



NEAR SOUTH SIDE

MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: Virtual – Zoom

DATE: 08/11/2026

ATTENDEES:

- Daniel Mendez (EDDR Foundation), Halle Berghoff (EDDR Foundation), Gloria Landingham (EDDR Foundation), Kenneth Bell (Statewide ROSC), Lavis Lennon (Alliance Care 360), Tiffany Webb (Healthcare Alternative Systems), ReGina White (Trilogy), Quinella Pernermon (Treatment Alternatives for Stronger Communities), Leslie Givens (Alliance Care 360), Florence Wright (Southside Heroin Opioid Taskforce), Nina Martinez (Chicago Coalition to End Homelessness)

TIME: 10:30am – 11:30am

AGENDA ITEMS

- I. **Introductions: Name, Organization, how to stay in touch.**
- II. **ROSC Overview: What is the ROSC and why is it important to the community?**
- III. **Data Highlights: Opioid Overdose Deaths**
 - a. This month we took time to look at data relating to annual opioid deaths. This data helps highlight the importance of orange and red alerts that are sent out, and the role of crisis teams. While overdose deaths had dropped in 2025, the number is still extremely high and 82% were related to Fentanyl. Most Fentanyl deaths are due to substances being

laced versus people consciously taking Fentanyl. This data highlights how important drug testing kits are in reducing overdose deaths.

- b. All of this data came from the Cook County Medical Examiner. They have a free-to-use website where anyone can view data, and check in on recent happenings in specific areas. This data is invaluable for doing outreach and planning ways to best help the community.
- c. This data finished off by examining the association between perceived stigma and Substance Use Disorder treatment outcomes. Many participants reported a strong social stigma which led to social exclusion once their addict status was known. This stigma is what lead them to dropping out of treatment and returning to the drug culture where they felt accepted. First treatment encounters could also cause heavy self-stigma in participants, with many practices making them feel humiliated. 61% of participants dropped out between baseline and 6-month follow-up.

IV. **Presentation: Survey**

- a. Every year the NSSR is asked to create a community survey relating to substance use, treatment, and stigma. The Illinois Department of Human Services provides 13 questions and then the council can add 10 additional questions to address local community needs. For the presentation this month Daniel went over all of the IDHS questions, as well as the questions the NSSR had added the year prior. All of the council members then discussed in-depth questions they felt may need to be edited, or ones that they felt needed to be added. By discussing as a group the NSSR can help ensure all of the community needs are being met and addressed with the survey.

V. **ROSC in Action,**

- a. Open call to encourage participants to invite someone who may be interested in joining the ROSC.
- b. Sharing resources from the Shine Hope Company.

VI. **Cook County Events and Trainings – AUGUST EVENTS**

Monday, August 10, 2026	Free Record Expungement & Sealing Workshop – Cook County Public Defender Office, Freedom Defense Center Austin, CARPLS, New Leaf Illinois
Saturday, August 15, 2026	Free Community Block Party & Health Fair – Celebrating 5 Years of Service to Chicago
Tuesday, August 18, 2026	Strengthening Partnerships Between Homeless Services and Crisis Teams – SAMHSA’s Homeless and Housing Resource Center
Wednesday, August 19, 2026	APPA Career / Resource Fair for Justice-Involved Individuals – American Probation and Parole Association & Honest Jobs
Sunday, August 23, 2026	Back 2 School Bash – The Kindness Campaign
Wednesday, August 26, 2026	Family Sex Trafficking: Hidden in Plain Sights – The Illinois Family Resource Center
Friday, August 28, 2026	International Overdose Awareness Day: Time to Remember, Time to ACT.
Monday, August 31, 2026	International Overdose Awareness Day with The South Side Heroin Opioid Task Force & Walonza Lee
Every Saturday by Appointment	Second Chance Employment Open House – Office Connect
Every Wednesday	Walk-in Wednesdays – Now Hiring at World’s Finest Chocolate – PeopleShare by PROMAN Staffing Agency

VII. Adjournment