



Minutes of the Meeting

Date: April 23, 2024 **Time:** 11am CST **Location:** Zoom

Meeting Agenda: PRAYER,

**1. PRAYER, Introductions & Updates: Neesha Stringfellow
Network with Council Meeting Attendees**

-Tanya Reid from Sound Minds

- Michael Wood from Banyan Treatment Center

- Dr. Kathleen Burke and Angela McClellan- RCO Joliet

-Cristina Banda- Illinois Family Resource Center

-Jim O' Connor- Second Story Foundation

Event Updates: Jada Anthony

What's New from our Council Members and Partners?

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.

-Tanya Reid from Sound Minds gave a presentation on "You Good?" t-shirts are not only stylish and comfortable, but they also support a great cause. Heartlife Ministries is a non-profit organization that provides support and resources to individuals struggling with mental health issues. By purchasing one of these t-shirts, you're not only spreading awareness about mental health but also contributing to a worthy cause. So, why not make a difference and get your "You Good?" t-shirt. The link was provided to all council meeting attendees and encouraged to u

- **Michael Wood from Banyan Treatment Center**- The Spiritual Care Network is an upcoming event that aims to bridge the gap between mental health professionals and members of the church. Michael Wood from Banyan Treatment Center spoke about the importance of such an event in the fight against drug addiction. He will provide further details on how the event can help combat drug addiction and how both mental health professionals and members of the church can benefit from this collaboration.

- **Dr. Kathleen Burke and Angela McClellan** will provide an update on the Will County RCO (Recovery Community Organization). They will discuss the progress made by the organization and any challenges faced. The following text discusses the services provided by the Recovery Center, such as relationship building, use of the computer lab and professional pantry, and access to a social environment. The presentation also features pictures of the center's design, highlighting the TV room and professional pantry, and invites the audience to ask questions. Additionally, the text describes the renovation of an empty building into a comfortable community space, complete with a new bathroom and artwork.

-**Cristina Banda**- Cristina is currently searching for teams to participate in a Spanish-language curriculum pilot program. Additionally, she provides free webinars in both Spanish and English, with topics ranging from "Building Healthy Parenting through Recovery" to "Children Impacted by Addiction." Cristina is an active participant in various conferences and health fairs, such as the Asian American Conference on problem gambling and the near Southside ROSC health fair, where she collects and shares valuable resources for organizations.

Jim O'Connor- Jim is a strong advocate for recovery programs that emphasize the importance of both love and structure. Second Story Foundation is leading the way in this approach by offering a holistic recovery experience that includes job training and microloans for transportation. To further their mission, Jim has outlined an ambitious fundraising goal of \$5 million for a new recovery center, with a target date of summer 2025. As someone who has experienced the power of recovery firsthand, Jim is grateful to be on the board of a recovery community organization and is excited to share their personal story with others. Jim shares their experience with achieving sobriety and securing stable housing. They plan to establish a 60-acre horse ranch to provide recovery and mental health services, free of charge and without billing insurance.

Networking and Collaboration: 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:

- Loving Grief Care, grief counseling program every third Tuesday of the month from 7 to 8 pm.
- a crisis response training and a youth mental health first aid training.
 - Jada Anthony announces a Rally for Recovery in Chicago on September 21, 2024,.
 - Neesha Stringfellow encourages attendees to share upcoming events on HLM recovery's social media platforms, tagging the account for visibility.

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 share upcoming events via email for dissemination.
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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.

Next Meeting Date: **Tuesday May 28th in Person at We Care of Grundy at 10:30 AM CST**

Meeting Adjourned.

Individual Introductions:

Attendees introduced themselves, their roles, and organizations:

- Neesha Stringfellow- HLM Recovery
- Arrie Simpson- Therapist
- Aishwayra Balakrishna- Grundy Health Dept
- Allison Thomas- Rosecrance
- Angella McClland- RCO Joliet
- Caitlyn Daly- Will County MAPP Collaborative, focusing on community health improvement.
- Connie Dewall-Program Manager Will County Substance Use Initiatives WCHD
- Cristina Banda-Illinois Family Resource Center
- Cristyna Ramirez-Existential Counselor Society, residential treatment facility for addiction recovery.
- Danny Sourbis-Serenity House and DuPage ROSC
- Jarrett Burton-Serenity House and DuPage ROSC
- Jim O'Connor- Second Story Foundation Crete
- Lynn Taylor- HLM Recovery Council Member
- Ruby Powell- Council member
- Marianne Bithos- NAMI South Suburbs
- Michael Wood- Banyan Treatment Center
- Natalie- New Invitee
- Paula Ekstrom- New Invitee
- Troy Green-Gateway, providing outpatient services.
- Timothy Brown- Gateway, providing outpatient services.
- Tanya Simmons Reid- Sound Minds
- Sonya Watson- New Invitee
- Scott Sylvester- RCO Joliet
- Paul Hempel
- Jada Anthony- HLM Recovery
- Tarcia Leak- HLM Recovery
- Yvonne Orr- New Invitee
- Val Dixson- Robinson County
- Ginni Demko-Behavioural Health Alliance of Grundy
- Marilyn Alexander- Publishing
- Andrea- New Invitee
- Kathleen Burke- Will county Health Dept, RCO Joliet