



Meeting Title: Will County ROSC Council Meeting

Date: February 24, 2026

Location: Virtual

Facilitators: Neesha Stringfellow & Celeste Fonseca

Attendees: Brian Leonard (BVL Boxing Solutions); Gabriella Barraco (BVL Boxing Solutions); Connie Dewall (Will County HD); Crystal (NAMI Will-Grundy); Becca Hebron (NAMI Will-Grundy); Myion Roberts; Kathleen Burke, PhD (Will County HD); Ben Rudolph (ROSC Region 2 technical assist.); Sam Ortega Hughes (Will County HD); Elena Rivera (Family Guidance Center); Iasondra Lee; Alyson Dizon (Family Guidance Center); Danielle Heffernan (Serenity House); Guadalupe Salinas (Spanish Community Center); Jacqueline Ramirez; Mrs. Johnson; Jan Dombroski (HERO); Caitlin Daly (Will County HD); Aishwarya Balakrishna (Will County HD); Shawntaelia Smith; Cristyna Ramirez (ECS Therapy); Aimee Merritt (Will-Grundy Hope for a Future); Taylor Mealey (Will Grundy Medical Clinic); LeShae Hudson (New Day Employment); Allison Thomas (Rosecrance Behavioral Health); Neesha Stringfellow (HLM); Tarcia Leak (HLM); Magdalena Campos (HLM); Celeste Fonseca (HLM)

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

11:00am - 12:00pm Welcome & Presentation by Brian V. Leonard, MAPS
University of St. Mary of the Lake of Mundelein, Lay Ecclesial
Minister within the Archdiocese of Chicago

Overview/Notes:

- **Guest Speaker Introduction and Overview:** Neesha Stringfellow welcomed attendees to the HLM Recovery R.O.S.C. Will County Council Meeting. Alyson Dizon from Family Guidance Center, Sam Ortega Hughes from Will County Health Department, and Iasondra Lee from HERO introduced themselves. Brian Leonard from BVL Boxing

shared his personal story and the impact of his son's overdose, highlighting BVL Boxing's structured recovery support environment. The gym offers various programs, including AA meetings, monthly recovery speaker series, and adaptive programming. Kathleen Burke from Will County Health Department reported a 50% decrease in overdose deaths and the distribution of 1179 Narcan boxes. Upcoming events and partnerships were also discussed.

- ***Brian Leonard's Introduction and Personal Story:*** Brian Leonard shares his personal story about his son Brian, who passed away from an overdose. Brian describes the emotional impact of his son's death and the motivation it provided to start BVL Boxing. A video clip is shared, showcasing the work and impact of BVL Boxing on the community. He explains the structure and goals of BVL Boxing, emphasizing its role in providing a supportive community for people in recovery. Brian highlights the benefits of BVL Boxing for individuals in recovery. The gym offers structured boxing workouts, cardiovascular training, and a supportive community. Brian shares testimonials from members who have found BVL Boxing to be a transformative experience.
- ***BVL Boxing Programs, Community Impact, Support and Future Plans:*** Brian explains the various programs offered at BVL Boxing, including men's and women's AA meetings, monthly recovery speaker series, and adaptive programming. The gym provides a safe, sober community for people in recovery, regardless of their stage of sobriety. Emphasizes the importance of community and support in the recovery process. The gym has a demographic study showing a high concentration of recovery assets in the I-80 corridor. Brian thanks the community for their support and mentions the need for continued collaboration. He encourages people to pray for the staff and the ministry, and to spread the word about BVL Boxing. Neesha Stringfellow asks Brian about opportunities for donations and sponsorships. Brian explains the benefits of purchasing year memberships, which help fund free memberships for those in need.
- ***Updates from Other Organizations:*** Allison Thomas from Rosecrans provides an update on residential treatment bed availability and the upcoming outpatient clinic in Dyer, Indiana. Sam Ortega Hughes from Will County Health Department discusses the re-launch of their outpatient program and the potential for individual therapy. Connie Dewall announces the relocation of the Recovery Community Center of Joliet to a new location. Guadalupe Salinas from the Spanish Community Center announces an upcoming women's health fair and invites other organizations to participate.
- ***Narcan Distribution and Overdose Statistics:*** Dr. Kathleen Burke from Will County Health Department provides an update on Narcan distribution and overdose statistics. The department has distributed 1179 Narcan boxes and 146 xylazine and fentanyl test strips. Overdose deaths in Will County are down by over 50% compared to previous years. The department is working on a new grant for transportation vouchers to support long-term recovery.
- ***Closing Remarks and Future Plans:*** 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.