



# NEAR SOUTH SIDE

## MEETING MINUTES

**LOCATION:** Virtual - Zoom

**DATE:** 02/10/2026

**ATTENDEES:**

- Daniel Mendez (EDDR Foundation), Halle Berghoff (EDDR Foundation), Gloria Landingham (EDDR Foundation), Kimberly Haywood (Breaking Barriers Collectively ROSC Council), Mimi Tsang (MAHA), Florence Wright (Southside Heroin Opioid Taskforce), Cristina Banda (Illinois Family Resource Center), Quinella Penemon (TASC), Dante Harris (Puerto Rican Cultural Center), ReGina White (Trilogy Inc.), Kenneth Bell (Statewide ROSC), Belinda Farr (Prevent Child Abuse Illinois), Tiffany Webb (Healthcare Alternative Systems), Carlos Miranda (Chinese American Service League), Ingrid Campos (Brighter Behavior Choices), Shawntale Hurst (Brighter Behavior Choices), Maria'h Foster (Life is Work)

**TIME:** 10:30am – 11:30am

## AGENDA ITEMS

- I. **Introductions: Name, Organization, how to stay in touch.**
- II. **ROSC Overview: What is the ROSC and why is it important to the community?**

**III. Data Highlights: 2026 Overdose Spike** On January 5, 2026 the South Side had elevated numbers of opioid-related overdose EMS responses. On January 31, 2026 There were opioid-related overdose EMS responses occurring throughout the city with no elevated numbers in any specific region. On February 2 there were 29 possible opioid-related overdose EMS responses in Chicago within 24 hours. **Hot areas for January 31, 2026 through February 3, 2026** Areas between Kostner to California, from 16<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. Area around North Ave corridor, from Central to Cicero. Area around Pulaski and Madison, Ashland Ave corridor, from 63<sup>rd</sup> to 79<sup>th</sup>.

**IV. Presentation: Polycrisis**

- a. **Overview:** David gave a presentation on the concept of a Polycrisis. A polycrisis is a state in which distinct occurrences, disagreements, confusion, or suffering caused by different problems happens at the same time. Since problems happen simultaneously, it creates an entanglement that cumulates causing a negative impact. Stressors vary from economic, societal, geopolitical, climate-related, etc. Stressors can go from being a single-event into an ongoing disaster with no recovery period or seemingly feasible solution.
- b. **2026 Crisis Factors:** There are various crisis factors currently affecting many that could lead to a polycrisis. These include: housing unaffordability, food-price inflation, energy prices increasing, jobs are not easily available or do not pay a living wage, extreme violence due to racism, homophobia, transphobia, fear of law enforcement, personal illness, fear of terrorism including kidnapping and death due to immigration and customs enforcement, fear of the unknown, etc. These varying factors can result in trauma and problems left unresolved and ongoing may result in re-traumatization. Surviving, coping, handling chronic stress, and dealing with trauma and re-traumatization may cause individuals to develop emotional dysregulation, troubling mental health symptoms, and possible disconnection/disassociation from the pain. Emotional dysregulation means stress is difficult to tolerate and control, and responses may show up as strong emotions such as mood shifts, angry outbursts, depression, feelings of shame, self-harm, finding it hard to deal with stress, suicidal ideation, or substance misuse.
- c. **Real Life Examples: Liam Conjeo Ramos** Liam and his father were detained by ICE agents on January 20<sup>th</sup> after returning from preschool. He was used as bait to lure his mother out. Father and child were transported across the country from Minneapolis to Texas. On January 28<sup>th</sup> Liam appeared lethargic, depressed, and reported "not feeling well". Children showed signs of trauma with conditions including confinement, denial of critical medical care, and food with worms and mold. On January 31<sup>st</sup> a US district judge ordered their release. On February Liam and his father were released from custody and returned to Minneapolis. Liam's reaction to this trauma is a real example of how many people will deal with stress by shutting down completely.
- d. **Real Life Examples: Thi Dua Vang** Thi Dua Vang was detained at her home by 6 DHS ICE agents on January 8<sup>th</sup>. She was not given a reason for being detained. On January 9<sup>th</sup> she was transferred to a processing center in Texas. She wasn't released until January 21<sup>st</sup> and returned home that day. January 26<sup>th</sup> she was required to do a check-in with ICE. She continued to be bothered by ICE Agents and no longer felt safe leaving her home. She has lost her job and has to have things delivered by community members. This is another real life example of ongoing trauma and re-traumatization happening in our communities.
- e. **Open Discussion: How are you saving space for people who have not yet spoken to you about their experiences? How are you maintaining a conscious effort to navigate**

***stressors that are outside of our control? How are you supporting the needs of communities to develop long-term plans for healthy coping?***

**V. ROSC in Action,**

- a. Open call to encourage participants to invite someone who may be interested in joining the ROSC.

**VI. Cook County Events and Trainings – FEBRUARY EVENTS**

Wednesday, February 4, 2026	Southside Heroin Opioid Task Force Monthly Meeting: Tackling the Serious Problem of Heroin & Opioid Addiction in South Side Chicago
Wednesday, February 4, 2026	WRAP® Orientation in Spanish
Tuesday, February 10, 2026	3rd annual Chicago's Birthday Party
Wednesday, February 11, 2026	Large Language Models 101: Applications, Risks, and Implications for Problem Gambling
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	Mental Health in Older Adulthood: What Community Providers Need to Know
Friday, February 20, 2026	Faith-Based Opioid Use Disorder Symposium
Friday, February 20, 2026	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual African American Conference on Problem Gambling
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	In-Person Employee Retention Toolkit Training

**VII. ROSC Council Member Updates/Discussion/Questions:**

- a. Members spoke about the importance of connection, and finding more connection for many people. Isolation is extremely unhelpful for those dealing with a polycrisis.
- b. They also spoke about the importance of teaching people proper coping skills. It's important to build a relationship with people, take trainings to stay up to date on best practices, and learn how to best engage.
- c. The reality is that there are times when you cannot help people and there is no immediate solution to every problem. However you can equip yourself best you can to deal with any immediate situation that may arise.
- d. Situations are complicated with lots of outcomes, which makes it more difficult since there is no one size fits all solution.
- e. Information is one of the most valuable resources right now.

**VIII. Adjournment**