



Kane County Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 19th

Location: Sugar Grove Public Library, Sugar Grove, IL (Hybrid Meeting)

Attendees (In-Person & Virtual):

- Jarrett Burton
- Annette Villarreal
- Casey Alexander
- Kelsey Chavez
- Jennifer Long
- Mark Matthews
- Adam Pauley
- Ben Rudolph
- Melania Hanky
- Walter Sanders
- Sharon Cabrera
- Nene Velazquez
- Mark Matthews
- Nicole Krause
- Carissa Felber
- Lucy Smith
- Marco Fajardo



Meeting Called to Order: 3:00pm

1. Call to Order & Housekeeping (Jarrett Burton)

- Jarrett Burton opened the meeting, welcoming attendees to the March edition of the ROOSC Council at the Sugar Grove Public Library.
- **Housekeeping:**
 - Online attendees were asked to put their name and contact info in the chat for attendance.
 - In-person attendees were asked to sign in on sheets provided.
 - All participants were reminded to remain muted unless speaking to avoid interruptions.

2. Welcome & Icebreaker (Annette)

- Annette welcomed everyone to Sugar Grove, acknowledging the library sits on land originally traversed by the Potawatomi people.
- She highlighted the council's goal to address inequity of services due to geographic/location barriers, ensuring recovery is within reach for every corner of King County.
- **Icebreaker Question:** *"If you could be any animal for a day, what would you be and why?"*
 - **Annette:** Squirrel ("a little menace for a day").
 - **Jarrett:** Bear (favorite animal; has a gold paperweight bear).
 - **Mark Matthews:** Bird (to observe everything from above).
 - **Melania Hanky:** Her house cat (to chill in the sun).
 - **Ben Rudolph (Virtual):** Great Horned Owl (large, mean, growls instead of hoots; lives in his backyard).

3. Guest Presentation: CRSS Alumni Network & Awakenings Project (Casey Alexander)



- **Introduction:** Casey Alexander, a student at College of DuPage (COD), CRSS (Certified Recovery Support Specialist), and part of the Awakenings Project.
- **Awakenings Project:** An art-focused, recovery-oriented group at COD. Casey shared some of her artwork inspired by old cartoons and Salvador Dali.
- **CRSS Alumni Network Initiative:**
 - **Problem:** There is no formal "next step" for CRSS students to stay connected after graduation, despite forming close, supportive bonds during the program.
 - **Mission:**
 1. Provide a natural stepping stone to the broader peer community for graduates.
 2. Offer existing professionals a community based on fun and support, not more work.
 3. Create a space for people to bond over non-vice activities.
 - **Key Features:**
 - A central website and calendar where any human service organization can share events.
 - A Slack channel for community building and collaboration.
 - Goal is to provide a framework for the community to build and run itself.
- **Q&A / Discussion:**
 - Mark Matthews praised the idea, noting it expands on the concept of "support for the supporters" and focuses on fellowship and non-peer-support activities.
 - Clarification provided: CRSS stands for **Certified Recovery Support Specialist**. The network is open to all peers.
 - Annette noted this aligns perfectly with the ROSC strategic plan to connect trained CRSSs with the recovery community and employers.

4. Program Updates: Serenity House

A. Re-Entry Fellowship Group



- **Purpose:** Created in response to feedback from individuals in jail who expressed fear about finding work, housing, and avoiding old patterns after release. Designed for those formerly incarcerated and/or in recovery. Non-program specific (not tied to 12-step, SMART, etc.).
- **Schedule & Location:**
 - **Thursdays:** 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM (Geneva office).
 - **Tuesdays (Walk-in/Drop-in):** 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM (Geneva drop-in center).
- **Services Offered:** Job interview skills, resume building (non-traditional), a clothes closet, and access to other resources.

B. Virtual Narcan Training

- **Schedule:** Second Tuesday of every month at 12:30 PM, starting in April.
- **Content:** Will cover new adulterants (xylazine, etc.) in addition to Narcan administration.

C. Serenity House Mobile Van (Outreach)

- **Locations & Schedule:**
 - **Wednesdays:** Main library off River Road (Kane County).
 - **Thursdays:** Elgin (specific location TBD).
 - **Sundays:** 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM at the dog park near animal control in Aurora (serving 15-20 people weekly with cooked food and services).
- **Donation Needs (Kelsey):**
 - **Clothing:** T-shirts, **new undergarments** (underwear, socks highly needed), shoes, kids' clothing.
 - **Hygiene:** Body wipes, toiletries, first aid supplies.
 - **Food:** Non-perishables (granola bars, nuts, water).
 - **Other:** Pet food/supplies for unhoused individuals with animals.
- **Donation Pick-up:** Serenity House will pick up donations from organizations or individuals can bring items to ROSC meetings.



5. Partner & Community Announcements

- **Free & Confidential HIV Testing (Elgin Community College):**
 - **Location:** Building K, Room K151, 1700 Spartan Drive.
 - **Days/Times:** Mondays & Tuesdays, 6:00 PM – 9:30 PM (dual language available).
- **Tornado Relief Donation Drive (Kaneland area):**
 - **Hosted by:** First Presbyterian Church of Christ in Downers Grove.
 - **Needed Items:** Bottled water, packaged snacks, cleaning supplies, toiletries, adult diapers, trash bags, work gloves, plastic totes, toilet paper, packing tape.
 - **Collection Date:** March 22nd. Volunteers also needed.
- **Community Needs Assessment (AID Cares - Melania Hanky):**
 - Focus on Aurora and North Aurora community (open to all via zip code).
 - Gathering data on mental health, substance use, and other social needs for strategic planning.
 - **Job Opening:** AIDcares is hiring for a CRSS/RSS position for their outpatient program.
- **Job Opening (Serenity House):** Seeking outreach workers (CRSS preferred) for Kane County (field-based, 5 days/week).
- **Connelley Outreach Presentation (Jennifer Long, Executive Director):**
 - **Service Area:** Western rural Kane County (Sugar Grove, Big Rock, Virgil, Kaneville, Blackberry townships).
 - **Social Services:** Acts as an "old-fashioned 211" for referrals, administers a benevolence fund, runs a community meals program (Thursday nights), and is a Salvation Army extension site for assistance programs.
 - **Bereavement/Grief Services:**
 - **Children's Grief Camp (June):** For ages 9-13, featuring new equine therapy ("Stable Minds").
 - **Adult Services:** No-cost grief support group, young widow support group, book club.



- **Community Events:** Free events like sound healing, nature mandala workshops, and bibliotherapy to help people process grief, especially during seasonal transitions.

6. Open Floor & Other Announcements

- **Video Series (Quit Smoking):** A call for participants who have firsthand experience with quitting smoking (personal or professional) to be featured in an upcoming video series. See the representative for a card.

7. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- **Location:** King County Coroner's Office (confirmed for April).
- **Date:** The third Thursday of April (exact date to be confirmed via follow-up email).
- **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned with a recognition of Women's History Month and appreciation for all the women in the room and the network.
- **Follow-up:** Attendees will receive a follow-up email with all links, flyers, and information shared during the meeting. A video recording will be available in a few days.