



Kane County RO SC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 2/19/2026

Time: 2:00pm -3:00pm

Location: Town & Country Public Library, Elburn, IL

Meeting Format: Hybrid (In-person & Virtual)

Moderators:

- Annette Villarreal, Kane County RO SC Coordinator
- Jarrett Burton, DuPage County RO SC Coordinator

Attendance

In-Person Attendees:

- Nene Velasquez (AmeriCorps, DuPage/Kane RO SC)
- Kelsey Chavez (AmeriCorps, Serenity House)
- Adam Pauli (Community Member/Hessed House)
- Florence Jolly (Elburn Chamber of Commerce)

Virtual Attendees:

- Delila (Inc. Mental Health Alliance)
- Walter Sanders
- Ben Rudolph
- Dalila Alegria
- Toni Garcia
- Sarah Mendoza
- Sharon Cabrera
- Lily Peterson
- Brianna Haug
- Michelle Hawley
- Tami Johnson
- Tina Koral
- Walter Sanders



Agenda & Key Discussion Points

1. Welcome & Introductions

- The meeting commenced with opening remarks from Jarrett Burton, who welcomed participants to the February session of the Kane County ROSC Council.
- Annette Villarreal provided context for the selection of Elburn as the meeting location, emphasizing the organization's commitment to equitable service delivery and resource accessibility in the county's western region.
- Attendees introduced themselves and each shared a one-word reflection on their current feelings: **Stressed** (Jarrett, who later updated to "unstressed" following a smooth meeting setup), **Inspired** (Annette), **Hopeful** (Ben), **Full** (Delila), **Enthusiastic** (Nene), **Excited** (Kelsey), and **Joy** (Adam).

2. Re-Entry Program Update (Walter Sanders)

- Walter Sanders announced the launch of a new re-entry fellowship program, commencing **March 12th from 6:00–8:00 PM** at Serenity House, 825 West State Street, Suite 115, Geneva, IL.
- The initiative is designed to support recently released individuals from correctional facilities (Kane, DuPage, or IDOC) by providing essential resources, resume assistance, interview preparation, employment search support, and mentorship led by those with lived experience. The program offers a low-threshold entry point for persons not yet prepared for formal recovery programs.
- This fellowship was developed in response to feedback from incarcerated individuals and seeks to ensure consistent, trusted post-release support.

3. What is a ROSC? (Recovery Oriented Systems of Care)

- Annette Villarreal defined a ROSC as an integrated, person-centered network of community-based services that emphasize individual strengths and resilience.
- Such systems are led by individuals with lived experience and prioritize collaboration to address service gaps and barriers across the care continuum—including prevention, intervention, treatment, and long-term recovery.

4. Community Needs Assessment Survey Results

The council reviewed initial findings from its first community needs assessment survey, comprising 88 responses.

- **Strengths (Community Support):**



- Over **78%** agree that individuals with substance use or mental health conditions deserve dignity and respect.
- **76%** believe Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR) is effective.
- **76%** affirm that harm reduction services (e.g., Narcan) mitigate health risks.
- Approximately **88%** support increased government funding for treatment.
- **Challenges (Access Gaps):**
 - **47%** report difficulty locating MAR providers.
 - Nearly **77%** disagree that detoxification and treatment services are easily accessible.
 - **75%** perceive a shortage of sober- living homes.
- **Stigma:**
 - Approximately **78%** identify stigmatizing language (such as "addict") as problematic.
 - Around **81%** agree that fear of judgment prevents individuals from seeking help.
- **Equity Gaps:**
 - Only about **30%** believe everyone can access assistance regardless of income, insurance status, race, or language.
 - Merely **29%** see adequate services for uninsured or underinsured individuals.
 - Just **24%** feel services for those facing English language barriers are sufficient.
 - Only **24%** consider specialized services for the LGBTQIA+ community to be adequate.

5. Responding to the Data: Current Initiatives

The council discussed ongoing efforts informed by survey results.

- **Language Equity:**
 - Serenity House now provides **bilingual peer support services** every **Tuesday from 12:00–2:00 PM** at its Geneva office.
 - Recruitment is underway for dual-language speakers, and efforts are being made to translate critical resources into Spanish.
- **Outreach Enhancement:**
 - In partnership with Rory Green and CW Second Chance Ministries, the mobile outreach van operates on Sundays to distribute food, clothing, and supplies to unsheltered individuals in Aurora and Elgin.



- Donations such as socks, toiletries, and seasonal clothing are being accepted. Appreciation was expressed to Greater Family Health, Urban Apothecary, the Burn family, Adam Pauli, Elgin Community College, and College of DuPage for their contributions.

6. Upcoming Events & Announcements

- **Virtual Presentation:** "ADHD and the Stimulant Pipeline" presented by Jarrett Burton (date to be determined, next month).
- **Sober Social Event:** Game Night featuring various board games, video games (Mario Kart), karaoke, giant Jenga, and refreshments, to be held at Serenity House, Addison, IL (date to be determined).
- **Funding Opportunity:** Delila from Inc. Mental Health Alliance shared that funding applications for mental health, developmental disability, and substance use disorder services remain open until **March 13th at 4:00 PM**. Contact Delila for further information.
- **Next Meeting:** Scheduled for **March 19th**, with a tentative location in Sugar Grove. Further information will be distributed via email.
- **Host Sites Sought:** Organizations interested in hosting future meetings are encouraged to volunteer.

7. Open Discussion

- Ben Rudolph emphasized the significance of respondents who selected "neither agree nor disagree" in the survey, suggesting targeted education could foster greater support for ROSC initiatives.
- Adam Pauli initiated a discussion on stigma and "othering," with collective agreement on the importance of consistent presence, compassionate engagement, and mindful language to reduce barriers.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 PM.

Next Meeting: March 19th (Location TBD in Sugar Grove)