



# NEAR SOUTH SIDE

## MEETING MINUTES

**LOCATION:** Virtual – Zoom

**DATE:** 03/10/2026

**ATTENDEES:**

- Daniel Mendez (EDDR Foundation), Halle Berghoff (EDDR Foundation), Gloria Landingham (EDDR Foundation), Kimberly Haywood (Breaking Barriers Collectively ROSC Council), 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), Ingrid Campos (Brighter Behavior Choices), Leslie Givens (Alliance Care 360), Lavoris L (Alliance Care 360), Todd Zientek (CASL), Darren Dunham (Trilogy Inc.), Sedona Broderson (AIDS Foundation Chicago), Andre Newsome (Drexel Counseling), Toni Sutton (LCPC AFC)

**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: Women's History Month and International Trans Day of Visibility** There have been budget cuts specifically affecting women and the LGBTQ+ communities over the past year. In

May 2025 323 National Institute of Health funded LGBTQ+ grants were terminated including projects directly involving transgender populations health, gender identity, sexual orientation, DEI topics and health equity equal to \$8M. In August 2025 \$783M DEI-related grants were terminated, then reinstated, and then blocked once again by the Supreme Court. NIH staff were directed not to approve grants containing the words "women", "trans", or "diversity" which shut down numerous ongoing or propose women-specific studies. As a result Illinois Partners for Human Services reported a 58% higher demand for services, 65% of agencies reported increased admin burdens, and 19% saw a decrease in federal funding. **2025-2026 Workforce Mental Health Report** Workers experienced destabilization of workplace support systems due to federal cuts, layoffs, and reductions. 66% of employees reported experiencing burnout during the past year and 54% indicated that job insecurity and economic instability significantly increased their stress levels. Major life-changing responsibilities such as becoming a parent, inability to access medical care, and economic pressure can create emotional strain directly impacting mental health. Women report a larger mental-health-driven impact on job performance. Employees with unresolved SUD are more likely to face job loss, lower wages, and difficulty maintaining employment. Mental-health related leaves increased by 300% in 2025. Trans-identified people face high employment discrimination contributing to elevated stress and worsening mental health/SUD symptoms.

**IV. Presentation: ReGina White, Trilogy Inc.**

- a. ReGina White from Trilogy took some time to discuss Trilogy and what they do. She went over the history of the organization and their mission. Trilogy helps those in the Chicagoland area with mental health issues and co-occurring conditions. They provide integrative and comprehensive care for anyone who needs it, as well as lots of peer support. Their CORS team enters the community and provides immediate support to those dealing with SUD. They can then help them with immediate intake into Trilogy services and other harm reduction services. Trilogy collaborates with a variety of partners to provide things like family guidance, treatment, stability kits, etc. They also have connections with housing programs and can help with employment. There are no sobriety requirements, with walk-ins welcome at both of their drop-in centers.

**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 – MARCH EVENTS**

Wednesday, March 4, 2026	ACES 101: Correlation between ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and SUD
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Chicago’s Birthday Party
Thursday, March 5, 2026	Spring Hiring Job Fair: Show up. Shine Bright. Step Into Your Future.
Tuesday, March 10, 2026	Intersection of Harm Reduction and Recovery Pathways
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	O’Hare Airport Concessions Job Fair
Friday, March 13, 2026	Cannabis Induced Psychosis: Psychosis & Mania
Saturday, March 14, 2026	El Valor Job Fair

Tuesday, March 17, 2026	Stan Martin Jobs
Thursday, March 19, 2026	Reflection Without Hierarchy: Boundaries
Thursday, March 19, 2026	Stan Martin Jobs
Tuesday, March 24, 2026	Letting Go of What Doesn't Work: Moving Communities Toward Effective Prevention
Tuesday, March 24, 2026	Getting Rid of Stupid Stuff: Putting Metting Science to Work for Your Team

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

- a. There was a brief discussion of the Health Fair the Near South Side ROSC will be hosting in June.

VIII. **Adjournment**