



Meeting Title: Grundy County ROSC Council Meeting

Date: February 24, 2026

Location: Virtual

Facilitator: Neesha Stringfellow

Attendees In-Person: Paula Ekstrom (Wilmington Coalition); Danielle Heffernan (Serenity House); Diana Belicke (Rosecrance Behavioral Health); Angela Solis (CrossRoads Counseling Services); Alyson Dizon (Family Guidance Center); Brian Leonard (BVL Boxing Solutions); Gabriella Barraco (BVL Boxing Solutions); Ben Rudolph (ROSC Region 2 technical assist.); Dan Vlasaty (Family Guidance Center); Glenn (BVL); Marianne Bithos (Southland Recovery Coalition ROSC Council); Becca Hebron (NAMI Will-Grundy); Michelle Pruiam (NAMI Will-Grundy); Joy Flink (Chestnut Health Systems); Ginni Demko (Chestnut Health Systems); Diana; Crystal Torres (NAMI Will-Grundy); Elena Rivera (Family Guidance Center); Shawntaelia Smith; Neesha Stringfellow (HLM); Tarcia Leak (HLM); Magdalena Campos (HLM); Celeste Fonseca (HLM)

Status Report on items pending from last meeting: Email Kate Drayton's Presentation, emailed 2/3/26.

Who	Task	Status
HLM	Email Brian V. Leonard's presentation	Email EOD 3/2/26

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Welcome & Presentation by Brian V. Leonard, MAPS
University of St. Mary of the Lake of Mundelein, Lay Ecclesial
Minister within the Archdiocese of Chicago

Overview/Notes:

- Neesha Stringfellow welcomed attendees to the Grundy County R.O.S.C. meeting, emphasizing the importance of participation and collaboration. She encouraged new attendees to introduce themselves and share their organizations. Tarcia Leak led a prayer, and Neesha highlighted the R.O.S.C. 's role in creating a sustainable coalition for community-based services, particularly for mental health, substance use disorder,

unemployment, and homelessness. She noted upcoming website updates and the need for Grundy County services to be featured. Special guest Brian Leonard, with a background in pastoral studies and community service, was acknowledged for his contributions. The meeting aimed to foster collaboration and support among partners.

- **Welcome and Introduction:** Neesha Stringfellow welcomes everyone to the Grundy County R.O.S.C. meeting and introduces herself as the Executive Director of Heart Life, highlighting the organization's focus on recovery and mental health. She encourages participants to introduce themselves and their organizations in the chat, and mentions the ability to share upcoming events and information. Asks if there are any first-time attendees, and Dan raises his hand to introduce himself.
- **Importance of Website and Special Guest:** Neesha emphasizes the importance of being listed on the R.O.S.C. website, especially for Grundy County services. Mentions that the website will be revamped next week and encourages participants to update their information. Welcomes Ben from IDHS, who is the Tech Director and has been attending all R.O.S.C. council meetings. She expresses gratitude for having a special guest, Brian Leonard, and shares his background, including his education, role with the Archdiocese of Chicago, and involvement with BVL boxing solutions.
- **Brian Leonard's Personal Story:** Brian Leonard shares his personal story about his son Brian, who passed away from an overdose. Brian describes the emotional impact of his son's death and the motivation it provided to start BVL Boxing. A video clip is shared, showcasing the work and impact of BVL Boxing on the community. He explains the structure and goals of BVL Boxing, emphasizing its role in providing a supportive community for people in recovery. Brian highlights the benefits of BVL Boxing for individuals in recovery. The gym offers structured boxing workouts, cardiovascular training, and a supportive community. Brian shares testimonials from members who have found BVL Boxing to be a transformative experience.
- **BVL Boxing Programs, Community Impact, Support and Future Plans:** Brian explains the various programs offered at BVL Boxing, including men's and women's AA meetings, monthly recovery speaker series, and adaptive programming. The gym provides a safe, sober community for people in recovery, regardless of their stage of sobriety. Emphasizes the importance of community and support in the recovery process. The gym has a demographic study showing a high concentration of recovery assets in the I-80 corridor. Brian thanks the community for their support and mentions the need for continued collaboration. He encourages people to pray for the staff and the ministry, and to spread the word about BVL Boxing. Neesha Stringfellow asks Brian about opportunities for donations and sponsorships. Brian explains the benefits of purchasing year memberships, which help fund free memberships for those in need.
- **Closing Remarks and Future Plans:** Neesha Stringfellow thanks everyone for their participation and contributions. She emphasizes the importance of networking and collaboration in the recovery community. The meeting concludes with plans for future events and updates from other organizations. Neesha encourages everyone to stay connected and continue supporting the recovery efforts in the community.