

Lake County ROSC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 26, 2026

10:30 am -12:30

Virtual Meeting Topic: LC ROSC Strategic Realignment In Process

ROSC - A Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) is a coordinated network of community-based services and supports that is person-centered and builds on the strengths and resilience of individuals, families, and communities to experience recovery and improved health, wellness, and quality of life for those with or at risk of substance use and/or co-occurring conditions. The central focus of a ROSC is to create an infrastructure, or "systems of care", with the resources to effectively address the full range of substance use and/or co-occurring disorders within communities.

The purpose of this meeting is to be intentional about building and maintaining strong relationships with the faith-based community. Providing recovery related education, resources to assist this community to become a recovery focus, friendly, and prepared to embrace those in the process of change.

Amanda Douglas opened the meeting.

The Lake County ROS Council meeting began with Amanda welcoming attendees and requesting they enter their full names, organizations, and email addresses into the chat for roster building. The meeting focused on strategically realigning the ROS Council, with plans to review mission, vision, and purpose, discuss previous business, and break out into discussion groups to identify improvements and set goals for the next meeting. The session was in its early stages, with participants still joining and the formal agenda about to begin, including an overview of ROS definition and mission.

The purpose of this month's meeting was for Lake County ROS Council meeting focused on strategically realigning the organization through breakout sessions discussing Warm Handoff and Reentry initiatives.

Warm Handoff Breakout Session meeting notes:

- During the Warm Handoff group, participants discussed successful collaborations, the importance of timely access to care, and challenges around insurance funding and discrimination.
- Nicole reported on the Warm Handoff group's discussions, highlighting successful practices like pre-release connections with clients before jail release, sliding scale fees (including free treatment for uninsured individuals at the health department), and the importance of "boots on the ground" approaches. Key challenges identified included gaps in transportation, housing, and employment support, as well as insurance funding barriers and discrimination based on payment sources.
- Key challenges identified included gaps in transportation, housing, and employment support, as well as insurance funding barriers and discrimination based on payment sources.
- The group emphasized eliminating barriers to care and empowering clients to self-advocate, with some providers advocating for an on-call rotational model and centralized resource hub.
- Established goals and created a one-page resource fact sheet listing 10 major needs and connecting agencies that can assist with those.

Next Steps going forward:

- Explore establishing an on-call rotational model for providers to support crisis situations.

Reentry Group Breakout meeting notes:

- The Reentry group identified transportation and housing as key needs while highlighting successful programs like the Illinois Department of Corrections reentry summit.
- Ryan presented on the reentry group's findings, which included creating a 1-2 page resource fact sheet listing 10 major needs (including transportation, housing, employment, and ID assistance) and corresponding agency contacts with phone numbers to help connect clients with appropriate services. Established goals and created a one-page resource fact sheet listing 10 major needs and connecting agencies that can assist with those.

Next Steps going forward:

- Create a 1–2-page resource/fact sheet listing top 10 identified needs and corresponding agency contacts, to be shared with clients by next meeting.

Further Group and Individual assigned steps:

- All group members: Bring at least one additional person to the next ROS Council meeting who can assist with identified needs.
- Amanda/LaSheena/Team: Continue development and distribution of the Lake County ROS Connect community portal/app and resource cards.
- All members: Invite and encourage peers/individuals with lived experience to future meetings to provide direct feedback on needs and improvements.
- Amanda/Team: Send out meeting recording and notes to all participants after the meeting (implied by request to save the recording and distribute information).
- Shannon (suggested by Dr. Mary Roberson): Upload all relevant flyers and announcements to the website for broader access.

Key Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement

Several participants reported successful outreach efforts following the previous meeting. Stephanie Rosales from Lake County Health Department invited the A Way Out team and counselor Deidre Hogan to the meeting. Amanda reached out to Curry State Legal and successfully reconnected with Yajaira Balderas from United Way's 211 service after searching for contact information. Ashley also distributed information to the Lake County Opioid Group. The meeting emphasized the importance of continuing to invite relevant stakeholders, including those with lived experience, to provide direct feedback on community needs.

NICASA Partnership Discussion Meeting

The meeting focused on discussing a partnership with NICASA (not NACASA), particularly regarding their work with the homeless population in Avon Township. Bertel (Michele Bauman, Avon Township Supervisor) shared positive experiences working with NICASA, highlighting their ability to provide resources and connect individuals with mental health services within 30 minutes. Bertel explained that Avon Township operates an emergency shelter during bad weather and has limited expertise in handling homelessness, drug addiction, or mental health issues, making the partnership with NICASA essential. The discussion emphasized providing personalized "concierge" and "white glove" support to help navigate resources effectively, with case workers physically connecting clients to services rather than just handing out flyers.

System Change Advocacy Discussion

Ben Rudolph, serving as ROSC Region 2 Technical Assistant, shared his role in advocating for system change at the state level. He regularly attends Illinois Statewide ROSC meetings with the Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery, where he advocates persistently for ground-level concerns despite slow progress and occasional dismissal.

Marie Washington emphasized starting local advocacy efforts, suggesting direct engagement with the Lake County Sheriff regarding jail access issues raised by multiple organizations. The group agreed that system change should be pursued at both local and state levels, with Ben serving as a conduit for Lake County concerns to reach state leadership.

Technical and Logistical Notes

The meeting experienced recording challenges in breakout rooms, with uncertainty about whether recordings would be captured from co-host accounts.

Amanda and Dr. Mary discussed the need to save recordings when prompted. The meeting ran slightly over the scheduled time, with breakout sessions automatically closing and interrupting Drew's presentation about a collaboration project.

Amanda committed to sending all organizational announcements, event flyers, and resource information to participants via email after the meeting.

Dr. Mary suggested that Shannon upload all flyers and announcements to the website for broader accessibility beyond meeting attendees.

System Functionality Planning Discussion

Amanda and Ryan discussed an email that was sent late, with Ryan confirming he had seen it. Amanda mentioned making announcements about groups but noted they are still working to finalize the details of how the system functions.

The conversation ended with organizational announcements, including upcoming events.

- NIRCO's grand opening on April 16th from 3-5pm at 356 Surryse Suite 120 in Lake Zurich, peer support training on March 28th (limited to 15 spots),
- Managing Motherhood support group for moms in recovery (4-week Zoom series every Tuesday in April.)
- Community Drumming Circle on May 28th, Eddie Washington Center graduation on April 11.

- 2026 Wellness and Recovery Summit on September 26th at CLC Lakeshore Campus. Plans were shared for a new community portal app featuring MAR and Narcan locations along with community resources, which will be accessible via QR codes on resource cards for distribution (though the demonstration during the meeting failed because the portal hadn't been published yet).

Next ROSC Monthly meeting date, April 26, 2026 and 10:30 am.