Meeting Title: Kankakee County ROSC Council Meeting
Date: September 22, 2026
Location: Virtual
Facilitator: Magdalena Campos/ Tarcia Leak
Attendees: Luz Aranda (Spanish Community Center); Kim Cunnigham (Kankakee Forgives); Liz Gibson (Birth to Five Illinois); Danielle Heffernan (Serenity House); Cristyna Ramirez (ECS); Michelle Hibbard (Rosecrance); Reverend Eugene Edwards (Duane Dean Behavioral Health); Sonja Handson (Duane Dean Behavioral Health); Celeste Fonseca (HLM) Ben Rudolph (IDHS-DBHR); Neesha Stringfellow (HLM); Tarcia Leak (HLM); Magdalena Campos (HLM); OP Group; Reilly Richa (Safe Families); Tony Emling (Family Guidance); Sarah Winkel (Project Sun); David Shields (Shielded Glory); Dominica Dybas (Chicago DEA Diversion)

Status Report on items pending from last meeting:

Who	Task	Status
HLM Recovery 180 Kankakee County ROSC	Email August Meeting Minutes	Emailed

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2:00pm - 3:00pm	Welcome & Presentation by Luz Aranda Lead Community Organizer Spanish Community Center

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- ***Overview/Notes:*** The Kankakee County Council meeting focused on community survey initiatives and immigration preparedness resources provided by the Spanish Community Center.
- ***Community Needs Survey Introduction:*** Tarcia Leak from HLM Recovery introduced a community survey tailored for Kankakee County. The survey is used by the State of

Illinois to determine fund allocation and track trends like stigma. Attendees were encouraged to scan the code and share the survey with others in the county.

- ***K3 Hope Event Recap:*** Magdalena Campos of Tri-County R.O.S.C. reported on the successful K3 Hope event held last Thursday. The event involved 21 organizations, including the coroner and the health department, to celebrate Recovery Month. The goal of these collaborations is to bridge existing gaps in recovery resources within Kankakee County.
- ***Spanish Community Center Overview:*** Luz Aranda presented on her role as lead community organizer at the Spanish Community Center. Her work focuses on providing "Know Your Rights" workshops, immigration advocacy, and civic engagement. The center has a location at 187 South Schuyler Avenue in Kankakee and offers various support services.
- ***Immigration Crisis and Advocacy:*** Luz Aranda addressed the recent increase in violence and discrimination facing immigrant communities. Organizations are being encouraged to prepare for potential ICE activity within their spaces or among their clients. The center offers monthly workshops, both in-person and virtual, which can be provided in English upon request.
- ***ICE Preparedness and Rights Training:*** Luz Aranda emphasized that all individuals possess rights regardless of their legal status. She explained that agents must present a valid judicial warrant containing a full legal name to enter private areas legally. Organizations are advised to assign a main point of contact to handle any encounters with ICE agents according to the time it takes for support to arrive via hotlines or rapid response teams.
- ***Rapid Response Resources and Tools:*** The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) provides a 24/7 family support hotline for reporting ICE activity or seeking guidance. An ICIRR app allows users to receive real-time notifications regarding immigration enforcement activities in their area via text message. Luz Aranda noted that recording ICE activity from a safe distance is legal in Illinois and provides essential evidence for accountability cases.
- ***Family Preparedness Planning Documents:*** The Spanish Community Center provides free temporary guardianship letters to protect children if parents are detained by the state or separated from them much longer than expected during crises. They also offer G 28 forms, which allow an assigned person to hire an attorney on behalf of someone who has been detained and lacks access to communication tools outside detention centers. These preparedness documents are offered at no cost through local centers to alleviate financial burdens on vulnerable families who might otherwise pay high attorney fees for similar paperwork.
- ***Mental Health and Support Resources:*** Luz highlighted the severe mental health impact on families living in survival mode due to immigration fears. The meeting concluded with a discussion on how nonprofits can protect client confidentiality while complying with the law. Magdalena thanks everyone who attended and looks forward to next month’s council meeting, Tuesday, October 27th at 2:00pm CST.