



Meeting Title: Will County ROSC Council Meeting

Date: August 25, 2026

Location: Hybrid

HHH Ranch

14101 W. BRUNS RD

MANHATTAN, ILLINOIS 60442

Facilitator: Neesha Stringfellow/Magdalena Campos

Virtual Attendees: Danielle Heffernan (Serenity House); Dr. Kathleen Burke, PhD (Will County HD); Heather Drew (RCCJ); Lorraine Guerrero Neumayer (Healing Place); Libby Baird (OMNI); Patty Johnstone (The Living Room); Michelle Pruim (NAMI Will-Grundy); Sonja Handson (Duane Dean Behavioral Health); Gloria Kennedy (Duane Dean Behavioral Health); Caitlin Thompson (Lewis University); Connie Dewall (WCHD); Cristina Banda (Hour House Recovery);

In Person Attendees: Sheree Stiwell (Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Illinois); Dawn Vlaicevic (Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Illinois); Taylor Mealy (Will-Grundy Medical Clinic); Brook Melvin (Will-Grundy Medical Clinic); Amy Lake (Child Care Help); Kevin Huckfeldt (DRC Will/Grundy); Christine Doran (HHH Ranch); Tegan Amato (HHH Ranch); Karen (HHH Ranch); Alexandria Moran (Riveredge Hospital); Amy Bloomberg (Stepping Stones); Joan Stefka (WCHD); Liaquath Mohiuddin (WCHD); Tim Ackermann (WCHD); Ben Rudolph (IDHS Region 2 TA); Gabriella Barraco (BVL Solutions); Deborah Hoyles (Moraine Valley); Laura Braack (Empowerwherecoveryil); Lynda Balaja (Reclaim13); Neesha Stringfellow (HLM); Tarcia Leak (HLM); Magdalena Campos (HLM); Celeste Fonseca (HLM)

Status Report on items pending from last meeting:

Who	Task	Status
HLM Recovery 180 Will County ROSC	Email July Meeting Minutes	Emailed

11:00am - 12:00pm

Welcome & Presentation by
Christine Doran
Founder & Executive Director
HHH Ranch

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- **Overview/Notes:** The HLM Recovery R.O.S.C Will County Council Meeting featured introductions from various organizations, including Serenity House Counseling Services, Will County Health Department, Omni Youth Services, and HHH Ranch. Christine from HHH Ranch shared her journey and the ranch's therapeutic programs, emphasizing the use of animals for mental health and recovery. Dr. Kathleen Burke reported a 68% decline in opioid deaths in Will County over three years, attributing it to community efforts and naloxone distribution. Announcements included upcoming events like NAMI's fall education classes, Serenity House's Overdose Awareness Day, and HLM Recovery's holiday benefit and fundraiser.
 - **Virtual & In Person Introductions:** Neesha Stringfellow initiates the meeting, mentioning the need for introductions and the presence of grandchildren raising grandparents. Danielle Heffernan introduces herself as the Coors Coordinator at Serenity House Counseling Services. Dr. Kathleen Burke from the Will County Health Department introduces herself. Libby from Omni Youth Services and Lorraine Guerrero Neumayer introduce themselves and their roles. Patty Johnstone from the Living Room in Joliet introduces herself. Taylor Mealy from Will Grundy Medical Clinic introduces herself. Brook Melvin and Alexandria Moran from Will Grundy Medical Clinic introduce themselves. Amy Lake from Child Care Resource and Referral and Amy Bloomberg from Stepping Stones Treatment Center introduce themselves. Joan Stefka and Liaquath Mohiuddin from the Will County Health Department introduce themselves.
 - **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Highlight:** Neesha Stringfellow introduces Sheree Stillwell and Don Velacevik from Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Illinois. Sheree and Don share their personal experiences of raising their grandchildren and the challenges they faced. They discuss the vision of providing information and support to other grandparents raising grandchildren. The organization aims to be a one-stop shop for accurate information on adoption, guardianship, and various benefits.
 - **Christine's Presentation on HHH Ranch:** Christine introduces herself and shares her journey of starting HHH Ranch. She recounts her early experiences with therapeutic centers and her move to Spain to learn about running a therapy center. Discusses her work with the Disability Resource Center and her traumatic brain injury in 2014. She emphasizes the importance of providing a safe space for individuals to grow and recover.
 - **Programs and Services at HHH Ranch:** Christine explains the various programs at HHH Ranch, including rescue and therapy services. She highlights the use of animals in therapy, such as horses, cows, goats, rabbits, ducks, and chickens. The ranch offers programs for foster care, veterans, first responders, and individuals with neuropsychiatric conditions.
 - **Stable Moments Program and Future Plans:** Christine introduces the Stable Moments program, which pairs children in foster care with mentors for therapeutic activities. The program includes assessments, individualized activities, and group sessions using horses. Christine shares plans for expanding services to include a second property for victims of domestic violence. She envisions a future facility for adolescent girls with mental health issues, offering various therapeutic modalities.

- ***Dr. Kathleen Burke's Report on Will County Health:*** Dr. Kathleen Burke provides an update on the Reach program, a peer support program for schools. She reports significant progress in reducing opioid deaths in Will County, with a 68% decline over three years. The county has distributed over 10,553 boxes of naloxone and 1,683 test strips for fentanyl, xylazine, and nitrazine. She highlights the importance of community collaboration and education in reducing opioid deaths.
- ***Announcements and Upcoming Events:*** Michelle Pruim from NAMI Will-Grundy announces fall education classes and a virtual WRAP class. Danielle Heffernan from Serenity House Counseling Services announces an Overdose Awareness Day event. Patty Johnstone from the Living Room Trinity Services announces a love purse collection event for domestic violence survivors. Jackie from Bard in Joe Community Services announces a 5K event and the Take Back the Night event.
- ***Additional Announcements and Closing Remarks:*** Kevin from the Disability Resource Center announces a Pride event at Joliet Junior College. Laura Braack from Empowhererecoveryil announces the opening of her recovery home and available beds. Neesha Stringfellow announces a holiday benefit and fundraiser event in December, sponsored by HLM Recovery. The meeting concludes with a reminder to send digital information for the September newsletter and an invitation to visit the animals at HHH Ranch.