

THREE CORDS STRONG ROSC ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES

TRANSITIONAL TRAINING SERVICES

LOCATION: 4455 S KING DRIVE SUITE 101-B

DATE: 07/30/2026

Facilitator: Vawnshekia Oklah

Co-Facilitator: Sharon Hayes, Marjorie Howard

TIME: 09:30 AM – 11:00 AM

ZOOM MEETING ID: Hybrid (in person and on Zoom)

I. Call to Order: Marjorie Howard

II. Opening Statements – Vawnshekia Oklah

Vawnshekia Oklah 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- 9 Vawnshekia Oklah

Engage at least 10 employers or workforce agencies to explore recovery-friendly and second-chance 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.
- Expand deflection partnerships to CPD districts by **June 30, 2028**.
- Institutionalize deflection and recovery-informed training within participating law

III. Speaker Presentation – Benedicta Larko Ossom

- One person may struggle with addiction, but its effects are rarely experienced by that person alone, and so it is for recovery.
- The Recovery Community Model views recovery as a shared journey, where families, peers, and communities work together to support long-term recovery.
- **Key Principles: Recovery is person-centered** -Each individual's recovery journey is unique. **Recovery is community-supported** – Families, peers, and communities all have a role. **Recovery extends beyond treatment** – Recovery continues long after formal treatment ends. **Recovery is strengths-based** – The focus is on hope,

resilience, and building on existing strengths. **Recovery promotes meaningful participation** – Stable relationships, employment, education, and community involvement all contribute to sustained recovery.

- **Recovery is strengthened when people are connected to: Family, Peers, Recovery coaches,** Faith communities, Employers, Neighbor, Community organizations
- Family as a Partner in Recovery In many recovery settings in Ghana, recovery is viewed as a **family journey**, not just an individual one. As treatment progresses, **family members are invited to participate** in aspects of the recovery process.
- In some rehabilitation centers in Ghana, family members are invited to participate in the recovery process by sharing their lived experiences with their loved one in recovery.
- They may talk about: The emotional pain they experienced. How addiction affected family relationships. The impact on children, spouses, parents, or siblings. The fear, disappointment, or uncertainty they lived with. Their hopes for rebuilding trust and moving forward together.
- **These conversations can help individuals in recovery:** Understand the real impact of their past behaviors. Develop empathy and accountability. Rebuild trust through honest dialogue. Recognize that recovery involves healing relationships, not just changing behavior.

V. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION— Benedicta Larko Ossom

- **Question: What do you all think the importance of this could be in the recovery journey?**
- **Question: What message would you give to someone who feels like recovery is impossible?** Recovery is possible, even if it takes multiple attempts. Every day, thousands of people rebuild their lives after addiction. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness—it is often the first courageous step toward a healthier future. No one has to recover alone.
- **Question: What are some signs that a family is beginning to heal?** Healing families often communicate more openly, rebuild trust gradually, establish healthier boundaries, support one another without judgment, and begin celebrating progress instead of focusing only on past mistakes. Healing takes time, but every positive step strengthens the family.
- **Question: What is the difference between helping someone and enabling someone?** Helping encourages recovery and personal responsibility. Enabling removes the natural consequences of unhealthy behavior and may unintentionally allow addiction to continue. Supporting someone means encouraging treatment and accountability rather than protecting them from every consequence of their actions.
- **Question: What are some ways addiction affects family members?** Addiction can create financial stress, emotional pain, broken trust, conflict, anxiety, and fear. Children may experience instability, spouses may feel overwhelmed, and parents often carry feelings of guilt or helplessness. Because addiction affects the whole family, healing should also include the whole family whenever possible.
- **Question: Can someone recover without the support of their family?** Yes, recovery is still possible even if family support is limited or unavailable. Many people build a "chosen family" through recovery groups, peer support, churches, mentors, and supportive friends. What matters most is having healthy, positive relationships with people who believe in recovery.

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

Presented by Sharon Hayes

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

- Angela Morgan – TCA
- Felony Free Society
- New Millennium Law

VIII. Next Action Steps

- Join the Three Cords Strong ROSC Alliance
- **Next Meeting: August 27th 2026**

IX. MEETING CLOSE – Sharon Hayes**X. MEETING ATTENDANCE**

1. **Azeez Muhammad**
2. **Sharon Batiest**
3. **Zamaria Howard**
4. **Marquelah Bell**

5. Alice Muhammad
6. Sondra Muhammad
7. Angela Rand
8. Juliea Clippard
9. Marjorie Howard
10. Vawnshekia Oklah
11. Francis Oklah
12. Benedicta Ossom
13. Carolyn Howard
14. Agnes Oklah
15. Diane Howard
16. Angela Morgan
17. James Fu
18. Brittni Hoskins
19. Jason Hoskins
20. Shayla Baylor
21. Solomon Eiland
22. Cornelius Smith
23. Norberto Brown
24. Yuseph Carson
25. Paul Clark
26. Sharon Baties
27. Antoine Ackeeman
28. Robert Stwerart
29. Nathaniel King
30. Bright Star Rep