NEAR SOUTH SIDE

MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: Virtual – Zoom

DATE: 10/13/2026

ATTENDEES:

- Daniel Mendez (EDDR Foundation), Halle Berghoff (EDDR Foundation), Gloria Landingham (EDDR Foundation), Tiffany Webb (Healthcare Alternative Systems), Belinda Farr (PCA Illinois), Dante Harris (Puerto Rican Cultural Center), Cristina Banda (Illinois Family Resource Center), Tyrone Hill (Amare NFP), Quinella Penermon (Treatment Alternatives for Stronger Communities), BreAnna Buchanan (Green County Health Department), Jim Duffy (Smoke Works), Grace Pell (AIDS Foundation Chicago), Anna Bullock (AIDS Foundation Chicago), Vicki Cooper (EDDR Foundation)

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: Domestic Violence Awareness Month & Substance Use Prevention Month**
   a. In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Daniel highlighted data of felony domestic violence cases in Illinois from 2010-2026. Data shows that felony domestic violence cases have been on a steady increase since the year 2020. These incidents

can result in physical health conditions due to injuries, traumatic brain injuries, psychological conditions, increased risk of eating disorder pathology, and suicide attempts.

b. Daniel also highlighted data about Kratom involvement in fatal overdoses in honor of Substance Use Prevention Month. There have been 380 Kratom involved overdose deaths between 2019-2024. Of those 380 Kratom was listed as the cause of death in 319. Cook County accounted for 35.8% of Kratom involved deaths. Multiple substances were identified in Kratom-involved deaths including fentanyl (72.6%), benzodiazepines (46.3%) and cocaine (31.8%).

IV. Presentation: Jim Duffy Smoke Works

a. Jim Duffy gave a presentation regarding his organization Smoke Works and their pipe distribution program. They will provide pipes to programs who do direct service, and buying from pipes help fund free pipes to those doing harm reduction work. By making pipes more easily accessible it can save lives through reduced injection rates. Less injection can help with avoiding injuries and lowers the transmission of HIV. Smoking versus injecting can also help in avoiding overdose as it allows people to be more in control of the amount of substance they are taking. The distribution of pipes can also help in engaging directly with those who may need harm reduction services and can help with the distribution of naloxone and other helpful tools.

V. ROSC in Action,

a. Open call to encourage participants to invite someone who may be interested in joining the ROSC.

b. The NSSR Community Survey is currently active, and we ask that everyone take it and distribute it as well.

VI. Cook County Events and Trainings – SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Thursday, October 15, 2026	30-Hour Problem Gambling Basic Training – Live Virtual October '26 – Illinois Council on Problem Gambling
Wednesday, October 15, 2026	Youth Series: Understanding the Why, Spotting the Signs, and Having Better Conversations – Illinois Council on Problem Gambling
Thursday, October 22, 2026	Domestic Violence Awareness
Saturday, October 24, 2026	Halloweekend Trunk or Treat
Wednesday, October 28, 2026	EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS EXPO: Your Next Opportunity Starts Here. – Chicago Urban League
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