Kates Community Initiatives ROSC Council
Meeting Minutes
Date: Friday, October 16, 2026
Location: Virtual (ZOOM)
Time: 1:00 PM

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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Erica Bledsoe (KCI) at 1:14 PM.

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2. Attendees

- Deon Eggleston (Community Member)
- Cheronne Mayes (Kates Community Initiatives)
- Terrance Ewing (Community Member)
- Ron Bratcher (Kates Community Initiatives)
- Kenneth Bell (Chestnut Health Systems)
- DeShunn Bray (Kates Community Initiatives)
- Erica Bledsoe (Kates Community Initiatives)
- Regina White (Trilogy)

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3. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes-Ron Bratcher (Kates Community Initiatives)
- Second-DeShunn Bray (Kates Community Initiatives)

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4. Old Business

A. Kates Community Initiatives continues to actively collect community survey data to support ongoing assessment, identify community needs, and guide program development. To date, 448 survey entries have been collected, representing a 12% increase in overall data collection.

During the beginning of FY27, the organization experienced some challenges with capturing data within the youth sector. These challenges included establishing connections with youth-serving organizations, identifying appropriate opportunities to engage youth, coordinating access to schools and community-based programs, and encouraging youth participation in the survey process.

The team continues to work toward strengthening partnerships with schools, youth programs, and community organizations to improve outreach and increase survey participation among young people. Moving forward, the focus will remain on expanding youth engagement, addressing barriers to data

collection, and ensuring that the survey data reflects the needs and experiences of all targeted populations within the Kates Community Initiatives service areas.

B. Kates Community Initiatives continues to strengthen community engagement and build relationships throughout the Ashburn and Burbank service areas. A key component of these efforts has been establishing and maintaining communication with local law enforcement agencies, including the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and the Burbank Police Department.

Engagement with CPD and the Burbank Police Department provides opportunities to strengthen community partnerships, increase awareness of available recovery support services, and identify areas where collaboration can address community needs. These interactions also create opportunities to discuss neighborhood concerns, public safety, substance use prevention, harm reduction, and resources available to individuals and families impacted by substance use and behavioral health challenges.

Continued communication with both departments will help Kates Community Initiatives build trust, strengthen connections between law enforcement and community-based service providers, and promote a collaborative, recovery-oriented approach to community outreach.

Moving Forward: Kates Community Initiatives will continue exploring opportunities to increase engagement with both police departments through community meetings, resource-sharing opportunities, outreach activities, and collaborative initiatives that support the Ashburn and Burbank communities.

C. Kates Community Initiatives continues to prioritize community wellness, education, and access to essential resources through community outreach efforts, including its Community Health Fair. The health fair provided an opportunity to bring together community members, service providers, and community partners to promote health awareness, prevention, and overall well-being throughout the Ashburn and Burbank communities.

The event focused on connecting individuals and families with valuable health-related resources, educational information, and supportive services. It also provided an opportunity to increase awareness of physical health, behavioral health, substance use prevention, harm reduction, and recovery support services.

The Community Health Fair reinforced the importance of collaboration among local organizations and service providers in addressing health disparities and reducing barriers to accessing care. It also supported Kates Community Initiatives' ongoing mission to equip, educate, and empower individuals and families.

Moving Forward: Kates Community Initiatives will continue identifying opportunities to host and participate in community health and wellness events, strengthen partnerships with healthcare providers, and expand access to resources that promote healthier individuals, families, and communities.

NO OPEN ISSUES

5. New Business

A. Trauma-Informed Care Training

- Date: To Be Announced (TBA)
- Time: To Be Announced (TBA)

The Trauma-Informed Care training will focus on increasing awareness and understanding of how trauma impacts individuals, families, and communities. Participants will explore trauma-informed approaches that promote safety, trustworthiness, empowerment, collaboration, and cultural sensitivity. The training will help strengthen the ability of staff and community partners to provide person-centered, compassionate, and supportive services while recognizing the impact of trauma on individuals navigating recovery and reentry.

B. Workforce Development Workshop

- Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2026
- Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Location: Prairie Trails Public Library, Burbank, Illinois

The Workforce Development Workshop will provide participants with information, resources, and practical guidance to support employment readiness and career advancement. Topics will focus on workforce preparation, employment opportunities, professional development, and connecting individuals with resources that promote economic stability and self-sufficiency. This workshop will support the Council's ongoing commitment to addressing employment barriers and creating pathways to sustainable employment, particularly for individuals in recovery and justice-involved populations.

C. Recidivism: Coffee and Conversation Panel

- Date: Thursday, December 10, 2026
- Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

The Recidivism: Coffee and Conversation Panel will provide an opportunity for community members, service providers, and stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue surrounding recidivism and the challenges individuals face when transitioning back into their communities. Discussion will highlight barriers related to employment, housing, behavioral health, access to recovery support services, and successful community reintegration. The panel will encourage collaboration, share lived experiences and community perspectives, and identify opportunities to strengthen support systems and reduce repeat involvement with the criminal justice system.

6. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned by Erica Bledsoe (KCI) at 1:47 PM.