



NCCR ROSC Council

Lead Agency: PEER Services

Friday January 16, 2026

10am-11am

Zoom Meeting Information

<https://zoom.us/j/96216533315?pwd=NwEPuMa4VGjg8QcovfoQa1WUScq2Fr.1>

Meeting ID: 962 1653 3315 & Password: 424639

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Affiliation

Rosalina Barrera-Colon	PEER Services, ROSC Coordinator
Deona Williams	PEER Services, RSS
Kenneth Bell	Chestnut, TA
Robyn Thurstin	Endeavor Health
Cherese Ledet	YWCA President
Natalie Larson	PEER, KEY Coalition Coordinator
Johanna Garsenstein	Erie Health, Community Engagement Coordinator

Topic: Roots to recovery: Building a system that works

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was opened by Rosalina Barrera-Colon the ROSC program Coordinator. All guests introduced themselves with name, affiliation and participated in the icebreaker. Icebreaker: What is one word you want to guide your work in 2026?

January is Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month

Rosalina gave an overview on what activities can be done to celebrate or help celebrate SUD Tx Month. WWW.Samsha.org. Debriefed on what is ROSC for the newcomers and a refresher for our members. Guests were informed of how language matters, peer support is powerful, community engagement fosters acceptance, and education reduces misconceptions when trying to reduce stigma.

Discussion

Rosalina went over the strategic plan for 2026 with members.

Goal 1

NCCR will develop a plan to harmonize the barriers that individuals with substance use disorder face in trying to receive treatment

Goal 2

Strengthen Peer Leadership and Community- Based supports.

Goal 3

Build data, Evaluation, and quality improvement infrastructure

Overdose rates in NCCR service area

Zip codes Consistently reported to CDPH and EMS:

60201, 60202, 60203- Evanston

60076, 60077- Skokie

60712- Lincolnwood

60053- Morton Grove

60714- Niles

Zip codes with lowest rates are:

60091- Wilmette

60025, 60026- Glenview

60062- Northbrook

60015- Deerfield

60068- Park Ridge

60016- Des Plaines

Community Surveys Data Highlights

Community Surveys have revealed gaps in accessing Mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Locals have expressed the community having little to no services.

The surveys show the community sees people with mental health issues should be given respect more than a person suffering from substance use disorder.

NCC will benefit from spreading awareness and conducting outreach to ensure the community is aware of the services that are available and who can benefit from the services.

Resources

www.samsha.org - Leads efforts to improve behavioral health and reduce the impact of substance use and mental illness across the U.S

www.ama-assn.org - Dedicated to advancing public health by supporting evidence-based treatments for substance use disorders and advocating for policies that enhance prevention, diagnosis, and treatment efforts.

www.recoveryanswers.org - A non-profit research institute affiliated with Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, is dedicated to advancing the science of addiction treatment and recovery.

www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org - Amplifies the lived experiences of people in recovery, helping to reduce stigma and strengthen community support in substance use disorder treatment

Government Update on Federal Benefits

Friday, January 16

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Microsoft Teams

•[Join link](#)

Meeting ID: 219 971 108 617 37

Passcode: bN9EA6jr

This briefing will provide updates on the status of federal public benefit programs, including new rules and restrictions, and their potential impacts on low-income families in Evanston.

The briefing will feature representatives from:

- Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky's Office
- Illinois General Assembly Majority Leader Rep. Robyn Gabel
- Cook County Commissioner Josina Morita
- The Greater Chicago Food Depository

