

ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

November 8th, 2023

0:00-12:20

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton begins this month's meeting by introducing himself and welcoming everyone to the meeting. He asks everyone to be muted during the meeting while not speaking and he reminds everyone that this meeting is recorded. He then asks everyone to put their name in the chat for attendance and collaborations. He then states that this meeting marks the 2 years of DuPage ROSC meetings. He states that he remembers, 2 years ago at the meeting, there were 77 people in attendance. He states that although attendance has lowered since, it rarely drops below 30 people and that shows how committed everyone is in DuPage County. The second thing that he remembers from that meeting is that the Wi-Fi went out during the meeting. He states that his hosting skills have improved since. He states that since then, the DuPage ROSC name has gotten out there and reached the community, and that is because people keep coming back. He states that at that meeting 2 years ago, they talked about the gaps in treatment for recovery and looking back now, he can see that ROSC has worked on that. With the What's App Referral Hub, we have been able to provide people with referrals and services. He also mentions the first Narcan Vending Machine in Glendale Heights that was in partnership with DuPage ROSC, Glendale Heights Police Department, and the DuPage County Health Department. He states that the vending machine is officially open and they did a ribbon cutting ceremony. He states that there is a lot of work that goes into opening a Free Narcan Vending Machine, such as who will pay for it, and where will we put it. He states that there is still push back while trying to find placement for the vending machine. He states that it was an honor to be a part of the press conference that was featured on some mid-day local news stations.

Meeting Agenda:

1. Meeting Open – Jarrett Burton
2. Agenda
3. Preview of upcoming meetings/trainings
4. What's App referral group update: Danny Sourbis
5. **Claudia Orozco, Founder of Healing Pups**
6. Organizational Updates
7. Regional ROSC Roundup
8. Closing

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton mentions the ROSC Presentation Series on November 15th at 10:00 AM on zoom. He states that **Don Mitckess, LCPC, CRADC of Banyan Treatment Centers** will be doing a presentation on non-suicidal self-injury. Jarrett states that self-injury is crossing over more and more with substance use disorder in younger residents.

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then mentions the annual ROSC Holiday Party on December 13th at 3-5 PM. He states that last year, he had to zoom in because he was sick, but he

plans to be here this year. It will be catered by **Mike Woods of Banyan Treatment Centers** and there will be games and fellowship.

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then mentions upcoming ROSC meetings. January's meeting will have **Nicole Janssen of RCA** presenting on NIDA Principles of Effective Treatment. February's meeting will have **Jim Wilkerson and Kellie Gage of IDHS** presenting on Gambling Addiction. Lastly, March's meeting will be about sober living. Jarrett then states if anyone and their organizations would like to present, to please reach out to him.

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then mentions Turkey Bowl III which will take place at the Bloomingdale Park District on November 23rd, at 9:00 AM. Jarrett states that it is on Thanksgiving because holidays can be triggering, and this provides a safe sober place to spend your Thanksgiving. There will be football, fellowship, and fun.

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then mentions the Sober Skate Event on January 21st at Coachlite Skate Center in Roselle at 4:30 PM - 6:40 PM. He states that the event is also a sock drive.

12:21-14:05

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then introduces **ROSC Co-coordinator Danny Sourbis** to give the What's App referral group update. He states that Danny is also the Region 2 ROSC Liaison.

ROSC Co-Coordinator Danny Sourbis thanks Jarrett and states that there are 67 members in the group chat now. He then states that it has been joined by members from Geode Health and Healthcare Alternative Systems. Danny then states that over the past month, they have been able to provide referrals for detox, residential treatment for substance use disorder, PHP, IOP, grief support, Secretary of State drug and alcohol evaluations, neuro psychological evaluations, sex addiction therapy providers, harm reduction resources, methadone taper providers, interventionists, and sober living. Danny states that the word is out, and there are 2 new referral groups. One in Greater Sauk Valley ROSC, which covers Ogle, DeKalb, Whiteside, and Lee Counties. The other new group is in the Winnebago ROSC. Danny states that if you would like more information, or to be in touch with our referral group, or any of the new ones, please email him.

14:06-37:52

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then introduces this month's guest, **Healing Pups Founder Claudia Orozco**. He states that she helps people struggling with mental health and substance use through animal therapy. Jarrett states that she is the type of guest that he loves to have at the meetings because it is a different approach, and he also gets to spotlight a newer organization. He states that Claudia is at the meeting with 4 animal therapists.

Healing Pups Founder Claudia Orozco starts off by welcoming everyone and introducing herself. She states that she is the president and founder the tiny non-profit Healing Pups Pet Therapy. She states that her daughter is the vice president and that they currently have 4 animals.

She states that she was connected to ROSC through her professor while working on obtaining her CRSS. She states that everything started a long time ago in Colombia during 70s – 90s. She states that she was a teen mom to her son Santiago. She states that she came to America for a better life and to rescue her children from what she had to live through, such as cocaine and the horrible things that Columbia was going through. She states that they came to America and started the process like everyone else by learning how to drive and speak, write and understand the language. She states that her son got introduced to heroin when he was just 14. She states that things got very bad very quickly. She states that it was 10 years of an agonizing death for her son Santiago. She states that in those 10 years, he went to jail and rehab, so the resources were there for him, but he didn't want help. He passed away when he was 25 in 2020. She states that she was grieving very hard, crying, cursing, and kicking. She states that her dog would come and cry with her. She knew that she couldn't be alone at this time and she wanted to show everyone how her animal could help her through this process. She states that all of her services are volunteer and are for all the people like her son who want help. She states that she reached out to all the services that helped her with her son, such as DuPage County Jail, Abraxas, and Gateway. She states that some of them agreed to have her animals come and some said no. She states that the Warrenville Library was a heaven sent for her and her son when he was little, so now they have 2 ongoing sessions where kids can come and read to her dog Marlie.

Healing Pups Founder Claudia Orozco states that she doesn't participate in many events anymore because her organization is a non-profit, she also has a full time job at the YWCA, and also goes to school. She states that she is a family support specialist and that her passion is with the families. She states that she loves hearing others stories and sharing her own story because you never know if her story is the one that they need to hear. She states that their mission is to provide the unconditional love and acceptance of animals to heal others. Even if it is just a second of petting a dog, we know what it does to our brains. She states that some of the places that they server are Aunt Martha's, Seaspar, The Warrenville Public Library, The Glen Ellyn Public Library, DePaul University College of Law, Naperville Humane Society, Timberline Knolls, The Addison Public Library, and Alive Center Aurora. Claudia states that she was even at the United Nations last year to write a book and to talk about her non-profit.

Healing Pups Founder Claudia Orozco states that the world has known about the healing power of animals for a very long time now and that animals are unconditional helpers. Between the 9/11 dogs and even animals that comfort children at doctor or dentist appointment, that is exactly what Claudia wants people to have access to. Claudia then states her projection for her organization. After 3 years of being a non-profit organization, Claudia's daughter had her apply for a grant. She states that they got that grant and plan to continue their literacy with the therapy dogs at the libraries. She states that they will also continue to work with those with substance use disorder and mental health issues. Then Claudia states that she would love to partner with **Mariana Prokop, Founder of Evergreen House**, and bring the animals to Evergreen House to be with the residents and serve as a resource. Claudia states that if anyone thinks that her animals could be a good fit for any events, to please reach out to her.

Healing Pups Founder Claudia Orozco then introduces her animals. First is dog Marlie, who is named after Bob Marley. Marlie is 8 years old and knows 12 tricks in Spanish, English, and nonverbal. Next is Milo the kitten. Milo is 1 year old and very friendly and loves to be touched and pet. Lastly, there is Vin Diesel and Larry the lizards. They are both very old and the same age as Claudia's daughter.

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then asks **Healing Pups Founder Claudia Orozco** if there is a particular person that comes to her mind that she has seen the therapy animals really help through their pain. Claudia then answers yes especially with little children. Claudia has noticed that her dog will put her head on some children's laps. Claudia started to notice that the children Marlie would stay near, were the children who were behind in their reading level or had other needs. Then Claudia states that when they go to Seaspar, they dress up all the animals and have everyone sit in a circle. The animals will help teach them how to breathe. Then Claudia points out how her animals are helping to teach her right now how to be calm from the nerves of public speaking. She states that the animals are calming and teach us to love everyone no matter what.

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then asks **Healing Pups Founder Claudia Orozco** if she is planning on expanding on her amount of therapy animals. Claudia states that they do want a bearded dragon because she has always wanted a bearded dragon. She states that she is a teacher so she used to take them to her classroom to teach science and that they are the best reptile to have. She states that they also run around at home and that is just another example of how if the animals can all live in peace, so can we as humans.

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then opens up the floor for questions or comments for **Healing Pups Founder Claudia Orozco**. **Bruce** then asks Claudia if she finds that people gravitate towards one animal more than the others, whether it be the dog, cat, or lizards. Claudia then states that the lizards are the most popular animals. She states that dogs and cats are common and cute, but the lizards attract more people because of the natural fear that we have of animals that we are not familiar with. She states that she educates people so they can see past some of their more unique features.

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then mentioned that he never thought of cats as therapy animals because in his experience, they are affectionate, but always on their own terms. Jarrett then asks how Milo does in these situations. **Healing Pups Founder Claudia Orozco** then states that they treat Milo like a puppy because it is their first cat, and they aren't as familiar with training cats. She states that when she feels sad, Milo comes to be petted by her, listens very well, and does not scratch. She states that people who may be nervous around dogs due to their size or trauma, gravitate to the kitten.

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then asks **Healing Pups Founder Claudia Orozco** where she sees growth for her organization in the next year. Claudia states that she is really hoping for ideas in growth. She states that she wants to expand her organization, and now because of the grant they received, that is possible. She states that she does want to visit places where individuals are in recovery. She states that they live at her home, so she can travel to any locations in DuPage County. She states that if anyone knows anyone who could benefit from this

alternative therapy, to please pass along her contact info. She reminds people that it is free, and they do not need insurance. Jarrett then mentions that a lot of the areas that the animals treat, are all areas that are prevalent in recovery. He also states that there are a lot of Spanish speaking people in DuPage County, and that is a blind spot in the work that they do. He states that they have to try to make sure they are catering to the people who mostly speak Spanish. He states that we only speaking English may turn them off to seeking different types of recovery. Then Jarrett mentions that working at Serenity House, there are always dogs walking around here. He then states that clients love the dogs, and sometimes they are the clients that are hard to get through to during groups and therapeutics.

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then asks if there are any more questions or comments for **Healing Pups Founder Claudia Orozco**. **ROSC Recovery Coach Felicia Miceli** then states that Claudia's joy and passion are going to take her far. Felicia states they although ROSC loves having animals around, they also love having her around as well. Then Felicia thanks Claudia for coming. Claudia then thanks Felicia.

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then asks **Healing Pups Founder Claudia Orozco** for the website for her organization. Claudia states that the website is healingpups.org and that she made the website herself. Claudia is panning on working with College of DuPage to have students work on a new website for her for college credit. She states that they are going to grow with a new website and marketing for events.

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then thanks **Healing Pups Founder Claudia Orozco** one last time for coming and bringing her daughter and animals. He states that he was thrilled to have them here and that they are welcome any time.

37:53-41:45

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton then asks for anyone to introduce themselves if this is their first ROSC Council Meeting. **Dustin Coleman of New Life Behavior Health** introduces himself. He states that New Life Behavior Health is a new treatment program in Buffalo Grove. He states that they do PHP, IOP, and currently working on a criminal diversion program. He states that they are working with the courts so they are excited to network with everyone. Next, **Eva of DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform** introduces herself. She states that she has been attending Lake County ROSC meetings for the past 2 years. She states that her program is DuPage based, but their services expand beyond DuPage. She states that her program is the Language Access Center and that they do everything with language, such as providing interpretation in person, virtually, and over the phone. She states that they provide document, email, forms and video translations. She states that they also run an educational program for bilingual individuals who would like to become professional interpreters. She states that they also provide professional development opportunities to bilingual staff members at any organization to learn more about language access. She then states that they have another program under the Federation that is concerned with public benefits and any questions about those benefits. She states that if anyone has any questions, to please reach out. Lastly, **Eric** who is a student at College of DuPage introduces himself.

41:46-44:18

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton closed out today's meeting by reminding everyone that the next meeting will be the holiday party. The holiday party is December 13th. Jarrett then thanks everyone for attending. **Eric** then asks a question regarding Narcan being sold in stores. Jarrett answers his question by stating that it is not free, they are charging 45 to 50 dollars. Jarrett states that he believes that Narcan should be free, and that there are organizations in Cook County to look into, such as **Chicago Recovery Alliance** who do a lot of harm reduction. Jarrett also states to look into if there are any Narcan Vending Machines in Cook County.

ROSC Coordinator Jarrett Burton closes the meeting by thanking everyone for coming.