



Together We Thrive.

Northwest Suburban Cook County ROSC Council
Tuesday, May 26, 2026
10:30-11:30 a.m. via Zoom

May Minutes

Daryl Pass, ROSC Manager
Jesus Cisneros Martinez, ROSC Coordinator
Stephanie Sidman, ROSC Coordinator

Attendees:

Ali Buck	Angela Aggen	Kenneth Bell
Megan Monti	Brenda Boyd	Teila DeSorno
Natalie Bonner	Michael Edgar Myers	Don Kauffold

Discussion:

Daryl began the call raising the importance of bringing on People with Lived Experience (PLE), or as he now calls them, People with Lived Expertise. These folks bring with them a lens of recovery that individuals without personal experience with substance use do not have.

The Council reintroduced themselves quickly to get a sense of individual perspectives within this collective. *See Appendix for quick bios.*

During introductions, Angela shared that the University of Chicago has an outreach van that provides support, including the ability to get someone on Medication-Assisted Recovery right then and there. *Angela is going to share contact information with Daryl so he can connect with them.*

Michael shared that his organization has a new theater project that will debut on Saturday, June 20th at 3 pm at the Bellevue Ministry Center in Chicago. The show is titled "Four Anniversaries, One Faith", which will be looking at the connections between Juneteenth and July 4th. *Michael would like to have information regarding the ROSC available at this show.*

Daryl provided a definition of ROSC: Recovery Oriented System of Care, which is a coordinated network of community-based services supporting long-term recovery from



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substance use disorders, mental health, harm reduction, and other recovery wraparound services.

There has been a major shift from the State of Illinois regarding ROSC, where the movement is from the primary organization providing direct service to educating and equipping the ROSC Council to provide and support those frontline resources. Daryl shared his philosophy of “Don’t compete, collaborate!” so that the council members understand the direction and intent of the Council. Goals include reducing stigma, promoting harm reduction, and promoting MAR.

Daryl informed the Council that there are 9 organizations that want to be included in the Council, including SHARE and the Gateway Foundation. He also shared that the Naloxone Vending Machines across the area have had an awesome impact on communities.

Narcan vending machine network: 10 machines deployed with 147 total reported overdose reversals across locations including Elk Grove PD (39 reversals), Kane County Sheriff Bond Court (22), Center on Halsted (25), and Elgin PD (17).

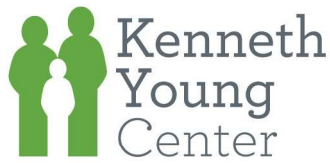
Questions Discussed:

What are the gaps? What can we do to be more impactful?

- Ali shared that as a young person in Chicago, when she began her recovery journey she didn’t see herself represented in the resources she found. The lack of easily accessible information on recovery and where to find resources were obstacles she was able to overcome that may prohibit others from following through on seeking help.
- Ali also shared the Google Ads Grant Program. This is a program that provides \$10,000 a month budget for online awareness campaigns. May be worth looking into for our Council. <https://www.google.com/grants/>

Brenda would like to see the Council embedded in academic and school systems, perhaps promoting a youth-led initiative. Brenda sees, through her work at BBBS, the potential to reach parents through engaging youth. Kids have access and connection with families and communities that we do not have access to, and Brenda shared that Youth should have a seat at the Council table.

The Council then discussed stigma, with a specific reference to “Youth” versus “Youth At-Risk”. Brenda drops “at risk” when talking about big issues, and this really levels the playing field and helps remove the feeling of “haves” and “have nots”. Brenda’s perspective here is that it is critical to *communicate with kids*, not talk *at* or *to* them.



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Natalie sees that youth are experiencing adult situations at a higher prevalence and earlier age than previous cohorts of youth. (It's easy to say, "back when I was a kid," but reality is now and what today's youth are facing in both the online world and the real world are situations that nobody has ever faced before.) Being exposed to these adult situations so early means mental health issues and trauma are much more common. While kids are proving resilient, it's important to give them agency and get them involved with our Council. Natalie pointed out that *we cannot dictate someone's experience*, and that we are all connected.

Brenda and Natalie agreed that there is more than one way to skin a cat, such as providing mentoring while doing arts and crafts that the kids want to do. What makes them comfortable and productive?

Angela agreed with Brenda and Natalie, it's not about lecturing youth but engaging with them. She had a great suggestion to do a podcast as outreach.

Ali stated she is from Philadelphia, and a great program they offer is the Philly Mural Project, where artists create collaborative murals to beautify the city. <https://muralarts.org/>

Teila wondered how this could be pitched to Elk Grove Village. Stephanie mentioned that Elgin uses something similar during an annual streetfest, but the display is taken down at the end of the fest, so perhaps a portable display could be an option. Brenda and Ali talked about how to engage schools with a project like this, where students could create murals and art in school hallways.

Daryl shared that he works with a specialty school that addresses truancy, trauma, substances, and gang behavior. His experience here has shown that just listening, giving kids an opportunity to be seen and heard, is impactful. Youth are crying out for connection and support, and so are parents.

Brenda made a very impactful statement: "You cannot treat substance use with punishment."

Daryl asked the Council, what are you experiencing with Wraparound Services?

- Michael shared that his theater missionaries go to different churches but see consistency across urban and rural communities. The ministry focuses on 2 questions:
 - Why is the situation? (many times this is a spiritual / faith-based answer)
 - How do we manage it?



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- By having safe faith conversations, substance use and behavior issues are happening but on a smaller scale.

Follow Ups

- Angela to provide U of Chi contact info to Daryl.
- Michael to provide ROSC information at his planned event on June 20th.
 - Daryl or Stephanie will connect with Michael to ensure he has what he needs.
- Monthly calls will continue to be the 4th Tuesday of the month, at 10:30 a.m., and will try to adhere to a 1 hour length. We will hold an in-person meeting once-per-quarter, to increase engagement and strengthen connection within the Council.
- **Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 23rd 10:30 a.m.**
Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83851719184>

Parking Lot

- Google Ads Grant Program
- Recovery Buffet
- Podcast

Appendix

Name	Sector Represented	Bio
<i>Ali Buck</i>	Person with Lived Experience	Ali the first PLE on the Council, and brings professional experience in Operations for a company which provides quality management software for businesses with complex, rigorous compliance requirements (e.g., companies who require FDA approval and need audit trails).
<i>Natalie Bonner</i>	Youth-Serving	Natalie is the founder of Talented Tenth Social Services, an organization based on compassion, integrity, and social justice that creates and provides education and access to resources to the community. https://www.talentedtenthss.org/
<i>Michael Edgar Myers</i>	Faith-Based	Michael is one of the founders of Kingdom Impact Theater Ministries, an organization that impacts communities using theater to



Kenneth
Young
Center

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		bring understanding of Scripture and faith, creating space for safe faith conversations. https://www.kit-ministries.com/
<i>Angela Aggen</i>	Treatment	Angela is a Prevention Coordinator and Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor for Oak Park Township.
<i>Don Kauffold</i>	Faith-Based	Don is a faith-based Community Leader, focusing on affordable housing and works with PADS shelters in the area.
<i>Teila DeSorno</i>	Law Enforcement	Teila works at Elk Grove Social Services with the Elk Grove Cares Program, which provides resources and support to those suffering from addiction and seeking help. *This program has no geographical boundary. https://www.elkgrove.org/government/police-department/community-programs/elk-grove-village-cares
<i>Megan Monti</i>	Treatment	Megan is a Case Manager working in the mental health field at Taking Control Counseling in North Aurora. This organization uses Live4Lali for outreach. https://www.takingcontrolcounseling.com/
<i>Kenneth Bell</i>	ROSC TA	Kenneth provides Technical Assistance for regional ROSC Councils.
<i>Brenda Boyd</i>	Treatment	Brenda is a Restorative Justice Practitioner with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago. Daryl was in the audience at a talk Brenda recently gave and shared that it was a fantastic experience. https://www.takingcontrolcounseling.com/
<i>Jesus Cisneros Martinez</i>	ROSC Coordinator	
<i>Stephanie Sidman</i>	ROSC Coordinator	
<i>Daryl Pass</i>	ROSC Manager	