



**Meeting Title:** Kankakee County ROSC Council Meeting

**Date:** February 24, 2026

**Location:** Virtual

**Facilitator:** Neesha Stringfellow & Magdalena Campos

**Attendees In-Person:** Alexia (Harbors House); Johnnie Graham Wicks (Kankakee United); Sarah Winkel (Project Sun); Eric Peterson (Veterans Assistance Commission & Project Headspace & Timing); Rhonda Showers (Peoples Church & Founder and Mental Health Network of Kankakee County); Brian Leonard (BVL Boxing Solutions); Gabriella Barraco (BVL Boxing Solutions); Kate Drayton (Illinois Over Dose Response); Danielle Heffernan (Serenity House); Paula Ekstrom (Wilmington Coalition); Luke Durfey (Rosecrance); Gloria Kennedy (Duane Dean BHC The CREW); Sonja Handson (Duane Dean BHC The Crew); Liz Gibson (Birth To Five Illinois); Ben Rudolph (ROSC Region 2 technical assist.); Lori Mollema (Life Education Center); J Nabors; Sharon (Harbor House); Margie Ramirez (Spanish Community Center); Michelle Hibbard (Rosecrance); Neesha Stringfellow (HLM); Tarcia Leak (HLM); Magdalena Campos (HLM); Celeste Fonseca (HLM)

Status Report on items pending from last meeting: Status Report on items pending from last meeting: Email Kate Drayton’s Presentation, emailed 2/3/26.

Who	Task	Status
HLM	Email Brian V. Leonard’s presentation	Email EOD 3/2/26

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2:00pm - 3:00pm

Welcome & Presentation by Brian V. Leonard, MAPS  
University of St. Mary of the Lake of Mundelein, Lay Ecclesial  
Minister within the Archdiocese of Chicago

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**Overview/Notes**

- Welcome and Introduction:** Neesha Stringfellow welcomes everyone to the R.O.S.C. council meeting, emphasizing the importance of community partnerships. Participants are asked to introduce themselves, including their name, organization, and contact information. New attendees, including Alexia HH from Harbor House and Johnnie Graham-Wicks from the Office of Violence Prevention, introduce themselves. Sarah

Winkel introduces herself as the Executive Director of Project SUN, focusing on bridging gaps in the behavioral health system. Eric Peterson introduces himself as the Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission and CEO of Project Headspace and Timing. Rhonda Showers introduces herself as the founder of the Mental Health Network of Kankakee County, invited by Samantha. Neesha Stringfellow emphasizes the importance of collaboration and invites new attendees to share their information in the chat.

- **Overview of HLM Recovery 180 R.O.S.C.:** Neesha Stringfellow explains the mission of HLM Recovery 180 R.O.S.C., focusing on hope, healing, and recovery for mental health, substance use, unemployment, and unhoused people. The organization acts as a resource to connect people to services rather than providing direct services. Neesha invites participants to stay until the end to discuss their organizations and how they can collaborate.
- **Introduction of Speaker:** Magdalena Campos introduces Brian Leonard, highlighting his involvement in various community organizations and his role in BVL Boxing Solutions.
- **BVL Boxing Solutions Presentation:** Brian Leonard shares the story of BVL Boxing Solutions, which started as a way to support his son Brian Jr. in recovery. The gym provides a safe, sober environment for individuals in recovery, offering structured boxing workouts and community support. Brian emphasizes the importance of discipline, accountability, and community in the recovery process. The gym also offers programs for individuals with Parkinson's, Down Syndrome, and autism, promoting inclusivity and holistic well-being.
- **Impact and Future Plans:** Brian discusses the impact of BVL on individuals, including personal stories of transformation and community support. The gym aims to provide a bridge between isolation and belonging, offering a sense of dignity and discipline to those in recovery. Brian highlights the importance of community involvement and collaboration, mentioning ongoing projects and future plans. Magdalena Campos announces a collaboration with BVL and Hero for a fundraiser event, inviting participants to bring information about their organizations.
- **HLM Recovery 180 R.O.S.C. Programs and Collaborations:** Magdalena Campos provides an overview of HLM Recovery 180 R.O.S.C.'s programs, including Project Light, which focuses on substance use prevention and mental illness awareness for youth. The organization collaborates with schools to educate students about the dangers of substances and provide tools for coping.
- **Closing Remarks and Future Plans:** Magdalena emphasizes the importance of addressing body, mind, and spirit in the recovery process. Neesha Stringfellow thanks everyone for their participation and contributions. She emphasizes the importance of networking and collaboration in the recovery community. The meeting concludes with plans for future events and updates from other organizations. Neesha encourages everyone to stay connected and continue supporting the recovery efforts in the community.