

N8V Good Life ROSC Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 15th, 2026

Attendees: Gabriel Ayala, Sarina Kjh Golán Deyol, Krupa Patel, Jane Roxas, Melissa Shoemaker, Kenneth Bell, Charlie Peterson, Sherrine Peyton

Opening & Introductions

- Meeting opened with participant introductions.
- Attendees were reminded to complete attendance through the QR code system for reporting and funding documentation purposes.

ROSC Project Updates

- Charlie Peterson shared that he highlighted the ROSC work during the Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit, emphasizing:
 - The presence of over 175 tribes in the Chicago area.
 - The impact of the Relocation Act of 1956 on Native communities.

Indigenous Healing Initiatives Progress Report

- The team reviewed progress related to Indigenous healing initiatives funded through the NOFO grant.
- Sherrine reported that the group is on track to exceed project goals, including:
 - Publishing 12 media articles/social media posts related to ceremonies and cultural healing.
 - Hosting 8 community events.
 - Conducting 2 educational presentations for local providers.
- Kenneth Bell shared positive feedback from DBHR regarding the ROSC work, noting that the group was recognized as a leading ROSC initiative in Region 1.
- Upcoming events discussed included:
 - Earth Day Market
 - Summer Youth Powwow
 - “All My Relations” event on June 20
- Sarina expressed interest in participating as a vendor at the “All My Relations” event.

Discussion: Cultural Perspectives on Sacredness

- Gabriel introduced the discussion topic: *What is sacred?*
- Participants shared personal reflections on sacredness within their cultures and healing practices.

Key reflections included:

- **Gabriel:** The drum as sacred within Indigenous culture and ceremony.
- **Sarina:** The sacredness of life, ceremony, and living authentically.
- **Krupa:** Sacred teachings from Sikhism, including Gurbani, music, and community connection.
- **Sherrine:** Water as sacred, especially Lake Michigan, as well as family gatherings and connection.
- Discussion also emphasized:
 - The importance of cultural healing practices alongside or in place of Western therapeutic approaches.
 - Concerns about sacred practices and medicines being misused through addiction and disconnection from culture.

Closing

- Sarina closed the meeting with a prayer offered in Ojibwe and Lakota languages.
- The prayer expressed gratitude for community, vulnerability, healing, and the safe space created during the discussion.

Action Items / Next Steps

- **Jane:** Send pictures to Kenneth.
- **Sarina:** Sign up as a vendor for the “All My Relations” event on June 20.
- **Jane:** Include the date and details for the “All My Relations” event in meeting notes/emails sent to participants.
- **Jane:** Coordinate with the Intertribal Youth Council to organize a welcome for ROSC groups attending the in-person ROSC meeting on June 23.
- **Team Organizers:** Continue sharing vendor opportunities for the “All My Relations” event with the community.