



Supporting a Diverse Chicago West Side Community

Westside ROSC Council

Lead Agency: Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition

Friday, January 26, 2024

10am – 12pm

[Zoom Meeting Information](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/695761637?pwd=eVVOUzJ1N3VUcXl6WFJzSnVNOVJXdz09>

Meeting ID: 695 761 637 | Password: 038839

Meeting Minutes

Welcome Extended by; Venessa Moreno: Expressed appreciation for members present, and continued support, and to those who were attending ROSC meetings for the first time. Also mentioned that from now on ROSC will be offering CEU's.

Participant Introductions: Adam Scheffler, Service Providers: Other, Social Worker; Aimee Potter, Healthcare: Hospital, Jesse Brown VA; Denise Holman, Healthcare: County Health Department, Cook County Dept of Public Health; Ronald Muhammad, Recovery Supports: Housing, FOI Men's Sober Housing Re-Entry; Regina Lewis, Treatment: Local Provider, Ashunti House; Dr. Fred L. Nance Jr., Youth-Serving: Local Prevention Providers, C.L.I.C.K. Services; Juvanna Johnson, Treatment: Local Provider, Ashunti House; Charlotte Estell, Recovery Supports: Housing, Kalimba Foundation; Candic Rushing, Treatment: Local Provider, Ashunti House; Karin Morgan, Treatment: Local Provider, Ashunti House; Geri Cooper-Clark, Treatment: Local Provider, Salvation Army; Tiffany Webb, Treatment: Local Provider, Healthcare Alternative Systems, Inc; Andrew Morton, Treatment: Local Provider, Healthcare Alternative Systems, Inc; Stacy Zawacki, Service Providers: Harm Reduction, Perfectly Flawed Foundation; Mary Dowling, Volunteer: Drug Free Coalitions, West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force; Angela Chasensky, Recovery Supports: RCO, ROSC Region 1; Danny Sourbis, LCPC, Recovery Supports: RCO, Serenity House; Christine Grierson, Recovery Supports: Housing, New Directions Addiction Recovery Services; Dora Wright, Recovery Supports: Housing, The Path Recovery Living for Women; Kimberly Haywood, Recovery Supports: Other, Brighter, Behavior, Choices Inc., NFP; Wateka Kleinpeter, Service Providers: Other, Social Worker; Jessica Kelly, Service Providers: Harm Reduction, Perfectly Flawed Foundation.

Our council is made up of members including Hospitals, Treatment Centers, Mental Health Facilities, First Responders, Recovery Programs, Schools, Local Government, Employment Agencies, and importantly persons with lived experience.

Goals and Objectives by; Venessa Moreno: Westside ROSC Councils overall goal is to advocate and assist with guiding and monitoring the development of an integrated system of recovery by creating a shared vision to improve availability of services by building a sustainable ROSC Council. Our objectives 1. To create communities of recovery that encourage and integrate resources for the recovering individual, families, and friends. 2. Develop supportive recovery communities that foster growth, respect and understanding of those who have identified problems in the areas of substance use and mental health. 3. Implement effective communication that will allow for inclusion of PLE's (persons with lived experience) voices to be heard.

Council Updates by Venessa Moreno and Dora Wright: Updates on quarterly reporting was completed for Q1. The amount of recovery for substance and mental health has increased greatly in the West Side Community. MLK Day was a huge day for many community events happening. There was outreach activity that was shared about what happened that day West Side Heroine Opioid Task Force and The Hope Coalition also shared about events happening in 2024. January is again picking up post-holiday. There are many initiatives happening with faith-based communities across Chicagoland. There is the 2024 National Rally for Recovery on September 21st.



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Speaker: Christine Grierson, New Directions Addiction Recovery Services, Recovery Support Services Supporting Communities across IL & Overview of New Directions

At New Directions Addiction Recovery Services (NDARS), we firmly believe that everyone can recover from addiction, and that nobody should have to go it alone. New Directions Addiction Recovery Services is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the process of recovery from substance use disorders. Our vision for carrying that mission forward is to provide a broad network of much-needed services for those in recovery, and address substance abuse and addiction through advocacy, treatment, and continued support. We work with our community partners across McHenry County to promote accessibility, sustainability, community support, and a consistent message.

Recovery Services navigate in their own communities with different sectors. The way this looks in McHenry is: A collaboration of response efforts through New Directions and: McHenry County Mental Health Board, McHenry County Substance Abuse Coalition, McHenry County State's Attorney's Office and Local police agencies.

The Peer Recovery Support Specialist Community Navigator (PRSSCN) with New Directions Addiction Recovery Services (NDARS) provides peer recovery support to individuals through The Connect to Recovery Program (C2R) and The McHenry County A Way Out Program (AWO) by fielding calls through hotlines

We are constantly having to increase our staff in order to provide much needed services in a baron McHenry County that has very limited recovery resources. There are no detox centers, there is little to no transportation and we are providing services to get folks to the services they need.

There are Support Groups, Family Support Groups, Naloxone Trainings that are available. Housing is also part of the services. There is not enough housing available in the area. This came about because there is not enough affordable housing in the area. There are now many folks living in tent cities and living in the woods because of the lack of affordable housing. There are efforts to expand ¼ living in the McHenry area as well as looking for more referrals in Chicagoland area.

There are participants from Cook County, Lake County and DuPage County so it is important that the West Side area know about services available in McHenry County.

Our goal is to provide as much as we need to support all the needs of individuals who are seeking recovery in the McHenry County area.

Discussion Highlight Talking Points:

Christine: We do not have enough detox centers. We must travel far to other communities to help provide services. We will provide transportation to these detox centers, and we will drive to the west side if we have to get someone services. We have huge issues without enough services in McHenry County.

Christine: There are no MAR centers in our area. We do not have a local provider, so we have to refer to resources in Lake County and MAR Now to help get folks to MAR resources. There are not enough providers to help support MAR in rural areas in Illinois.

Stacey: Stated that in order to better support someone in their recovery path it is important to know details about where we are referring someone. If we can explain expectations, then we can better support someone and increase success.

John: Concept of ROSC is community of care so we can connect individuals to services where they need them. John asked how we can help you do better.

Christine: We are struggling with resources and new ideas on how to educate your community. How did you make a movement in educating the community. Share what has worked and what hasn't. We need more support. We need to continue to have that network of folks.



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Ronald: Are their properties ready to go where you are working on creating more $\frac{3}{4}$ living. I may know someone who is interested in investing in properties in your area so it would be great to connect.

Kimberly: It would help to work with McHenry County and Kane County courts to help find individuals who need housing.

Adam: Provided a few resources to find information that can be used to help educate the McHenry Community on Recovery.

Danny: DuPage County created a WhatsApp Community Referral Hub that is networking providers across DuPage County, Cook County and surrounding areas to find folks referrals for services. This has continued to expand, and it is growing across the state of Illinois.

Jessica: it is ideal to keep the recovery coach with individuals through transport from rural areas to Chicagoland area for services. Transportation is an issue but the more we work together it helps to keep someone in services once they get there. Online is also important to get services from Chicagoland to rural areas in IL.

Closing Remarks

Venessa: Thanked the membership for sharing openly and respectfully and we will see everyone next month. Next Westside ROSC Council meeting will be hosted via Zoom February 23, 2024

Please Join Us in Building a Sustainable Westside ROSC Council

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