



Minutes of the Meeting

Date: January 25, 2024

Meeting Agenda: PRAYER,

Introductions & Updates : Neesha Stringfellow

What's New from our Council Members and Partners?

Dr. Kathleen Burke - Will County Department of Health

Patty Johnstone - Trinity Services The Living Room

Grundy County Representative

Neesha Stringfellow - Exec. Director HLM Recovery 180

Event Updates : Jada Anthony

WHAT IS R.O.S.C.?

R.O.S.C. Refresher 60 second pitch

Explain in your own words what is a R.O.S.C.?

What awareness needs to be increased in your community?

Opening Prayer:

Neesha Stringfellow initiated the meeting with a prayer, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to providing help, hope, and healing in various areas of recovery. The prayer included blessings for all individuals and organizations present.

Introduction:

Neesha Stringfellow welcomed everyone to the meeting, acknowledging the diverse backgrounds and commitments of the attendees. She highlighted the purpose of the organization, Heart Life Ministries (HLM), in providing support and resources for recovery in substance use, mental health, unemployment, and homelessness, particularly in Will and Grundy Counties.

Neesha shared personal insights into the origins of HLM, tracing back to her childhood experiences witnessing family members' struggles with substance use and mental illness. She emphasized the importance of purpose-driven work and the familial bond formed within the organization.

Updates and Presentations:

1. Patti Johnson - Trinity and The Living Room:

Patti Johnson provided updates on The Living Room program, emphasizing its expansion to operate 24/7 and accommodate individuals aged 12 and above. She highlighted the program's focus on mental health support and warm handoffs to community partners for comprehensive care. Patti expressed gratitude for the partnership with HLM in addressing substance use disorders.

2. Howard Robinson - Senator Michael Hastings Office:

Howard Robinson, representing Senator Michael Hastings' office, discussed legislative initiatives related to mental health and substance abuse. He highlighted bills supporting mental health services for first responders and streamlining licensure for behavioral health clinicians. Howard emphasized the senator's commitment to addressing these issues in the 19th district.

3. Dr. Kathleen Burke - Will County Department of Health:

Dr. Kathleen Burke shared updates on the Recovery Community Organization (RCO) launched by the Will County Department of Health. She discussed the RCO's role in providing support for individuals in recovery, including access to resources, meetings, and community engagement. Dr. Burke also mentioned the 708 Mental Health Board's initiatives in allocating funds for mental health services and data collection efforts in partnership with local organizations.

Networking and Collaboration:

Neesha Stringfellow encouraged attendees to share their contact information and organization details in the chat for networking purposes. She emphasized the importance of collaboration and resource-sharing among attendees to support the recovery community effectively.

Event Updates:

Attendees were encouraged to share upcoming events, workshops, or programs relevant to the recovery community. Neesha highlighted the significance of staying informed and connected to maximize support efforts.

Announcements:

- Jada opened the meeting with a reminder to scan the QR code for quicker information collection.

- Announced upcoming events:
- CPR Stop and Bleed event in Grundy County, \$5 admission, in partnership with
- American Heart Association, January 30 at John A. Logan College, Carterville, Illinois.

- Social Media Management Program on February 7 at 9 am.
- Motion detected at Backyard Coffee and Company on February 16, a networking event.
- Loving Grief Care, grief counseling program every third Tuesday of the month from 7 to 8 pm.
- Requested attendees to email their events for sharing.

Explanation of ROSC (Recovery Oriented System of Care):

- Attendees discussed and formulated an elevator pitch to explain ROSC.
- Described ROSC as a network of hope and resources connecting recovery support specialists, addiction counselors, and various community members to increase recovery rates.

Individual Introductions:

Attendees introduced themselves, their roles, and organizations:

- Alison Thomas - Rosecrans Behavioral Health, announced new office openings.
- Dr. Crystal Lewis - Virtual life coach and therapist, developed restorative justice program.
- Danny Sourbis - Serenity House and DuPage ROSC.
- Caitlin Daly - Will County MAP Collaborative, focusing on community health improvement.
- Christina Ramirez - Existential Counselor Society, residential treatment facility for addiction recovery.
- Paul Hipple - Recovery Centers of America, offering support for individuals with lived experience.
- Tim Brown - Gateway, providing outpatient services.
- Ken Campbell - Grundy County Veterans Assistance Commission.
- Ben Rudolph - ROSC Technical Assistant, emphasized ROSC's inclusive approach and collaboration with recovery community organizations.
- Mica Freeman - Will County Board District 8, focused on community partnerships for student and family support.
- Kathleen Patristic - Valley View School District, connecting schools with mental health and social services.
- Tarcia Leak - Operational Manager, HLM Recovery, discussed partnerships with correctional facilities and faith-based organizations.
- Patty Johnstone- Trinity Services Living Room
- Devan Gagliardo- Program Director at Community Foundation of Grundy County
- Jenny Guiney- Angel Community Services, Groundwork (Domestic Violence Program)
- Kathy Bastistich- Valley View School District
- Sherri Funk-Catholic Charities, Money Management Program
- Connie Dewall- Program Manager Will County Substance Use Initiatives WCHD
- Kathleen Burke- Will County Health Department Coordinator Substance Use Treatment and Recovery Services
- Jada Anthony- HLM Recovery 180 R.O.S.C Administrative Assistant

Strategic Initiatives for 2024:

- Neesha and Tarcia highlighted key strategies for the year:

- Hiring a liaison to connect community members with services post-incarceration.
- Establishing partnerships with faith-based organizations to address mental health and substance use.
- Addressing gaps in service delivery for Medicaid beneficiaries.
- Hosting workshops on smoking and vaping prevention.
- Requested attendees to bring guests to future meetings and participate in collaborative efforts.

Closing Remarks:

- Neesha thanked attendees for their participation and encouraged continued collaboration.
- Emphasized the importance of sharing events and resources for mutual support.
- Expressed gratitude for everyone's dedication to improving community health and well-being.

Action Items:

- Attendees to share upcoming events via email for dissemination.
- Collaboration on smoking and vaping prevention workshop
- Continued recruitment of guests for future meetings.
- Collaboration on addressing gaps in service delivery for Medicaid beneficiaries.

Conclusion:

The meeting concluded with Jada providing updates on upcoming events and inviting attendees to share any additional information or announcements. Neesha reiterated the importance of communication and collaboration within the recovery community and expressed appreciation for everyone's participation. Action Items:

- Attendees to share upcoming events via email for dissemination.
- Collaboration on smoking and vaping prevention workshop.
- Continued recruitment of guests for future meetings.
- Collaboration on addressing gaps in service delivery for Medicaid beneficiaries.

Next Meeting Date: To be announced.

Meeting Adjourned.