

# THREE CORDS STRONG ROSC ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES

## TRANSITIONAL TRAINING SERVICES

**LOCATION:** 4455 S KING DRIVE SUITE 101-B

**DATE:** 02/26/2026

**Facilitator:** Marjorie Howard

**CO-Facilitator:** Vawnshekia Oklah

**Speaker:** Dr. Stanley Howard

**TIME:** 09:30 AM – 11:45 AM

**ZOOM MEETING ID:** Hybrid- in person and on Zoom

### **I. Call to Order: Francis Oklah**

### **II. Opening Statements – Marjorie Howard**

Marjorie Howard welcomed ROSC members and visitors and provided an overview of what a ROSC meeting is and why it matters. She shared the purpose of the Three Cords Strong ROSC Alliance and explained why community members, service providers, and system partners should join the ROSC.

### **Key ROSC Goals & Milestones:**

- Engage at least 10 employers or workforce agencies to explore recovery-friendly and second-employment by **June 30, 2026**.
- By **June 30, 2028**, Three Cords Strong ROSC will expand adult deflection partnerships beyond CPD District 003 and support consistent, recovery-centered deflection practices across multiple Chicago Police Department districts, including the neighborhood University of Chicago Police.
- Expand deflection partnerships to at least 3 CPD districts, University of Chicago Police by **June 30, 2028**.
- Institutionalize deflection and recovery-informed training within participating law

### **III. Speaker Presentation – Dr. Stan Howard**

- Substance use challenges in Black communities cannot be understood without discussing **historical inequities**.
- Many neighborhoods have experienced generational poverty, trauma and

violence exposure, limited access to quality, healthcare, disinvestment in schools and economic opportunities

- When trauma goes untreated, people often **self-medicate to cope with pain**.
- In many Black communities, survival often requires **emotional toughness**.
- People may learn early in life to : Suppress emotions, Avoid vulnerability ,Handle problems alone. This can lead to people appearing **emotionally withdrawn or guarded**, even when they are struggling deeply.
- Substance use sometimes becomes a way to: Numb pain, Escape stress, Quiet anxiety or depression
- **The Historical Approach: Criminalization**
- For decades, substance use in Black communities has often been treated as a **criminal justice issue instead of a health issue**.  
This has resulted in:
  - Higher arrest rates
  - More incarceration  
Families separated
  - Barriers to employment and housing after release.
- **The Cycle of Justice Involvement** : When someone is arrested for a substance-related offense:
  - They often leave jail with **more trauma, not treatment**.
  - A criminal record makes it harder to find jobs.
  - Stress and instability can lead back to substance use.
- This creates a **revolving door between addiction and incarceration**.
- **From Survival to Reconstruction:** Survival Mode → Leadership Mode Reaction → Discipline Short-Term Relief → Long-Term Vision Coping → Contribution
- **Practical Application in Justice & Recovery Spaces**
  - We build: Systems literacy
  - Identity-centered mentoring
  - Structured accountability
  - Long-term future planning
  - Intergenerational responsibility

#### **IV. Order of Business – Three Cords Strong Mission, Vision & Updates**

**Presented by Francis Oklah**

##### **Mission:**

Three Cords Strong empowers individuals on their recovery journeys by weaving together personal growth, family support, and community resilience. We believe that recovery is a continuous journey rather than a final destination and strive to embrace and support individuals on their unique paths to recovery.

##### **Vision:**

A world where recovery is celebrated as a lifelong journey, weaving the threads of personal growth, family, and community connections forming a resilient tapestry not easily broken.

#### **V. Strategic Goals:**

- Finalize and present the adult deflection proposal to District 003 leadership, including referral criteria and partner roles, by Q2 FY26.
- Co-develop deflection training and destigmatization education for officers in collaboration with ROSC partners.
- Pilot adult deflection referrals and begin tracking outcomes and lessons learned by Q3 FY26.

#### **VI. Updates:**

- Researched workforce training programs aligned with recovery-friendly and second-chance employment models.
- Initiated conversations with local employers to assess readiness and interest in hiring individuals impacted by substance use or justice involvement.

#### **VII. Community Partner Presentations**

- Robert Stewart – KCC Academy
- Angela Morgan – TCA
- Don Gordon- To Equip His People
- SSHOTF

#### **VIII. Next Action Steps**

- Join the Three Cords Strong ROSC Alliance
- **Next Meeting: March 26th**

#### **IX. MEETING CLOSE – Marjorie Howard**

#### **X. MEETING ATTENDANCE**

- Sean Simmons
- Angela Morgan
- Robert Stewart
- Carolyn Howard
- Stephen Moody
- Jocelyn Morgan
- Marquelah Bell
- Felix Thiam
- Jeremy Jones
- Raana Muntani
- Shantrell Curtis
- Tray Jones
- Carlester Cole
- Keith Myles
- Stephanie Mitchell
- Porce Nash

- **Sara Williams**
- **Hiram Maddox**
- **Condell Lancaster**
- **Darien Wair**
- **Ghazzi Muhammad**
- **Carla Garcia**
- **Ja'Nyla Kyles**
- **Frankie Franco**
- **James Jackson**
- **Travell Jackson**
- **Marquise Jones**
- **Dion Green**
- **Keisha Stokes**
- **Sondra Muhammad**
- **Carolyn Howard**
- **Marjorie Howard**
- **Vawnshekia Oklah**
- **Francis Oklah**
- **Azeez Muhammand**
- **Zamaria Howard**
- **Dr. Stanley Howard**
- **Richard Boykins**
- **Sharon Batiest**
- **Stanley Howard**