



Meeting Title: Will County ROSC Council Meeting (Hybrid)

Date: January 27, 2026

Location: Kankakee Community College (100 College Dr. Kankakee, IL. 60901)

Facilitator: Celeste Fonseca

Attendees: Kate Drayton (Illinois Over Dose Response); Robert Venable (Trinity Services); Molly Weindorf (Trinity Services); Hailey Czarnowski (Trinity Services); Paul Hempel (Recovery Community Center of Joliet); Kim Cunningham (Kankakee Forgives); Rev. Eugene Edwards (Duane Dean BHC The CREW); Neesha Stringfellow (HLM); Tarcia Leak (HLM); Magdalena Campos (HLM); Celeste Fonseca (HLM)

Virtual: Paula Ekstrom (Wilmington Coalition); Joan Stefka (Will County HD); Allison Thomas (Rosecrance Behavioral Health); Michelle Pruiam (NAMI); Ben Rudolph (ROSC Region 2 technical assist.); Cristyna Ramirez (ECS Therapy); Cristina Banda (Illinois Family Resource Center); Tim Ackermann (Will County HD); Reilly Richa (Safe Families for Children); Brenda Pasia (Enlightened Words Mental Health Practice); Gabriella Barraco (BVL Boxing Solutions); Danielle Heffernan (Serenity House); Dr. Kathleen Burke, PhD (Will County HD); Yolanda Barnes (Will County Center for Correctional Concerns); Conrad Hardeman (Will County Center for Correctional Concerns); Brian Leonard (BVL Boxing Solutions); Michelle (Senator Meg Loughran Cappel) Kate Russell (Russell Recovery); Connie Dewall (Will County HD); LeShae Hudson (New Day Employment); Caitlin Daly (Will County HD);
Status Report on items pending from last meeting: N/A

Who	Task	Status
HLM	Email Kate Drayton's Presentation	Email EOD 2/3/26

11:00am - 12:00pm	Welcome & Presentation by Kate Drayton, MPH, BSW Public Health Analyst with Illinois Overdose Response Strategy
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Overview/Notes

- **Guest Speaker Introduction and Overview:** Celeste introduces Kate Drayton as the guest speaker, highlighting her role as the Illinois public health analyst with the CC Foundation's overdose response strategy. Kate expresses her joy in being in person for the meeting and appreciates the partners' efforts in helping people find hope and healing. Explains her role as a trauma-informed bridge between public health, public safety, and individuals with lived experience and

emphasizes the importance of data-driven approaches and the need to be effective in saving lives.

- ***Strategies and Initiatives Discussed by Kate:*** Kate discusses the national network funded by the CDC Foundation and the Office of National Drug Control Policy, reaching all US states and territories. Highlights the importance of being data-driven and asks if the attendees are busy or effective in their work. Introduces various strategies being effective in Illinois, such as Handle With Care, overdose fatality reviews, deflection and diversion programs. Also, explains the Handle With Care initiative, which involves sending a message to schools to handle children with care after traumatic events.
- ***Overdose Fatality Reviews and Community Support:*** Kate discusses the importance of overdose fatality reviews and the role of next of kin interviews in being trauma-informed and healing-centered. She mentions the effectiveness of having counselors and peer recovery support specialists conduct next of kin interviews. Talks about deflection and diversion programs and the importance of fixing systems to better take care of people. She highlights the importance of post-overdose outreach and various ways to support families, such as Naloxone vending machines and overdose detection mapping applications.
- ***Social Determinants of Health and Community Data:*** Kate introduces the social determinants of health overlay on OD Map, which helps understand community circumstances better. She explains the various factors included in the overlay, such as total population, median household income, and educational attainment. Emphasizes the importance of using this data to make targeted decisions and secure grants. She mentions the upcoming Illinois Prevention Summit and encourages attendees to share information with their communities.
- ***Q&A and Partner Sharing:*** Kate answers questions about grant funding and data support, emphasizing the importance of measurables for grant applications. Dr. Burke from the Will County Health Department shares their success in reducing overdose death rates by 50% and their strategies, such as Narcan distribution and red boxes. Michelle from Senator Meg Loughran Cappel's office expresses appreciation for the work being done and offers support for any legislative needs. Brenda Pasia from Enlightened Words introduces their organization, which provides therapy and business development services, and mentions their current lack of a waiting list. Reilly Richa from Safe Families for Children explains their role in providing extended family support for parents in need, such as hosting children temporarily while parents seek treatment. A comment from a faith-based organization highlights the importance of churches and faith-based organizations working together to support children and families. Kate shares a talking point about Safe Families, emphasizing its importance and effectiveness.