



Southland Recovery Coalition ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: 2/25/2026 9:30 AM to 10:23 AM

LOCATION: Zoom

PRESENTER(S): Yvonne M. Orr, Facilitator

TOPIC: Incorporating the Family into Treatment and Recovery

ATTENDEES		AFFILIATION	ATTENDEES		AFFILIATION
1	Angelia F. Smith	Lead Fiscal Agent; Cornerstone ED	15	Johnnie Cole	PLE
2	Yvonne M. Orr	ROSC Coordinator; BEE CDC	16	Lakeasha Gatling	PLE
3	Capucine McGinnis	Cornerstone CDC, Workforce Coor	17	Marianne Bithos	NAMI Metro Suburban
4	April Thompson	Cornerstone CDC; HHI	18	Kaylon Vaughn	Cornerstone CDC
5	Kenneth Bell	Region I TA	19	Denise Jones	Tender Touch Inc.
6	Johanna Gonzalez	Statewide ROSC	20	Michael Ferguson	Family Guidance Center
7	Souheir Rahman	Together We Cope	21	Belinda Farr	Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
8	Katie Huffman	Together We Cope	22	Tiffany Johnson	PLE
9	Yasmeen Hishmeh	Together We Cope	23	Zion Moss	PLE
10	Kimberly Haywood	Breaking Barriers Collectively	24	Laila Fultz	PLE
11	Joseph Alford	Lifeshouse Behavioral Health Service	25	Maurice Mance	PLE
12	Maya Hardy	United Way of Metro Chicago	26	Essence Moore	PLE
13	Nyerere Gatling	PLE	27	Darrel Walker	PLE
14	Marvin Jones, Jr.	PLE	28	Thomas Blake	PLE

MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting was called to order by Angelia F. Smith, who welcomed attendees. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and share their organizations in the chat. Members and guests introduced themselves, including representatives from Breaking Barriers Collectively/Brighter Behavior Choices Recovery Café, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, Statewide ROSC, United Way of Metro Chicago, Family Guidance Center, Together We Cope, and participants with lived experience joining from Cornerstone. The meeting included introductions from new and returning members.

PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

Incorporating the Family into Treatment and Recovery

Yvonne M. Orr led the training topic, "Incorporating the Family into Treatment and Recovery." She introduced a video clip highlighting how families are often mislabeled as part of the problem, when in fact they can be essential partners in treatment, advocacy, and long-term recovery. The video emphasized that families need practical options, healthy communication tools, and support systems rather than blame or one-size-fits-all advice.



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Group Discussion

Following the clip, Yvonne facilitated a discussion about what recovery and support can look like in everyday life. She noted that recovery is broader than substance use alone and can include behavioral health challenges, harmful habits, and the need for compassionate support rather than shame. Yvonne shared personal examples related to procrastination and quitting smoking and encouraged attendees to reflect on habits they are working to change in themselves or support in others.

Communication, Boundaries, and Support Systems

After a brief video interruption, the discussion continued with a focus on communication and relationship building within families. Angelia highlighted that strengthening communication patterns, expressing needs safely, resolving conflict, and rebuilding trust are all central to treatment and recovery. Yvonne emphasized the importance of being mindful about stigmatizing language such as “rock bottom,” noting that families often need guidance on setting healthy boundaries without withdrawing love or support. She encouraged family participation in counseling sessions, reinforcing healthy behaviors at home, and practicing self-care to avoid emotional burnout.

State Resources and Recovery Planning

Yvonne also reviewed supports available through the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health. She described outpatient and residential treatment options, Wellness Recovery Action Plans (WRAP), specialized services for children and adolescents, inpatient care, supports for individuals who are blind or hard of hearing, and forensic mental health services. She encouraged participants to explore available state and rural-area resources and to think about recovery as an ongoing process that benefits from structure, reflection, and aftercare.

Ongoing Recovery and Aftercare

The group discussed the importance of continued family support groups, peer networks, and community resources after formal treatment ends. Michael Ferguson reflected on his own recovery journey, sharing that a severe health consequence led him to stop using substances and that he recently celebrated seven years in recovery. He reiterated his willingness to help connect individuals to harm reduction and treatment services.

New Participant Introduction

Joseph Alford introduced himself as serving with AmeriCorps AMPAC Illinois Recovery Corps and working with Lifehouse Behavioral Health in Blue Island. He shared that his role focuses on building community relationships and creating smoother handoffs when individuals need referrals to other organizations. Angelia invited him to share his contact information in the chat and noted the council may invite him to present at a future meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maya Hardy announced that April Food Day will take place on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at the Convention Center. Food collection will occur from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM, pantry pickup will begin at 1:30 PM, and the awards luncheon will be held from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. She invited members to donate food, host drives, or sponsor tables, and noted this year’s awardees include Advocate, Renard Ellsbury, and the Kiwanis Club of



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Crestwood and Oak Forest. Angelia thanked United Way and Yvonne for the event's long-standing impact on pantry clients across the community.

Angelia also requested that Together We Cope share a flyer once its Bremen Township health and wellness fair is scheduled so SRC can help promote it. Yvonne reminded attendees that the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with certified crisis workers and multilingual support, and encouraged members to share this resource with anyone in need.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:23 AM

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 | 9:30 AM at Cornerstone CDC