

Kates Community Initiatives ROSC Council
Meeting Minutes
Date: Friday, May 15, 2026
Location: Virtual (ZOOM)
Time: 1:00 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Erica Bledsoe (KCI) at 1:02 PM.

Attendees

- Cherone Mayes (KCI)
- Ron Bratcher (KCI)
- Kendria Atkins (Cook County Public Defender's Office-Freedom Defense Center)
- DeShunn Bray (KCI)
- Jahari Stamps (S.H.A.R.P. Organization)
- Katrina Waddy (Acclivus Inc)
- Quentin Lucas (Community Member)
- Pamela Watson (ID of CMS)
- Erica Bledsoe (KCI)
- Regina White (Trilogy)
- Angel Morales (CRCL)

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Ronald Bratcher

2nd: Regina White

Introduction to ROSC and Kates Community Initiative ROSC Council

A Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Council is a collaborative group of community stakeholders—including service providers, people in recovery, family members, and local organizations—who work together to strengthen and improve recovery support services. The council focuses on building a coordinated system that promotes long-term recovery, reduces stigma, and ensures individuals have access to the resources they need, such as housing, employment, healthcare, and peer support.

Kates Community Initiative ROSC Council is a community-driven coalition that brings together partners and voices with lived experience to support individuals and families impacted by substance use and mental health challenges. The council is dedicated to creating pathways to recovery by connecting people to services, advocating for equitable resources, and fostering a supportive, recovery-friendly environment within the community.

Old Business

a. Community Engagement in Wrightwood/Ashburn and Stigney/Burbank

- Wrightwood / Ashburn (Chicago)

Limited Access to Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

Many residents seeking mental health, substance use treatment, or recovery support must travel outside the immediate neighborhood. The shortage of nearby providers can lead to long wait times and inconsistent care.

Transportation Barriers

Although public transit exists, some parts of Ashburn—particularly residential pockets like Wrightwood—are not directly connected to rapid transit. Residents may rely on multiple bus transfers or personal vehicles to reach services, healthcare, or employment opportunities.

Economic and Employment Challenges

While Ashburn is often considered more stable than some neighboring communities, residents still face job insecurity, underemployment, and limited access to workforce development programs located within the community.

Youth Engagement and Safe Spaces

There is an ongoing need for more structured youth programs, mentorship, and after-school opportunities to help prevent involvement in risky behaviors and to provide positive outlets.

Awareness of Available Resources

Many services exist across Chicago, but residents often report difficulty finding out what programs are available or how to enroll, especially for behavioral health and recovery support.

Stickney / Burbank Area

Stigma Around Behavioral Health and Substance Use

In smaller suburban communities, stigma can discourage individuals from seeking help for mental health or substance use disorders because of concerns about privacy and community perception.

Language and Cultural Barriers

Burbank and the surrounding areas have a large and growing immigrant population, which can create barriers when services are not culturally responsive or available in multiple languages.

Disconnection Between Providers and Residents

Many residents are unaware of county or regional resources (like recovery support, harm reduction services, or family assistance programs) because information is not consistently shared within suburban community networks.

Raw Survey Data

Kates Community Initiatives ROSC Council continues to make significant progress in advancing harm reduction awareness throughout the communities it serves. Based on recent outreach and engagement efforts, harm reduction awareness has increased by **76% in the Ashburn community** and by **64% in the Burbank community**.

These results reflect the Council's ongoing commitment to community education, outreach, collaboration with local partners, and the promotion of evidence-based harm reduction strategies. The Council recognizes the importance of continued engagement to further expand awareness, reduce stigma, and connect community members with available resources and support services.

Open Issues

Kate's Community Initiatives ROSC Council hosted a **Community Resource Fair at Prairie Trails Public Library in Burbank, Illinois**. The event focused on connecting community members with **recovery support services and employment opportunities** to promote long-term wellness and self-sufficiency.

A total of **seven vendors** participated in the event, providing information, resources, and direct connections to services related to recovery support, workforce development, job readiness, and employment opportunities. The fair created a valuable space for community members to engage with local organizations, learn about available resources, and explore pathways toward recovery and economic stability.

The ROSC Council appreciates the participation of all vendors and attendees who contributed to the success of the event and helped strengthen community awareness of available support services.

Kate's Community Initiatives ROSC Council hosted a **Community Resource Fair at Monument of Faith Church, 2750 South Columbus Avenue, Chicago, Illinois**, on June 15, 2026 from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

The event provided community members with access to information, resources, and services designed to support recovery, health, wellness, and overall community well-being. Attendees had the opportunity to connect with local organizations, learn about available support services, and engage with community partners dedicated to improving quality of life and strengthening recovery-oriented systems of care.

The ROSC Council appreciates the participation of community members, partner organizations, and volunteers whose involvement contributed to the success of the event and helped increase awareness of local resources and support services.

New Business

Region 1 ROSC Meeting IN PERSON-Tuesday, June 23,, 2026, Trickster Cultural Center, 190 Roselle Rd., Schaumburg, IL from 11:00-3:00.

Statewide ROSC Lunch Chat via ZOOM June 10, 2026 from 12:00-1:00.

Statewide ROSC Meeting via ZOOM June 16, 2026 from 1:00-3:00..

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Ronald Bratcher

Second: DeShunn Bray

This meeting was adjourned by Erica Bledsoe (KCI) at 2:17 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, June 26, 2026, at 1:00 PM via Zoom.