Far Southside (TEECH) ROSC Community Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2026, | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
TEECH Foundation, 1750 W. 103rd Street, Chicago, IL 60643
Hybrid: In-Person and Zoom

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Robert Bufford, RC, CPRS, NCRS, provides the welcome, opening remarks, and introductions, inviting attendees to connect and participate in the community meeting.

Far Southside ROSC Overview and Community Update — Frederick Buford, RC, CPRS

Frederick Buford, RC, CPRS, presents what a Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) is, its mission, community resource connections, service area, FY27 priorities, goals, referrals, and participant outcomes. The November presentation also highlights Thanksgiving, gratitude, kindness, and connection, recognizing that the holidays can bring both joy and stress.

The presentation reminds attendees that anyone who needs support during the holidays can call or text 988 or the SAMHSA Helpline at 1-800-662-HELP (4357), free 24/7.

Far Southside ROSC Mission, Service Area, and FY27 Focus

The Far Southside ROSC mission is to unite community partners and connect individuals and families with person-centered recovery, mental-health, and wellness supports across Chicago's Far South Side. The mission is carried out through three shared commitments: dignity and compassion, healing in community, and stronger neighborhoods.

Frederick Buford explains that Far Southside ROSC serves 15 communities: 11 Chicago neighborhoods and four nearby suburbs (Oak Lawn, Evergreen Park, Robbins, and Dolton). He reviews the four FY27 focus areas: access and awareness; pathways and referrals; resilience and reentry; and stigma reduction and collaboration. The resource hub connects individuals and families with recovery and behavioral health services, basic needs, overdose risk mitigation, and justice-related support.

The ROSC resource hub organizes support into four categories: recovery and behavioral health; basic needs and stability; health and harm reduction, including naloxone (Narcan) and Medication-Assisted Recovery Services (MARS); and justice and specialized support, including reentry support, community service, diversion programs, and veterans' services. ROSC coordinates access and partner relationships; it does not replace the organizations that provide services.

Frederick Buford also reviewed the three FY27 goals: (1) reentry integration, supporting planning to integrate people returning to the community into recovery-oriented systems of care; (2) warm handoff partnerships, bringing treatment and recovery organizations together to plan

warm handoff processes; and (3) diversion partnerships, building community partnerships that support diversion and alternatives to arrest.

FY27 Referrals and Participant Outcomes — July 1 – November 10, 2026

As part of Frederick Buford's community update, the November presentation reports FY27 referrals and participant outcomes from July 1 through November 16, 2026 (Fiscal Year: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027). There were 45 RSS referrals, with the following participant outcomes:

RSS Participant Outcomes	Total
Successfully completed RSS services	21
Still participating in RSS	14
Relocated and continued services through parole	5
Returned to treatment	2
Resumed substance use	2
Referred to Behavioral Health services	1
Total RSS Participants Accounted For	45

Of the 45 RSS intakes, 21 participants have completed RSS services and 14 remain enrolled. There were also 3 Community Service referrals: 2 participants have completed community services, and 1 is still participating. Combined, RSS and Community Service referrals total 48, with a 95.8% overall success and engagement rate (46 of 48 completed or still engaged: 43 RSS and 3 Community Service).

Special Recognition and Deflection Partnerships

The community update recognizes Vawnshekia Oklah for her leadership in launching an Illinois deflection program in partnership with 3 Cord Strong ROSC and law enforcement. TEECH is working with Ms. Oklah on this deflection initiative to strengthen collaboration and, when appropriate, connect individuals with recovery support services and community resources as alternatives to arrest.

A deflection program connects people to treatment, recovery support, and other services instead of arrest or jail. Law enforcement and community partners work together so people get assistance sooner.

Featured Educational Presentation: Finding Calm Within — Spirituality

Featured presenter: Sgt. Warren Avery (Ret.), CADC, author and publisher. The presentation explores gratitude, forgiveness, self-forgiveness, and inner calm during the holiday season. It addresses changes in routine, family pressures, grief, and financial concerns. Practical approaches include affirmations, mindfulness, meditation, slow breathing, and the STOP practice: Stop, Take a breath, Observe, Proceed. Participants are encouraged to choose practices consistent with their own beliefs and values. These approaches support well-being and do not replace professional care.

Community Discussion

During the community discussion, participants talked about how the holidays have been difficult and emotionally challenging for some people. They shared thoughts about the pressures that can accompany the holiday season and the importance of having understanding and support during this time.

Announcements and Next Meeting

The December Far Southside ROSC meeting will be held Monday, December 14, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., instead of the regular fourth Monday, due to the Christmas holiday. The meeting will remain hybrid, at 1750 W. 103rd Street, Chicago, IL 60643, and via Zoom. Beginning in January 2027, Far Southside ROSC meetings will resume their regular schedule on the fourth Monday of each month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The January meeting will be Monday, January 25, 2027.

Meetings offer free parking and light refreshments, and CEUs may be available through partner organizations. Organizations, community leaders, and residents interested in referral partnerships, outreach collaboration, community support, or resource sharing can contact Far Southside ROSC at www.teechfoundation1.org or (224) 406-3798.

Meeting Materials and Reminders

- Attendees are reminded to take a holiday safety flyer.
- Community surveys, available in English and Spanish, were provided and collected.
- Attendance sheets were provided and collected.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Minutes taken by: De’Shara Shells

Nov. FSSRI Sign in Sheet

Name	Sector
1. Dr. Karen White	ROSC/RSS
2. De'Shara Shells	ROSC/RSS
3. Jamia Pckett	ROSC/RSS
4. Michael Carter	ROSC/RSS
5. Frederick Bufford	ROSC
6. Dr. Patrice Beamon	Treatment
7. Tiffany Webb	Treatment/MARS/Gambling
8. Priscilla Johnson	Recovery Housing
9. Latasha Taylor	Education – H. S
10. Jarrell Johnson	PLE
11. Agent White	Law Enforcement
12. Joseph Warren	PLE
16.Angelo Guerro	PLE
17.Alvin Prater	Community
19.Laverano Trevino	PLE
22.Franklin Luper	PLE
23.Steven Usher	PLE
24.Anthony Hardy	PLE
25.Jarrell Johnson	PLE
26.Christian Barajas	PLE
28.Rev. Lawrence Cameron	Clergy
29.Brother Benedict	Clergy
30.Clifford Williams	Older Adults / Senior Services
31.Warren Avery	Retired Law Enforcement/Com
33. LaFlora Winfield On-Line	Recovery Housing
35.Janyah Brown	PLE
36.Kristi Macck	PLE
37.Tracey Stewart	PLE
38.Shanel Hughes	PLE
39.Pamela Morris	PLE
40.Valencia Meadows	PLE
41.Monique Gullary	PLE
42.Linda Powell	Recovery Housing
43.Cynthia Henson	Recovery Housing
44. Lillian Mitchem	PLE
45.Vawnshekia Oklah	ROSC/RSS
46.Robert Bufford	ROSC/RSS