



HLM RECOVERY 180

Meeting Title: Will County ROSC Council Meeting

Date: March 24, 2026

Location: Virtual

Facilitators: Neesha Stringfellow & Celeste Fonseca

Attendees: Gabriella Barraco (BVL Boxing Solutions); Connie Dewall (Will County HD); Crystal A. Torres (NAMI Will-Grundy); Dr. Kathleen Burke, PhD (Will County HD); Ben Rudolph (ROSC Region 2 technical assist.); Danielle Heffernan (Serenity House); Cristyna Ramirez (ECS Therapy); LeShae Hudson (New Day Employment); Allison Thomas (Rosecrance Behavioral Health); Sherry Coe (Guardian Angel Sexual Assault Division); Sheriff Patrick Jones (Democratic nomination for Will County); Alexciana Castaneda (Will County Sheriff Dept.); Brook Melvin (Will-Grundy Med Clinic); Gabriel Garcia (Joliet Township); Dr. Ruby Powell; Harold Stuckey (Rush University Medical Center); Jennifer Smith (Symetria Recovery); Lynda Larson (Will County HD); Marissa Thompson (OMNI Youth Services); Marie W. Hall (NIRCO R.O.S.C.); Shawn Marconi (Will-Grundy Medical Center); Rosa Montes (Help at Home); Barbara Young (NIRCO Lake County); Gloria Kennedy (Duane Dean Behavioral Health); Rabbi Jenny (Stepping Stones); Amanda Douglas (Lake County R.O.S.C.) Terri Chairse (Governor's State University); Heather Drew (RCCJ); Neesha Stringfellow (HLM); Tarcia Leak (HLM); Magdalena Campos (HLM); Celeste Fonseca (HLM)

Status Report on items pending from last meeting: N/A

Who	Task	Status

11:00am - 12:00pm

Welcome & Presentation by Sherry Coe, M. ed
 Outreach and Prevention Supervisor
 Sexual Assault Service Center,
 Guardian Angel Community Services
 (Highlight Speaker- Sheriff Patrick Jones, Democratic Party)

Overview/Notes:

- **Welcome & Overview:** Neesha Stringfellow welcomed attendees to the HLM Recovery R.O.S.C. Will County Council Meeting focused on the Tri County ROSC's efforts to link people to services, with a particular emphasis on mental health and substance use disorder challenges. Gabriel Garcia highlighted behavioral health services, including telehealth and bilingual counseling. Danielle Heffernan discussed the Community Outreach and Recovery Support (CORS) grant, covering eight counties. Sherry Coe, M. ed, Outreach and Prevention Supervisor Sexual Assault Service Center, Guardian Angel Community Services, gives a detailed on Guardian Angel's programs, including sexual assault counseling and advocacy, and the importance of the 40-hour sexual assault training.
- **Introduction of Sherry Coe and Guardian Angel Community Services:** Celeste Fonseca introduces Sherry Coe who earned her Bachelor's degree in youth ministry from Spring Arbor University and her Masters degree in Early Childhood from Ellis University. Having served as dynamic leader in the early childhood field for 19 years, she now serves as the Outreach and Prevention supervisor for Guardian Angel's Sexual Assault center. While she is only a year into her role, she is passionate about providing prevention education to not only community partners, but also to K-12 public schools. Sherry is 40 hour Sexault Assault and Domestic Violence trained and continues to advocate for survivors of sexual violence by believing their story and giving them the resources they need to feel heard. While not on the job, Sherry enjoys time with her very active (just turned) 13 year old twins. While finding time for herself can be very difficult, when she does, she enjoys going for a run.
- **Roles and Services of Guardian Angel:** Sherry details the roles of counselors, advocates, and the prevention team in providing services to survivors of sexual assault. Counselors offer sex-positive, survivor-centered counseling, while advocates provide medical and legal support. The prevention team conducts Erin's Law presentations and other community outreach activities.
- **Crisis Intervention and Prevention Strategies:** Sherry explains the six steps of crisis intervention, emphasizing the importance of re-empowering and re-connecting survivors. The prevention team conducts Erin's Law presentations and other community outreach activities. Sarah highlights the importance of awareness promotion and the upcoming events for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
- **Updates from Other Organizations:** Dr. Kathleen Burke from Will County Health Department provides updates, Rabbi Jenny from Stepping Stones gives updates on the Grand Opening of another treatment center. Gloria Kennedy gives updates on Walk Against Violence on April 21st hosted by Kankakee Forgives and the urgent needs in the community after the tornado damages, including the hub at Total Redemption Church for resource distribution. Gloria highlights the need for help with car windshields and home repairs, especially for those without insurance. Danielle Heffernan explains the role of CORS in providing direct peer services, including support groups and employment coaching. Mentions the counties covered by CORS and the upcoming collaboration with Crossroads Counseling. Neesha emphasizes the importance of peer support and

encourages attendees to reach out to Danielle for more information. Gabriel Garcia, LCSW, introduces himself and explains the behavioral health services available, including telehealth and bilingual counseling. Also, mentions the challenges of transportation and the availability of telehealth as a feasible option.

- ***Closing Remarks and Future Plans:*** Neesha Stringfellow thanks everyone for their participation and contributions. She emphasizes the importance of networking and collaboration in the recovery community. The meeting concludes with plans for future events and updates from other organizations. Neesha encourages everyone to stay connected and continue supporting the recovery efforts in the community.