THREE CORDS STRONG ROSC ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES

TRANSITIONAL TRAINING SERVICES

LOCATION: 4455 S KING DRIVE SUITE 101-B
DATE: 10/29/2026
Facilitators: Vawnshekia Brown-Oklah/ Francis Oklah/ Marjorie Howard/Carolyn Howard
TIME: 09:30 AM – 11:00 AM
MEETING FORMAT: Hybrid (In Person and Zoom)

I. Call to Order- Vawnshekia Brown-Oklah

II. Opening Statements – Carolyn Howard
Carolyn welcomed ROSC members, community partners, and visitors. She provided an overview of the Three Cords Strong ROSC Alliance and its work to help create recovery-ready communities.The importance of reducing stigma and creating supportive systems for individuals in recovery, individuals returning from incarceration, and individuals experiencing mental health challenges was discussed.

III. Mission & Vision-Carolyn Howard
The Three Cords Strong mission and vision were reviewed, emphasizing that recovery is an ongoing journey supported by the individual, family, and community. October is Breast Cancer Aweness month

IV. Strategic Goals
The ROSC's two primary goals were reviewed:

- Build a supportive network for individuals seeking employment, including recovery-friendly and second-chance employment opportunities.
- Work with law enforcement to establish alternatives to arrest for individuals with substance use disorders through deflection.

An update was provided on efforts to work with CPD District 003 and community partners to develop a deflection pathway that connects eligible individuals to treatment and supportive services rather than arrest.

Goal 1 Accomplishments

- Established relationships with TASC and CPD District 003 leadership.
- Gained preliminary district interest in exploring adult deflection.
- Established communication and gained preliminary interest from District 003 leadership.
- Successfully scheduled a follow-up planning meeting for Friday, October 30, 2026, at 10:00 AM.
- Meeting will advance discussions toward establishing an adult deflection pathway.
- Engaged statewide deflection professionals and the Illinois Deflection Association.

- Obtained an existing Illinois deflection referral model for review.
- Completed law enforcement education and participated in police-community planning.
- Identified referral, staffing, funding, and implementation needs.
- Initiated funding advocacy and expanded stigma-reduction partnerships**.**

Goal 2 Accomplishments

- Established workforce connections
- Identified second-chance employer prospects: Felony Free Society and IMG180 Construction.
- Strengthened job training partnerships
- Identified legal assistance partners to address employment barriers.
- Prioritized employer recruitment and workforce development in outreach efforts

V. Community Survey

Members were encouraged to participate and distribute the ROSC Community Survey.

VI. Guest Presentation

Guest Speaker: Brenda Pacouloute Drummer, Esq.LAW OFFICE OF THE COOK COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

Key topics included:

- Cook County and the SAFE-T Act (Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity – Today Act)
- State of IL statute enacted in 2021 that reformed the criminal justice system.
- Affected policing, pretrial detention and bail, sentencing, and corrections.
- Pretrial Fairness Act is the section about pretrial detention
- The Cook County Jail population fluctuates between 6,000 and 9,000 inmates
- In 2013, an ADAM Program survey found that 83% of adult males tested positive for illicit drugs. DRUG TREATMENT COURT (Rehabilitation Alternative Probation (RAP)/Women's Rehabilitating Alternative Program (W)RAP @ 26th St)
- Eligibility:
    - Person must have a history of substance abuse disorder
    - Person must be willing to complete assessment and follow recommended treatment
    - No violent convictions within the past 5 years
    - If suspected of drug use, they will be asked to submit to a urinalysis.
    - Outpatient Treatment
- Detention
    - Inpatient treatment at Abraxas
    - Making sure that minors are sober and safe is the priority

Questions:

What happens if someone in problem-solving court does not complete their treatment Program?

How do I know what to share with my attorney?

How long does someone usually participate in a problem-solving court program?

How does having a judge and treatment team work together help someone changed?

VII. ROSC & Community Updates

Community partners briefly introduced available services and resources, including:

- TCA Health – Medicaid, SNAP, redetermination, and benefits assistance.
- New Millennium Law – legal services and referrals.
- KCC Academy – violence prevention, victim support, flex-fund assistance, and youth workforce/trade programs.
- Additional ROSC and community partner

VIII. Next Action Steps

- Community survey
- Workshops training on Narcan, harm reduction, stigma reduction, suicide prevention
- Become better equipped to support recovery
- Community resource mapping and re-entry efforts.
- Go to Police Beat meetings in your neighborhood
- Advocate for deflection for adults
- Be the solution in your circle of influence
- Destigmatize
- Be a part of a mini council group

IX. Meeting Close-Marjorie Howard

X. MEETING ATTENDANCE

1. Azeez Muhammad
2. Sharon Batiest
3. Zamaria Howard
4. Imani Lyles
5. Michael Winters
6. Joseph Jones
7. Angela Rand
8. Cornisha Peterson
9. Francis Oklah

10. Norberto Brown
11. Marjorie Howard
12. Vawnshekia Oklah
13. Stanley Howard
14. Angela Morgan
15. Kevin Stringer
16. Isaiah Thomas
17. Tonja Perry
18. Keisha Musgrave
19. Nathan Benson
20. Edrick Berry
21. Chemeka Jackson
22. Jocqui Miles
23. Maat Malcolm
24. Freddie Roberts
25. Gquelle Clark
26. Rashawn Dobine
27. Azeez Muhammad
28. Kearra Coleman
29. Charles Tankson
30. Veronica Cox
31. James Blackman
32. Imani Blissit
33. Jimmie Baugus
34. Kamel Robinson