THREE CORDS STRONG ROSC ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES

TRANSITIONAL TRAINING SERVICES

LOCATION: 4455 S KING DRIVE SUITE 101-B
DATE: 09/24/2026
Facilitators: Vawnshekia Oklah/ Francis Oklah/ Marjorie Howard
TIME: 09:30 AM – 11:00 AM
MEETING FORMAT: Hybrid (In Person and Zoom)

I. Call to Order

Francis Oklah

II. Opening Statements – Vawnshekia Oklah

Vawnshekia 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

The Three Cords Strong mission and vision were reviewed, emphasizing that recovery is an ongoing journey supported by the individual, family, and community.
September observances included National Recovery Month, Overdose Prevention, and Suicide Prevention Awareness.

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.

V. Community Survey

Members were encouraged to participate in the ROSC Community Survey.
Survey responses will help the council better understand community attitudes regarding recovery, re-entry, employment, stigma, and other barriers and identify areas where additional education and advocacy are needed.

VI. Guest Presentation

Guest Speaker: Patricia Therese Johnson, MSHC | Public Health Administrator III
Chicago Department of Public Health | Behavioral Health Bureau
Organization: Chicago Department of Public Health | Behavioral Health Bureau
Presentation/Topic: Suicide and Overdose Prevention
The presentation focused on overdose prevention, suicide prevention, behavioral health, and community resources.
Key topics included:

- Suicide prevention and reducing stigma around seeking help.
- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and other crisis resources.
- Chicago's CARE (Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement) Team.
- Naloxone/Narcan and overdose response.
- Public health vending machines offering free health and harm-reduction supplies.
- QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide prevention training.
- Free behavioral health and suicide prevention training opportunities.

VII. ROSC & Community Updates

Recent ROSC participation and community activities were highlighted, including Recovery Month outreach, behavioral health conferences, law-enforcement/community engagement, and gambling awareness.
Discussion also addressed gambling and other behavioral addictions, including the increasing presence of gambling-like features in gaming and online platforms.

VIII. Community Partners & Resources

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 partners.

IX. Next Action Steps

- Participate in the Three Cords Strong ROSC Alliance.
- Complete and share the Community Survey.
- Advocate for recovery-friendly and second-chance employment opportunities.
- Continue supporting and educating the community about deflection and alternatives to arrest.
- Participate in local CAPS and beat meetings.
- Attend available recovery, re-entry, harm reduction, overdose prevention, and suicide prevention trainings.

Next Meeting: October 30, 2026

X. Meeting Close

Marjorie Howard

XI. 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. Jasmine Campbell
15. Brittni Hoskins
16. Jason Hoskins
17. Reynard Solomon
18. Brandon Jernigan
19. Gregory Grubbs
20. Jerry Kirkman Pete
21. Brian Thomas
22. James Rodgers
23. Diane Howard
24. Deloris Muhammad
25. Jeremy Hill
26. Carolyn Howard
27. Vidal Taylor
28. Jasmine Campbell
29. Angela Morgan
30. Zari Grant
31. Willie Long
32. Bennie Lee
33. Florence Wright
34. Ken Bell