



HLM RECOVERY 180

Meeting Title: Kankakee County ROSC Council Meeting

Date: March 24, 2026

Location: Virtual

Facilitator: Neesha Stringfellow & Magdalena Campos

Attendees In-Person: Alexia Scivally (Harbors House); Eric Peterson (Veterans Assistance Commission & Project Headspace & Timing); Kate Drayton (Illinois Over Dose Response); Danielle Heffernan (Serenity House); Gloria Kennedy (Duane Dean BHC The CREW); Ben Rudolph (ROSC Region 2 technical assist.); Natalie Dirienzo(Guardian Angel Community Servies, Sexual Assault Department); Kennilyn Hickory (Birth to Five) Aaron Robinson (Still I Rise); Tocarra Robinson (Still I Rise); Rev. Eugene Edwards (Duane Dean Behavioral Health); Sarah Gonsch (Guardian Angel Community Services, Sexual Assault Department); Jessica Kinnersley (Office of State Rep. Jackie Haas); Lynda Larson (Will County HD); Stephanie Gibbs (Pathway Resource Guide); Anthony Begesha (Kankakee HD); Michelle Hibbard (Rosecrance); Neesha Stringfellow (HLM); Tarcia Leak (HLM); Magdalena Campos (HLM); Celeste Fonseca (HLM)

Status Report on items pending from last meeting: N/A

Who	Task	Status

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Welcome & Presentation by Natalie DiRienzo
Sexual Assault Victim Advocate
Guardian Angel Community Services

Overview/Notes

- **Welcome and Introduction:** Neesha Stringfellow welcomes everyone to the Kankakee County ROSC council meeting and introduces herself as the Executive Director of HLM Recovery. She opens the meeting with a prayer, thanking for the opportunity to serve through recovery support services. Magdalena Campos Tri-County R.O.S.C. thanks everyone for attending and asks new attendees to introduce themselves. Aaron and Tocarra Robinson of Still I Rise introduce their organization, which focuses on educating and empowering youth and young adults, and their recent disaster relief efforts after a storm.
- **Overview of HLM Recovery 180 R.O.S.C.:** The Kankakee County R.O.S.C. Council Meeting, led by Neesha Stringfellow and Magdalena Campos, focused on disaster relief efforts following a storm that caused significant damage. Aaron and Tocarra Robinson of Still I Rise discussed their disaster relief initiatives, including providing essentials and financial aid. Gloria Kennedy highlighted the need for insurance assistance and the importance of vetting contractors. Magdalena emphasized the need for mental health support and introduced Natalie DiRienzo, a sexual assault advocate, who detailed Guardian Angel Community Services' programs, including counseling, legal advocacy, and prevention education. The meeting also addressed the importance of proper documentation and training for crisis intervention.
- **Disaster Relief and Community Support:** Magdalena Campos Tri-County R.O.S.C. thanks Aaron and Tocarra Robinson for their work and mentions attending a storm event with Reverend Eugene and Gloria. Gloria Kennedy provides an update on the urgent needs in the community, including the hub at Total Redemption Church for resource distribution. Gloria highlights the need for help with car windshields and home repairs, especially for those without insurance. Magdalena mentions a public service announcement about avoiding out-of-state contractors and the importance of due diligence when hiring contractors.
- **Contractor Guidance and Mental Health Support:** Magdalena emphasizes the importance of choosing reputable contractors and provides information on how to verify their credentials. Gloria adds that contractors in Kankakee must be registered with the city code department and have a peddler's license if they go door-to-door. Neesha discusses the need for mental health support for trauma survivors and encourages organizations to share their resources and support. Also, mentions the availability of a prayer line for those in need of spiritual support.
- **Introduction of Speaker:** Magdalena Campos introduces Natalie DiRienzo, a sexual assault victim advocate at Guardian Angel Community Services. Natalie DiRienzo provides an overview of her role and the services offered by Guardian Angel, including medical and legal advocacy, counseling, and prevention services. Natalie explains the importance of believing survivors and the different ways sexual assault can manifest, including the impact on children, people with disabilities, and those under the influence of drugs or alcohol. She also discusses the various programs and services offered by Guardian Angel, including group counseling and electronic services.
- **Advocacy and Support Services:** Natalie DiRienzo describes the different methods of advocacy, including medical and legal advocacy, and the importance of providing support and education to survivors. Explains the role of the 24-hour hotline and how it

can provide crisis intervention services and connect survivors with counseling and other resources. Discusses the importance of documenting services to secure grants and the role of professional relationships with other institutions in providing comprehensive support. Natalie mentions the importance of trauma-informed training and the upcoming 40-hour crisis intervention training for employees and community members.

- ***Crisis Intervention and Confidentiality:*** Natalie DiRienzo outlines the six steps of crisis intervention, including defining the problem, assessing for safety, providing support, gathering resources, exploring choices, and giving the survivor control over their next steps. Emphasizes the importance of empathy, building rapport, and maintaining confidentiality and absolute privilege in working with survivors. Explains the different roles within the sexual assault service center and the importance of providing a supportive and non-judgmental environment for survivors. Natalie concludes her presentation by encouraging attendees to reach out for more information and support, and to share the resources available with 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.