



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: Jessica Kelly, Service Providers: Harm Reduction, Perfectly Flawed Foundation; Angela Chasensky, Recovery Supports: RCO, ROSC Region 1; Danny Sourbis, LCPC, Recovery Supports: RCO, Serenity House; Mahogany Harris, Service Providers: Other, Restoration 61 Victims Advocate; Adam Scheffler, Service Providers: Other, Social Worker; Stacy Zawacki, Service Providers: Harm Reduction, Perfectly Flawed Foundation; Mary Dowling, Volunteer: Drug Free Coalitions, West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force; Harry Pena, Service Providers: Other, Illinois Coalition to End Permanent Punishment; Charlotte Estell, Recovery Supports: Housing, Kalimba Foundation; Gregory Cox, Service Providers: Other, Doing Family Supportive Services; Margarita Nieves-Gonzalez, Treatment: Local Provider, A Safe Haven Foundation; Walter Houston, Recovery Supports: Housing, Kalimba Foundation; Dr. Fred L. Nance Jr., Youth-Serving: Local Prevention Providers, C.L.I.C.K. Services; La Shaun Rickman, Recovery Supports: Other, Brighter, Behavior, Choices Inc., NFP; Debra Laws, Treatment: Local Provider, Renewed Hope Community Services; Linda Sharp, Treatment: Local Provider, Woodridge Interventions.

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: Faith Based initiatives event happening on the South Side Saturday, March 30 from 10 AM to 1 PM at Fellowship Baptist Church, 4543 S Princeton Ave Chicago, IL 60609. I encourage everyone to attend even if it is on the South Side because we are all one Chicago. Also, we wanted to provide updated numbers on our Narcan Newsstand located at Madison and Cicero. This newsstand is averaging 50-60 Narcan bags that are being distributed out of this newsstand weekly.

March ROSC Council Speakers: Fatherhood: The Missing Link, Gregory Cox, Doing Family Supportive Services and A Safe Haven Foundation Programs and Housing: Helping Win the Fight Against Homelessness, Margarita Nieves-Gonzalez, A Safe Haven Foundation



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Speaker: A Safe Haven Foundation Programs and Housing: Helping Win the Fight Against Homelessness, Margarita Nieves-Gonzalez, A Safe Haven Foundation

A Safe Haven offers: Housing Services, Housing Criminal Justice Programs, Recovery Homes, Individual Case Management, Behavioral Health, Adult Education and Workforce Development.

ASHF Housing is Recovery: The purpose of this program is to prevent a person with a serious mental illness who is at high risk of unnecessary institutionalization, or a person with a substance use disorder who is at high risk of overdose, due to homelessness, a lack of access to recovery support services, and repeating cycles of hospitalizations or justice system involvement, from being institutionalized or dying. This will be accomplished by enabling affordable housing using a bridge rental subsidy combined with access to recovery support services or treatment.

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH): The major functions of ASHF RRH Partnership includes, but not limited to: Provide application assistance and enroll clients into the program. Provide housing location services to clients. Provide housing inspection services. Provide housing stabilization services, including case management to participants to help them maintain their housing stability.

SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families: ASHF U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs SSVF program targets very low-income Veterans. SSVF provides case management and supportive services to prevent the imminent loss of a Veteran's home or identify a new, more suitable housing situation for the individual and his or her family; or to rapidly re-house Veterans and their families who are homeless and might remain homeless without this assistance.

ASHF Housing Barrier Removal Initiative: ASHF Housing Barrier Removal Initiative (HBRI) is grounded in the core values and evidence-based practices adopted by all housing programs in the Chicago Continuum of Care, including, but not limited to: Housing First and Harm Reduction; and the assistance offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety).

Rental Assistance: ARPA – American Rescue Plan, IDVA Veteran Rental Assistance, All Chicago Making Homelessness History.

Scattered Sites: We are one of the few agencies in Chicago equipped to accommodate entire families in crisis. Supportive services are offered in a safe, secure environment where participants are able to establish consistency, stabilize health, and pursue education and employment en-route to self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

Housing Stabilization Services: Rapid Re-Housing, Master Leasing, Place-Based Vouchers, Section 8 Vouchers, VASH Vouchers, Housing Choice Vouchers, Rental Assistance, Transportation Assistance, Moving/Relocation and Storage Assistance, Chicago Furniture Bank, Assistance Securing Identification Documents, Access to Public Benefits, Job Training, Adult Education Preparation, Illinois Homeless Prevention Fund

Housing Supporting 101: The goal of the Supporting Housing Program is to strengthen, through supportive services, the ability of low-income individuals to retain permanent housing. The purpose of supportive services is to address the special needs that have prevented participants from achieving permanent housing within the community by providing case management, advocacy and counseling. Evidence Based Practice – Positive Outcomes & Cost-effective research.

In order to be successful at providing quality support someone needs to be as they transition out of homelessness is Wellness Checks/ Home Visits, Tenant Meetings, Life Skills / Coffee Chat / Groups, Counseling, Transportation, Social Activities, Case Management, SOAR.

Help Us Win the Fight Against Homelessness.



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Speaker: Fatherhood: The Missing Link, Gregory Cox, Doing Family Supportive Services

In the USA, how many children live in a home without a biological, step, or adaptive father present? 18.3 million children, more than 1 in 4 (25%), live without a father in the home. Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2020).

Fatherhood Engagement Benefits: Fathers promote more exploratory, independent behavior on the part of their young children and also engage them in more physical and stimulating play than most mothers do.

Better Chances for Success: In fact, studies have shown that children with actively involved fathers are: 43% more likely to earn A's in school and 33% less likely to repeat a grade than those without engaged dads. Furthermore, when dads are involved at school, either through engaging with students in the classroom, or interacting with teachers, faculty, or other parents, their children learn more and perform better in school, exhibit healthier behavior, are more likely to participate in extracurricular activities, have fewer discipline problems, and overall, enjoy school more (Michigan.gov).

Better Stress Management: Actively involved father figures during childhood are more likely to have an improved ability to handle stress. When the father isn't emotionally invested in a relationship with their child, it in turn becomes difficult for the child to develop appropriate emotional reactions, such as stress management.

Barriers To Father Involvement: Community Provider-based Barriers: Failure to include fathers explicitly in invitations; personal biases, such as dismissal of fathers'. Fathers' Practical Barriers: Conflicting work schedule; military deployment; incarceration; instability. Fathers' Motivational Barriers: lack of male program staff; tension with child's mother; lack of clarity about benefits of participation.

Strategies for Engaging Fathers: Communicate directly with fathers, including nonresident dads, and extend a personal invitation to participate; Adjust program schedule to meet fathers' needs. Create a father-friendly environment. Give warm welcomes, greet participants by name; Offer materials created for fathers; Recognize and reinforce their contributions. Look for and take advantage of moments of opportunity when fathers are especially motivated (e.g., baby's birth). Offer resources to achieve parenting and related goals.

Discussion Highlight Talking Points:

Stacey: Do you work with sex offenders. (ASH does work with juveniles who are part of the justice system when it comes to age issues with the offense, but we do not work with people who were convicted of sexual crime.) How about housing for people who are still using drugs. (Yes, we do. We have housing that supports harm reduction.)

MXHeart: How do we connect our participants with your programs? Also, we are hearing that resources are being taken by migrants, especially housing. Is that the case with ASH? (ASH have housing for both Chicago residents and immigrants so it is not taking away from Chicago. We have a food and pantry line that is open to the community on Wednesdays from 9am-1pm.

Jessica: Completely agreed with Gregory on fathers and families. She then shared her personal story about how her kids and their father are involved in their life and being a single mom.

Gregory: Lived Experience is hosting a one day conference on the importance of lived experience and its role in providing services.

Venessa: It is about reducing stigma that we can more educate about this barrier for fathers and get more community awareness and service providers to explore providing more services around this topic.



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MXHeart: I am Able Center for Family Development – Central is hosting an event. May 31st. On the Road To Wellness. We would love to have speakers and the ROSC council come to provide information. Be on the street on Roosevelt Road to provide services to families on the street.

John: Confirmed organization information and said it was important that the organization is on call.

Venessa: There is the 2024 National Rally for Recovery on September 21st. Please save the date and let everyone know that Illinois recovery will be on the stage for everyone and folks across the country.

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 March 22, 2024

Please Join Us in Building a Sustainable Westside ROSC Council

This project is funded in whole or part by the Illinois Department of Human Services,
Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery.