



# NEAR SOUTH SIDE

## MEETING MINUTES

**LOCATION:** Virtual - Zoom

**DATE:** 01/13/2026

**ATTENDEES:**

- Daniel Mendez (EDDR Foundation), Halle Berghoff (EDDR Foundation), Gloria Landingham (EDDR Foundation), Kimberly Haywood (Breaking Barriers Collectively ROSC Council), Mimi Tsang (MAHA), Florence Wright (Southside Heroin Opioid Taskforce), Cristina Banda (Illinois Family Resource Center), Marcia Teverbaugh (Trilogy Inc.), Quinella Penemon (TASC), Dante Harris (Puerto Rican Cultural Center), ReGina White (Trilogy Inc.), Kenneth Bell (Statewide ROSC), Belinda Farr (Prevent Child Abuse Illinois), Izze Ortiz (CP4P/SWOP), Rosalina Barrera-Colon (PEER Services), Tiffany Webb (Healthcare Alternative Systems), Nina Martinez (Chicago Coalition to End Homelessness), John Kuypers (New Valentine Alano Club), Ivan Ortiz (Garfield Park Community Council), Leslie Givens (Alliance Care 360)

**TIME:** 10:30am – 11:30am

## AGENDA ITEMS

- I. **Introductions: Name, Organization, how to stay in touch.**
- II. **ROSC Overview: What is the ROSC and why is it important to the community?**
- III. **Data Highlights: New Law Highlights For 2026.** In honor of the new year, we went over new laws which would be going into effect starting in 2026. These are laws which will impact those with SUD and other co-occurring conditions. Illinois lawmakers passed over 460 new laws in 2025. A few of laws highlighted were: Safe Homes: requiring landlords to include a summary of the special rights that survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault have within leases. HB3385: Requires colleges and universities to provide mental health access. HB3572: Allows people who are charged with misdemeanors and unfit to stand trial to enter a diversion program instead of going through traditional prosecution. SB0024: Ends the waiting periods for filling missing person reports. They must be taken right away and cannot be refused by police. SB1899: Allows certain first-time low-level weapon possession offenders to apply for a FOID card after completing a diversion program.

**New Federal SNAP Changes for 2026** Changes will go into effect on February 1, 2026. They will impact able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD). ABAWDs who do not meet federal work requirements or qualify for an exemption will be limited to 3-months of SNAP benefits within a 3-year period. This may affect more than 340,000 Illinois residents including veterans, those experiencing homelessness, people with no disabilities aged 55-64, and those with kids at home who are only 14 or older.

**Near South Side ROSC Community Survey Key Findings** Support for Treatment and Harm Reduction, showed upward trends with 66% believing MAT is effective, 64% believing harm reduction services reduce the risk of drug use, and 75% supporting increasing government funding for mental health and substance use treatment. Perception of Respect and Stigma showed more mixed numbers with 64% believing people with mental health disorders deserve respect but 51% believing people with substance use disorders deserve respect, indicating greater stigma towards SUDs. Access to Services seems to be improving with 47% believe it is difficult to find healthcare providers offering MAR in their community, 44% believing it is difficult to find mental health and substance use treatment services, and 57% disagreeing that harm reduction services are difficult to find. Equity and Barriers to Care seems to still be an issue with 36% believing that everyone in their community can access mental health services and 38% disagreeing that everyone can access substance use services under the same conditions.

***While we have you here, have you identified gaps in the recovery community? What issues are not being addressed? What services are not being provided?***

- IV. **ROSC in Action,**
  - a. Open call to encourage participants to invite someone who may be interested in joining the ROSC.

V. **Cook County Events and Trainings – JANUARY EVENTS**

Friday, January 16, 2026	“Toward Common Measures: Advancing Metrics and Data Collection Methods in Recovery Support Services”
Friday, January 16, 2026	A New Year for a New You: Making Recovery Work
Tuesday, January 20, 2026	Southside Heroin Opioid Task Force Monthly Meeting: Tackling the Serious Problem of Heroin & Opioid Addiction in South Side Chicago
Tuesday, January 20, 2026	National Day of Racial Healing 2026: We Carry the Light!
Wednesday, January 21, 2026	“From High School to Beyond”

Saturday, January 24, 2026	New Year, New Vision: The Three B's with HS Jackson
Wednesday, January 28, 2026	The Hidden Influence: The Impact of Implicit Bias on Community Engagement
Wednesday, January 28, 2026	QPR: Question, Persuade, and Refer – New Year, New Challenges

VI. **ROSC Council Member Updates/Discussion/Questions:**

- a. Members spoke excitedly about the survey results and what they mean for the future of recovery.
- b. Discussed the importance of increased workforce development training with the SNAP changes going into effect.
- c. Helping place those with disabilities into specific workplaces.
- d. There was a general discussion of the importance of alliances, and community support with things becoming more difficult for many in our communities.
- e. There was also lots of resources shared amongst members regarding food distribution and food pantries for those in the community.

VII. **Adjournment**