering partnerships, reducing stigma, and addressing gaps in recovery services. It also establishes a framework for accountability, continuous improvement, and long-term sustainability, ensuring that recovery supports remain responsive to the needs of individuals, families, and the broader community.

- Office hours with the DBHR for the strategic plan are scheduled for Wednesday, 12/17/2025.

d. FY26 Q2 Report

During **Quarter 2 of Fiscal Year 2026**, **Kate's Community Initiative (KCI) ROSC Council** implemented Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) activities centered on community education, prevention, and health awareness. Q2 programming prioritized overdose prevention and the integration of physical health considerations into recovery supports.

5. New Business

- a. Sigma Reduction Training-TBA
- b. Black History Month TBA
- c. Valentine's Day TBA
- d. Resource Fair TBA

Statewide ROSC Meeting-Tuesday, January 20, 2026, via ZOOM.

Region 1 ROSC Meeting-Tuesday, January 27, 2026, via ZOOM.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Ronald Bratcher

Second: DeShunn Bray

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

NEXT MEETING: Friday, February 20, 2026, at 1:00 PM