

North Cook County Recovery-Oriented System of Care (NCC ROSC)

Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, May 15, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Facilitator: Rosalina Barrera-Colon, Peer Services / NCC ROSC Facilitator

Minutes Recorded By: Deona Williams, Recovery Support Specialist

Call to Order

The NCC ROSC Council Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Rosalina Barrera-Colon. Members were welcomed and introductions were conducted.

Attendance

Present:

- Rosalina Barrera-Colon – Peer Services / NCC ROSC Facilitator
- Cheres Ledet – YWCA Evanston/North Shore
- Ernie Miguel Calderon – Connections for the Homeless
- Johanna Garsenstein – Erie Family Health Centers
- Georgeshia Norwood – Community Outreach Specialist, Chicago Behavioral Hospital
- Ninoshka Lopez – Community Engagement & Outreach Specialist, Nicasa Behavioral Health Services
- Natalie Larson – Evanston Community Fridges
- Richard Lyon – Director, MaineStay Youth & Family Services
- Norma Canelas – Community Partner

Meeting Support:

- Read.ai Meeting Notes (Meeting transcription and recording service)

Approval of Previous Minutes

The April 2026 NCC ROSC Council Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.

NCC ROSC Updates

Members shared updates regarding programs, services, and community initiatives throughout North Cook County. Discussion focused on strengthening partnerships, expanding awareness of behavioral health and recovery resources, and continuing collaborative efforts to address community needs through a Recovery-Oriented System of Care approach.

Mental Health Awareness Month & National Prevention Week

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month and National Prevention Week, council members discussed the importance of promoting mental wellness, increasing awareness of available behavioral health services, and reducing stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorders. Participants shared resources, outreach efforts, and opportunities to better connect individuals and families with support services throughout the community.

Stigma Reduction Event Planning

The council discussed plans for the upcoming NCC ROSC Stigma Reduction Event, tentatively scheduled for August 2026. Members explored opportunities for community engagement, resource sharing, and education aimed at reducing stigma surrounding mental health and substance use disorders.

The event is being planned in partnership with the YWCA Evanston/North Shore, with support from Cheres Ledet and NCC ROSC partner organizations. The event will focus on community education, recovery awareness, networking, and connecting residents to local resources and support services.

Partner Announcements

Partner organizations shared updates about upcoming events, community outreach efforts, and available services. Members were encouraged to continue sharing resources and strengthening referral pathways across organizations to better serve North Cook County residents.

Action Items

- Continue sharing community resources, events, and service updates with NCC ROSC members.
- Support planning efforts for the August 2026 NCC ROSC Stigma Reduction Event.
- Strengthen collaboration and referral opportunities among partner organizations.
- Submit announcements and agenda items for the June council meeting.

Next Meeting

Due to the Juneteenth holiday and office closure on Friday, June 19, 2026, the next NCC ROSC Council Meeting will be held on:

Friday, June 26, 2026
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Virtual via Zoom

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Submitted,

Deona Williams

Recovery Support Specialist

North Cook County Recovery-Oriented System of Care (NCC ROSC)

Peer Services, Inc.