

Kates Community Initiatives ROSC Council
Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, July 17, 2026

Location: 7810 South Claremont Ave; Chicago, IL. 60620 (IN PERSON)

Time: 1:00 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Erica Bledsoe (KCI) at 1:02 PM.

Attendees

- Cheronne Mayes (KCI)
- Ron Bratcher (KCI)
- DeShunn Bray (KCI)
- Erica Bledsoe (KCI)
- Tiffany Harden (Community Member)
- Michael Coleman (Community Member)
- Kenneth Bell (Chestnut:

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Ronald Bratcher

2nd: Deshunn Bray

Introduction to ROSC and Kates Community Initiative ROSC Council

A Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Council is a collaborative group of community stakeholders—including service providers, people in recovery, family members, and local organizations—who work together to strengthen and improve recovery support services. The council focuses on building a coordinated system that promotes long-term recovery, reduces stigma, and ensures individuals have access to the resources they need, such as housing, employment, healthcare, and peer support.

Kates Community Initiative ROSC Council is a community-driven coalition that brings together partners and voices with lived experience to support individuals and families impacted by substance use and mental health challenges. The council is dedicated to creating pathways to recovery by connecting people to services, advocating for equitable resources, and fostering a supportive, recovery-friendly environment within the community.

Old Business

Community Engagement in Wrightwood/Ashburn and Stigney/Burbank

Kates Community Initiatives continues to make a meaningful impact in the Burbank and Ashburn communities by connecting residents with valuable resources, supportive services, workforce development opportunities, and recovery-focused programming. Through community outreach, partnerships, educational initiatives, and resource navigation, Kates Community Initiatives works to strengthen community engagement, promote wellness, and ensure individuals and families have access to the support they need to thrive.

The ROSC Council appreciates the participation of community members, partner organizations, and volunteers whose involvement helped increase awareness of local resources and support services to the Ashburn and Burbank communities.

Raw Survey Data

Kates Community Initiatives ROSC Council continues to make significant progress in advancing harm reduction awareness throughout the communities it serves. Based on recent outreach and engagement efforts, harm reduction awareness has increased by 83% in the Ashburn community and by 72% in the Burbank community.

These results reflect the Council's ongoing commitment to community education, outreach, collaboration with local partners, and the promotion of evidence-based harm reduction strategies. The Council recognizes the importance of continued engagement to further expand awareness, reduce stigma, and connect community members with available resources and support services.

Open Issues:

NO OPEN ISSUES

New Business:

Kates Community Initiatives will a domestic violence seminar serving the Burbank and Ashburn communities to increase awareness, promote safety, and connect individuals with vital support resources. The seminar provided education on recognizing the signs of domestic violence, understanding healthy relationships, and accessing community-based services. Through open discussion and resource sharing, participants were empowered to make informed decisions, support others experiencing domestic violence, and strengthen their connections to local resources.

Kates Community Initiatives provided naloxone training to residents in the Burbank and Ashburn communities to increase awareness and strengthen overdose prevention efforts. Participants

learned how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose, properly administer naloxone, and respond effectively during an emergency. The training equipped community members with lifesaving knowledge and resources while promoting harm reduction, preparedness, and a stronger, more informed community.

Kates Community Initiatives conducted stigma reduction efforts in the Burbank and Ashburn communities to promote understanding, compassion, and inclusion for individuals impacted by substance use and behavioral health challenges. Through education and open dialogue, community members were encouraged to challenge misconceptions, reduce judgment, and recognize the importance of support and recovery. These efforts helped create a more welcoming environment where individuals feel empowered to seek resources, treatment, and support without fear of discrimination.

Kates Community Initiatives supported workforce development and reentry efforts in the Burbank and Ashburn communities by connecting individuals returning to the community with employment resources, career guidance, and supportive services. Through education, referrals, and community partnerships, participants were encouraged to build job-readiness skills, explore career opportunities, and develop pathways toward economic stability. These efforts help reduce barriers to employment and promote successful, sustainable reintegration into the community.

Kates Community Initiatives promoted men's and women's health in recovery throughout the Burbank and Ashburn communities by providing education, resources, and supportive conversations focused on overall wellness. The initiative encouraged participants to prioritize physical, emotional, and mental well-being while connecting them with community health and recovery resources. These efforts helped empower individuals to make healthier choices, strengthen their recovery, and build healthier, more supportive lives.

Kates Community Initiatives participated in the Health and Wellness Fair held at Monument of Faith Church in Chicago on August 1, connecting residents from the Ashburn community with valuable health, wellness, recovery, and supportive resources. The event provided an opportunity for community members to receive information, engage with service providers, and learn about resources available to support healthier lifestyles. Kates Community Initiatives' participation strengthened community partnerships and increased awareness of services designed to promote health, wellness, and overall quality of life.

Kates Community Initiatives participated in the Health and Wellness Fair at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) on August 1, alongside Senator Mattie Hunter, to engage residents from the community and connect them with health, wellness, recovery, and supportive resources. The event provided an opportunity to share information, build community partnerships, and increase awareness of services that promote healthy living and overall well-being. Kates Community Initiatives' participation reinforced its commitment to bringing valuable resources and opportunities directly to the communities it serves.

Kates Community Initiatives reconnected with the Mental Health Transition Center within the Cook County Department of Corrections to strengthen collaboration and expand support for individuals transitioning back into the community. This renewed connection provides an opportunity to share recovery resources, workforce development opportunities, community-based services, and reentry

support. By strengthening this partnership, Kates Community Initiatives can help promote continuity of care, successful reentry, and stronger connections to community resources.

Kates Community Initiatives partnered with Alderwoman Stephanie Coleman of the 16th Ward to support her Health and Wellness Summer in the Park series. This collaboration provided an opportunity to engage residents in a welcoming community setting while sharing valuable health, wellness, recovery, and supportive resources. Through this partnership, Kates Community Initiatives strengthened community connections and helped promote healthier lifestyles, increased resource awareness, and overall community well-being.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Deshunn Bray

Second: Cheronne Mayes

This meeting was adjourned by Erica Bledsoe (KCI) at 1:48 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, August 21, 2026, at 1:00 PM via Zoom.