

Westside ROSC Council

Lead Agency: Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition

Friday, June 28, 2024

10am – 12pm

[Zoom Meeting Information](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/695761637?pwd=eVVOUzJlN3VUcXl6WFJzSnVNOVJXdz09>

Meeting ID: 695 761 637 | Password: 038839

Meeting Minutes

Welcome Extended by; Dora Dantzler-Wright: 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: John Wright, CRCC, Recovery Supports: RCO; Chris Leavy, CRCC, Recovery Supports: RCO; Dora Wright, CRCC, Recovery Supports: RCO; Candyce Banford, CRCC, Recovery Supports: RCO; Aimee Rabe, CRCC, Recovery Supports: RCO; Richard Butts, The Guildhaus, Recovery Supports: Housing; Stacy Zawacki, The Perfectly Flawed Foundation, Service Providers: Harm Reduction; Angela Chasensky, Statewide ROSC, Recovery Supports: RCO; Debra Laws, Renewed Hope, Treatment: Local Provider; Linda Sharp, Woodridge Interventions, Treatment: Local Provider; Charlotte A. Estell, Kalimba Foundation, Recovery Supports: Housing; Tiffany Webb, Healthcare Alternatives System, Treatment: Local Provider; Walter Houston, Kalimba House, Recovery Supports: Housing; Darren A. Dunham, Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare, Treatment: Local Provider; Kimberly Haywood, Brighter Behavior Choices, Recovery Supports: Other; Angelina Sanchez, Brighter Behavior Choices, Recovery Supports: Other; Leon Venable, Kalimba House Foundation, Recovery Supports: Housing; Adam L Scheffler, Social Worker, Service Providers: Other; Aimee Potter, VA, Healthcare: Hospital; Amanda Horn, Perfectly Flawed Foundation, Service Providers: Harm Reduction; Francisco Celis Yanez, Bethel New Life, Recovery Supports: Other; Cristina Banda, The Illinois Family Resource Center, Recovery Supports: Other; Ruthie Williams, Faith Way Men's Independent Living Facility, Recovery Supports: Housing; Perrise Thomas, World Vision, Treatment: Local Provider; Jessica Kelly, Perfectly Flawed Foundation, Service Providers: Harm Reduction; Ronald Muhammad, FOI Men's Sober Housing Re-Entry, Recovery Supports: Housing; Van Asher, Chicago Recovery Alliance, Service Providers: Harm Reduction; Aja Woods, PLE: Substance Use, PLE; Angela M, PLE: Substance Use, PLE; Shari Manolis, PLE: Substance Use, PLE; Sharon Russell, PLE: Substance Use, PLE

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; Dora Dantzler-Wright: 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.



Westside ROSC Council

Supporting a Diverse Chicago West Side Community

Council Updates by Dora Dantzler-Wright: Reminder that if we do not have an MOU with your organization the council would like to make sure to have an MOU with every organization at this meeting. As a goal of the Westside Council, we will always be working on bringing more speakers like our speaker today and providing needed community education.

ROSC Council Speaker: History and Principles of Harm Reduction, ROSC Council Members: Presenter: Van Asher, Chicago Recovery Alliance

Harm Reductionist. Works with several organizations since 1992. Lower east side needle exchange. First in us to have a store front. First study to show the impact of syringe service programs. Developed the idea to create fentanyl test strips to test drugs and not just urine. One of the first overdose prevention trainers.

Handing out supplies are important, but the training is just important. You must show them how to use the tools. Such as during a Narcan training do you talk about rescue breathing.

January 1981, The Junkiebond was formed as an advocacy and activist drug user group based in Rotterdam. They started a needle exchange program to protect people from hepatitis B.

In NYC, Act Up (Aids Coalition to Unleash Power), gay men living with HIV, drug injectors and people of color who all came together for a unified cause.

1988 First legal Needle exchange in Tacoma Washington by Dave Purchase. The Harm Reduction Working Group was the group that started the national alliance. Dan Bigg who started Chicago Recovery Alliance was part of this group. He was distributing injectable Naloxone before it was legal. Edith Springer, The Godmother of Harm Reduction.

If you are going to work in harm reduction it takes retraining what you know to be effective at Harm Reduction. Unlearning what we have learned. If you are handing out supplies that is great, but we need to look at the societal harms that are done to people such as legal punishment and the impact it has on the whole family. Stigma supports criminalization to keep people criminals and you can not have secure housing or employment.

Harm Reduction: A philosophical and political movement focused on shifting power and resources to people most vulnerable to structural violence created by systematic racism, with an emphasis on the dismantling the war on drugs and the people that use them.

Language: Stop using "Shooting Up": When we hear about it, it is usually used in the news and about young man of color. BUT those that use are typically Caucasian males. Stop using "Still": The stigma of the statement "oh you are STILL doing this" ... take away any feeling of advancement. Language Matters. It is better but still not better. Substance Use Disorder is used for billing purposes and follows you for the rest of your life and stigmatizing. Substance Use. Non/reactive. Abstaining. Instead of Medication Assisted Treatment. Why must they have to get their medication daily from a location. How about Medication as Treatment.

Look at how Harm Reduction conversations need to be different. It is not punitive. We should help them move forward in the way they want and help keep them safe and support them.

Drug Testing is not punitive. Use words like reactive. It changes the conversation with the person, so it is a conversation that leads to help moving forward.

Focus: The quality of individual, community life and well-being – Not necessarily cessation of all drug use – as the criteria for successful interventions and policies.

Recognize the realities of poverty, class, racism, social isolation, past trauma, sex-based discrimination, and other inequalities affect both people's vulnerability to and capacity for effectively dealing with drug-related harm.



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Supporting a Diverse Chicago West Side Community

Discussion Highlight Talking Points:

Dora: There are a lot of funds going into Narcan distribution and harm reduction. Here on the West Side, we are seeing addiction in our community and even with more funds being contributed to harm reduction we are still seeing overdoses happening in our community. We need more services and to provide what really is harm reduction. We need to have you come back to train us at CRCC on how we can be better at training overdose prevention.

Dora: We are practicing risk reduction, but it is not enough to have an impact on what we are seeing.

John: You are changing how I see harm reduction. You are saying things that I have never heard, and I want to learn more. It is changing my view on harm reduction. It is not just abstinence.

Adam: In regards in alcohol, I got into harmful use and then I had to stop in the context of abstinence. Then over time we learn more about it is not just abstinence. It is all about creating safety and reducing harm.

Angela: In Joliet it is not just handing out Narcan it is about my language I use and how we introduce harm reduction into this community. We are a new RCO, and it would be great to come do this presentation down here.

Jessica: I learn something different from you every time.

Van: Myths: One pill one time. Marijuana cannot be laced with fentanyl (different burn points). Crack and fentanyl burn differently. There is no skin contact with fentanyl and overdose.

Ronald: We need to know our history, so we do not repeat the past. Human connection.

Van: We need to be the unpopular voice when we know what the popular thing being said is wrong, is stigmatizing, is homophobic, transphobic, racist, we need to support one another to pave the road for change.

John: Today was powerful. You inspired us and me today.

Closing Remarks

Dora: 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 July 26, 2024

Please Join Us in Building a Sustainable Westside ROSC Council

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