Northern Cook County ROSC October 2026 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Friday, October 16th, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT

Location: Zoom

Facilitator: Jenny Lamantia, ROSC Coordinator - PEER Services

Attendance

- Ken Bell - Technical Assistant, Chestnut Health
- Caleb Dupree - Trilogy
- Johanna Garsenstein - Erie Family Health
- Jillian Kilcoyne - Alpharus Health
- Natalie Larson - KEY Coalition
- Cherese Ledet - YWCA North Shore
- Erika Olandese - Program Manager and Staff Therapist, PEER Services
- Adam Pratt - Live for Lali
- Sloane Shabelman - Youth and Opportunity United (Y.O.U.)
- Twanette Sharpe-Wilmore - Trilogy
- Erin Tegge - Prevention Director, PEER Services
- Elizabeth “Liz” Thielen - Nicasa Behavioral Health
- Sherese Winford - PLE

Welcome and Introductions

Jenny Lamantia, ROSC Coordinator, called the meeting to order. Attendees introduced themselves and their organizations. The group focused the meeting on youth substance use prevention in recognition of Youth Prevention Month and considered how community partners can support young people.

Youth Substance Use Prevention

Erin Tegge, Prevention Director at PEER Services, discussed youth substance use prevention trends and her work with local schools. She highlighted the Edible Acre/ Orchard at Evanston Township High School (ETHS) as a prevention strategy with a history tied to the school community. The area had been used as a smoking spot before Erin began her work at PEER Services; she noted the orchard as an example of how prevention efforts can engage with the history and use of shared school spaces.

Youth Prevention Kahoot

Participants took part in a Kahoot using 2026 Illinois Youth Survey data for Cook County outside Chicago. The quiz offered an interactive way to review local youth substance use data and connect the findings to the meeting’s prevention discussion.

Community Discussion and Resource Sharing

The group discussed youth prevention and shared perspectives from their organizations. Elizabeth Thielen of Nicasa Behavioral Health spoke about youth gambling and her organization’s Flip the Bet program, which aims to shift attitudes and language around gambling addiction among young people. The discussion connected prevention information with community awareness, early support, and collaboration among organizations serving youth and families.

NCC ROSC Updates and Announcements

Jenny shared upcoming community prevention events and program opportunities:

- Leading by Example: A Parent's Guide to Substance Use Prevention — Wednesday, October 21, 7–8 PM, Winnetka Public Library, 768 Oak St., Winnetka, IL 60093.
- Prevention Workshop — Friday, October 23, 10 AM–12 PM, Kenneth Young Center, 1001 Rohlwing Road, Elk Grove Village. Topics include naloxone, reducing stigma, and prevention strategies.
- PEER Services Patient Health Fair — Wednesday, October 28, 6 AM–12 PM, 906 Davis St., Evanston. Flu shots are available 7–10 AM with preregistration; naloxone training is listed for 1 PM.

Action Items

- Continue sharing the NCC ROSC Community Survey with community members and partner networks.
- Submit interest in a future partner spotlight and suggest topics for upcoming meetings using the coalition forms.
- Share youth prevention information and relevant community resources through partner networks.
- Bring local resource updates and community needs to future NCC ROSC meetings.

Meeting Highlights

- Erin Tegge discussed youth substance use prevention trends, her work with local schools, and ETHS's Edible Acre orchard, a space that had previously been used as a smoking spot.
- The Kahoot used 2026 Illinois Youth Survey data for Cook County outside Chicago.
- Elizabeth Thielen introduced Nicasa Behavioral Health's Flip the Bet program and its goal of changing attitudes and language around gambling addiction among youth.
- Coalition members were invited to share the community survey and local prevention event information with their networks.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 AM. Jenny thanked attendees for their time and continued partnership with the Northern Cook County ROSC.

Next Meeting

Date: Friday, November 20, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT

Location: Zoom