



Supporting a Diverse Chicago West Side Community

## Westside ROSC Council

Lead Agency: Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition

Friday, April 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:** Charlotte A. Estell, Recovery Supports: Housing, Kalimba Foundation, Richard Butts, Recovery Supports: Housing, The Guildhaus, LaSharne Johnson, PLE: Substance Use, PLE, Ruthie Williams, Recovery Supports: Housing, Faith Way Men's Independent Living Facility, George Ebert, PLE: Substance Use, PLE, Walter Houston, Recovery Supports: Housing, Kalimba Foundation, Stacy Zawacki, Recovery Supports: RCO, The Perfectly Flawed Foundation, Angela Chasensky, Recovery Supports: RCO, Chestnut Health Systems, Michael Murray, Service Providers: Other, Social Worker, Jessica Kelly, Recovery Supports: RCO, Perfectly Flawed Foundation, Carolyn Hartfield, Service Providers: Other, Consultant

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 Dora Wright:** There is a Peer Coach Training happening in the middle of June so please let the community, PLEs and organizations know about this training if they are interested in getting a peer credential or joining the recovery industry. NOFO Update: There is no NOFO for this year to respond to so we have one more year before we need to respond as an existing council. We will also work on adding a Hispanic ROSC to support additional population on the Westside of Chicago.

**March ROSC Council Speakers:** What is a ROSC Council? & What is the Needs Assessment? ROSC Council Members: Presenter: Dora Dantzler-Wright & Venessa Moreno, CRCC, Westside ROSC Council

ROSC Councils build collaborations in their communities that connect everyone who can support recovery.

Community organizations or businesses collaborate and partner to form a shared mission for people and families who are seeking recovery. There is no shortage of people who need help on our community.

The Council sets goals and objectives to develop and grow a ROSC in their community, specific to the needs of the community as defined in a needs assessment and a readiness assessment.



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The 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.

The Westside ROSC Objectives:

- 1) 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.

An initial needs assessment will be completed to gather data to identify gaps in services across the geographical area.

In addition to the assessment a SWOT analysis should be conducted for the ROSC Council.

The data collected from the needs assessment and ROSC members is then used in strategic planning.

The Strategic Plan sets priorities for the year, focuses energy and resources, ensures that the ROSC Council is working towards common goals and assess and adjust the council's direction in response to community changes.

Our Roles and Responsibilities:

**Build:** Build a community culture that nurtures recovery by collaborating with other community members to form a Recovery Oriented System of Care.

**Achieve:** Achieve authenticity by valuing all areas of the community and all paths to recovery.

**Promote:** Promote the needs of the recovery community and promote infrastructure development through training and education.

**Respect:** Respect the sustainability of the ROSC by actively participating in Council meetings and activities and maintaining current information with the Council Roster.

**Recognize:** Recognize that community ROSC councils are part of a larger statewide network and contribute to the capacity building of the statewide recovery community.

**How do we do all this:** Establish all the areas of a ROSC: Faith, Treatment & Rehab, Peer Support, Housing, Family, Belonging, Social Support, Work & School.

FY 24 Strategic Deliverables are being submitted for the Council. As part of the deliverables is the Community Needs Assessment and this document helps the council to look at the gaps and do a SWOT analysis in the community to be able to identify support needed in recovery, mental health, substance use.

The challenges that an individual who may need resources is facing today on the Westside of Chicago. We do a survey to capture the needs of the community. This meeting will focus on that assessment, and we will have an open member discussion about the barriers and gaps that are faced in the community as stakeholders. We will also discuss strengths and opportunities to support the work we do such as with further collaboration and open communication.

The Categories Discussed from the Assessment: Services Available, Recovery Education in the Community, Intervention, Services for adolescents, long-term care, insurance, and additional services such as mental health cooccurring, prevention and education for emerging issues, and faith-based supports.

The community needs assessment was developed using a social model approach placing emphases on the importance making sure the entire community knows what recovery looks like and how to support recovery thru the continuum of care.

The focus of this assessment was in the areas of substance use prevention/mental health, early intervention, long-term recovery, recovery support, peer support, employment, recovery housing, permanent housing, re-entry and legal.



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Westside ROSC identified gaps, and strengths in resources and or the absence of resources needed which will be addressed throughout this assessment to enhance those who are in recovery, family friends and the over-arching community.

We can get direct community input as to what is needed in happen on the Westside to have positive impact.

When we roll out services this will inform the programs we provide to the Westside community.

The input is instrumental and direct what we do in this council as it provides the gaps.

The community voice is heard and directs what we provide in the community.

As a council we put out a naloxone stand in the community and that was a direct response from the needs assessment. This is just one example of what has been done. This was not just thought of it came from the assessment. We are working on finding a building where we can create a community center because that is being asked for.

The needs assessment was shared with the group and explained so everyone knows what this looks like. It is so simple it takes less than 5 minutes.

### **Discussion Highlight Talking Points:**

**Venessa:** This council is about the community and about creating this ROSC here on the Westside. Collaboration and Communication create a stronger community. Education is needed in the community in order to promote resources and the community knows we exist.

**Stacey:** You are right about folks not developing life skills and coping skills. This is something that our families didn't have either and we expect this is just happening and generations go through this. Our school system needs to teach these skills. Why do we not have it mandatory that kids are required to stop in at the counselor for 15min to check in with the counselor. Normalize getting help.

**Jessica:** The survey takes less than 5min. It is easy so do it. It took me 3min. Housing is so hard especially those on MAR. It is hard hard, hard. We need more education on MAR because it is not just accepted. And more warm handoffs with referrals. It doesn't just happen with folks who need help.

**Chuck:** Youth Counseling and Treatment. There is no easy solution and our youth need help. Also, because they are youth there are not the same services offered for SUD for youth, so you must get creative for them to get the help they need because of how funding is provided to organizations. They may need to be diagnosed with MH to get the treatment they need. Chuck is with the West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force, and they can do those youth assessments and a resource to the Council. Family needs support as well to make all this happen.

**Venessa:** A way to educate families in our community the participation the council attending resource Wednesdays for Cook County Jail. Here we are talking to families to help heal the family.

**Stacey and Jessica:** Speak to the challenges of providing support and services in a rural area. Addressing the lack of services and the stigma they face in a small community.

**Dora:** Stressed the increased self-care of what we need to do for ourselves. We need to take care in order to do the work we do.



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**Chuck:** Helps support his health with family, faith and good food to help him as he grounds himself in his church.

**Jessica:** Food, family, activities such as support help her. Also doing nothing helps her. Protecting her own time as she needs to recharge with being exhausted from this work coming home.

#### 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 May 24, 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.