

DuPage ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

February 11th, 2025

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DuPage County ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton welcomed everyone to the meeting and to the hosts of February meeting of the DuPage ROSC Council, this month hosted at the DuPage County Coroner's Office. Jarrett started by asking if we had anyone attending their very first ROSC Council meeting.

-One attendee is from the TASC area coordination committee

-Another attendee is a CRSS student from College of DuPage

Jarrett then asked today's icebreaker question: are you taking any trips this year? One member is going to Mackinaw Island so they can see the stars at night. Another said that their kids request something involving skiing so this year they are going to Colorado with the entire family.

DuPage ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton went over the agenda for today's meeting, where we'll be speaking to the Ampact Project Coordinators, the Kane County ROSC Coordinator, the DuPage County Coroner Judith Lukas, and the results from the 2026 Community Needs Survey

Jarrett then promoted some of the upcoming trainings, meetings, etc. coming up via the ROSC programs:

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton first promoted the annual DuPage ROSC + Serenity House Game Night, which is hosted at Serenity House and features video games, board games, cards, snacks, and more. This event is free and open to the public.

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then promoted the DuPage ROSC Presentation Series on Domestic Violence, presented by Family Shelter Service. DV has a big intersection with substance use and mental health challenges, so it should be an important presentation.

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then introduced Kane County ROSC Coordinator Annette Villareal, who promoted some things happening in Kane County:

- There is going to be a fellowship group starting in Kane for men who've recently left incarceration, held at the Serenity House offices in Geneva. These will be non-specific recovery meetings open to anyone who has recently re-entered society.
- Annette then promoted the next Kane County ROSC Council meeting at Town and Country Library in Elburn, IL
- **ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton** then talked to Kelsey Chavez, one of the ROSC Project Coordinators, who has been helping collect donations for the Serenity House

Mobile Outreach unit. They have distributed hundreds of coats, gloves, sleeves, scarves, toiletries and more. There will be a second mobile outreach unit that will be operational in a couple of months and will be serving DuPage County.

- Jarrett asked Kelsey what her favorite part of working with the ROSC is, and Kelsey said it's shadowing and jumping in wherever she can and loves working with everyone on the ROSC teams. She also wants to get more involved with harm reduction work. Jarrett also thanked Bruce Sewick and the Awakenings group at College of DuPage for hosting a donation box, as well as Elgin Community College and others

21:20—28:00

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then introduced DuPage Health Department Community Initiatives Coordinator Scott Kaufmann, who walked us through the background of the upcoming Sober Living education and stigma reduction campaign.

Scott explained that the campaign came through some ideas between them and the ROSC in the Behavioral Health Collaborative. The campaign will feature three different sober living organizations: Serenity House, Oxford House, and Evergreen Shared Sober Living. The goal is to educate the public on the types of sober living but also highlight success stories from DuPage residents who have successfully utilized sober living.

The videos will be rolled out one/week for the next six weeks, and we are asking for all members to share far and wide with their networks.

We watched the video featuring Mariana Prokop from Evergreen Shared Sober Living, who shared her story of starting a sober living home for women in DuPage County. Mariana felt that women tend to be natural caretakers, which means they often didn't have time to work on themselves, so opening a home for women was so crucial to DuPage. When women come into Evergreen Mariana tries to make them as comfortable as possible. The women live, cook, clean, go to meetings together and more. She shared a success story of a former client who went on to try and work in the field.

Mariana joined us to talk about the process of Evergreen and thanks Jarrett and Bruce Sewick for being the two foundations for her to get the house up and running and having sustained success, and is looking forward to what the campaign can bring.

28:00-

DuPage ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then introduced DuPage County Coroner Judith Lukas, who was also the gracious host for the meeting. Jarrett mentions that Judith has been attending ROSC for a few months now, and was glad they were able to connect on hosting a meeting there. Judith started with a personal story – she has lost numerous members to substance use and mental health challenges, including a nephew who had gone to residential treatment during Covid and didn't have options for sober living or in-person support meetings,

and they ended up losing him to overdose. This was a big reason for why Judith is so motivated in her work and advocacy around improved services for people in DuPage. Jarrett mentioned his own experience in finding sober living and the importance of having those options.

Coroner Lukas then talked about some of the findings she's seen since she's been on the job. There's been around 77 deaths related to substances this year, but probably more lives saved and tragedies avoided with Narcan.

One trend that she's seen is the 40-50 age range increasing in overdoses/deaths, while some of the younger ages have gone down, which is something that ROSC has seen as well. Another trend that multiple groups have seen is the "Polypharma" – meaning a lot of people have been killed with multiple substances in the toxicology screens. Cocaine and alcohol have shown up in a few, but it was largely a few different substances in a person's system.

Judith talked about some of the testing improvements that they have implemented, as well as working with groups like ROSC to help spread information about substances and adulterants that have popped up.

Bruce Sewick from COD asked about suicide numbers, modalities, etc, which have largely stayed the same.

One audience member asked Judith how she was able to cope with being around death. Judith used to be a nurse and views it as part of the circle of life.

Judith also wanted to point out that we have a lot of crisis-related services now including the Crisis Center, 988, the Illinois Helpline, etc. She also says that stigma can keep people from accessing services and so we must try and smash those.

Another attendee asked about some of the substances that have shown up in toxicology screens, including kratom. Jarrett spoke for a moment about the rise of kratom but more importantly 7-OH, which is becoming more problematic.

ROSC member Mark Mathews spoke about some of the lack of compassion and professionalism at coroners' offices from time to time and thanked her for showing that compassion in her work. Jarrett thanked Judith for hosting everyone and for engaging so much with the program.

56:00-end

Jarrett said that he had planned to show some results from the Community Needs Survey but with only a couple of minutes left he opened it up for anyone to promote an upcoming meeting, program, etc.

Bruce Sewick mentioned a student who had started a CRSS alumni network

Scott Kaufmann again mentioned the sober living campaign and to please share those videos

Attendance:

Jarrett Burton	DuPage ROSC, PLE
Annette Villareal	DuPage ROSC, Kane ROSC, PLE
Kelsey Chavez	Ampact, DuPage ROSC, PLE
Scott Kaufmann	DuPage Health Dept
Mark Matthews	Greater Family Health, PLE
Magdalena Campos	Heartlife Ministries, PLE
Celeste Fonseca	Heartlife Ministries, PLE
Linda Wingrove	TASC, Probation
Mariana Prokop	Evergreen Shared Sober Living, PLE
Khadija Khan	Wheaton Police Social Worker
Roger Stefani	Hope For Healing, PLE
Bruce Sewick	College of DuPage, PLE
Melissa Murillo	Access Community Health
Mimi Doll	DuPage Federation
Brianna Haug	Oxford House Inc, PLE
Sharon Cabrera	Kane Co Health Dept
Matt Ashley	The Way Back Inn, PLE
Michael Wood	Banyan Treatment Centers, PLE
Nicole Janssen	Recovery Centers of America, PLE
Judith Lukas	DuPage County Coroner
Ben Rudolph	Chestnut Health Systems
Erika Rivas	Family Shelter Service, PLE
Matilda Faria	Healthcare Alternative Systems
Winter Lane	DuPage Probation
Javier Reyes	Challenge II Change, PLE
Rosa Orozco	DuPage County Health Department

Jaron Neibors	FTTTW Community Center, PLE
Jennifer Trivelli	Linden Oaks Behavioral Health
Sarah Grunden	OMNI
Kathy McNamara	DuPage Probation
Ezra Fisk	360 Youth Services
Dr Steve Holtsford	Medical Director @ DuPage Crisis Center