

## LC ROSC Monthly Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2024, 10:30 am

Dr. Mary Roberson opened the meeting. She shared LC ROSC's goals and objectives. The positive impact we are making in the Lake County area.

Barbara Young introduced Ashley Watson, Lake County Health Department, Community Health Specialist

Ashely shared the following with us:

1000 employees at the Lake County Health Department

Serve 700,000 residents

40,000 patients

2,300 annually served

Inspect 3,000 food facilities

Assisted 4,000 in crisis

7 Sites- 2 in Waukegan, Round Lake Beach, North Chicago, Highland Park, Libertyville and Zion

The following are a list of treatment/services offered:

### **Programs:**

**ATP Addiction Treatment Program**-group and individual counseling, relapse counseling,

**SAP- Substance Abuse Program**- offers opioid treatment, (MAT) Medical Assisted Treatment, (IOP) Intensive Outpatient Program, Continuing Care Program, Opioid Overdose Prevention Education Program. *She expressed that this is the area where her heart and soul rests.*

Harm Reduction Program at multiple sites, individuals can request kits without stipulation, (Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips, Narcan, syringes, and wound care kits.)

Lake County jail offers Narcan at release to reduce overdose, as most users, reuse upon release.

### **A Way Out-**

Through A Way Out, a person can:

- Walk into a participating police department
- Turn in any drugs and paraphernalia without fear of criminal charges (not required)
- Access inpatient or outpatient care

It helps people access treatments, to reduce overdose and improve their access to treatment, 24 hours, 7 days a week. They can also turn in drugs and paraphernalia without questions.

**Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevent-** This prevention included focused initiatives and technical assistance to the Lake County community, schools, health care providers, youth, serving organizations. Providing education in substance use and abuse. The goal is to reduce overdoses through community approaches.

The department has cross referenced data with health equity data through with the health department's screening tools.

The three hot spots in Lake County are Waukegan, North Chicago and Zion. (Both for youth and adults.)

With the huge spikes more Narcan was ordered.

She noted that North Chicago was most hesitant with response.

### **Youth Involvement:**

Tragically, Ashley reported that there were two youth overdoses, one accidental, the other non-accidental.

Again, the youth hotspots were identical to the adult hot spots. To address this, the LCHD are addressing it in the following ways:

They are attempting to connect with youth groups in churches.

Social media campaigns to reach those not in church.

It was noted that 1/3 of youth use medications left in homes. Data shows this is the first time use for youth. These efforts are to decrease the numbers.

After Ashley Watson's presentation, the meeting was opened for questions.

Q1. With Overdose Awareness Day approaching the first question was asked if anyone in the meeting had experience with an overdose recovery from the use of Narcan.

A1. Walter Houston shared his experience with Narcan/overdose at a recovery house. He, however, was not able to share from the person's experience as the person never returned to the Oxford house.

A1a. Tom Moore shared that he attends meetings and sees the use of Narcan as a second chance of life.

Q2. Yajaira Balderas asked are the police were involved with Narcan use?

A2. Ashley explained the use of Narcan and the importance of seeking medical attention after its application. Now, there is a need to use 3 doses of Narcan instead of 2. Vista Hospital has a great pathway to recovery and a physician follows up with the individual.

Q4. LaSheena Jenkins asked how much indirect approach have we had to the citizens of North Chicago?

A4. Ashley shared that there are more African Americans in North Chicago than the other two cities. One of the approaches used was to ask this question, “Did you know that this was a problem?”

Bruce Johnson of NACASA offered to train and supply them with Narcan.

Q5. Barbara Young asked if anyone had any ideas/suggestions of how we can reach North Chicago residents?

A5. Dr. Mary responded that a continual presence in the city of North Chicago could be an approach.

The meeting attendees shared their upcoming events, etc.

NIRCO-  
Overdose Awareness Event, August 31, 2024

The Rally Is Coming!

National Recovery Rally, September 21, 2024, at UIS Credit Union 1  
This is a kid friendly event.

There is still time to become a sponsor and vendor.

Jeffrey Roberson, communicated the numerous vendors at the rally- I Can’t Believe It’s Not Meat, Chicago’s Favorite- The Real Harold’s Chicken, Ms. Tittle’s famous cupcakes,

Transportation- Since we have not received a large interest in transportation to the event, we will no longer provide a bus, but we are investigating renting a 15-passenger van for those requiring transportation.

Dr. Mary, with a connection from Neesha Stringfellow, (Heartlife Ministries ROSC), will be interviewed for a segment of WGN’s Someone You Should Know along with Joh Wright of CRCC.

LaSheena Jenkins- Faith In Place’s Session 5: Sacred Earth: EcoWomanism's Invitation to Environmental **and** Social Justice. A Conversation with Dr. Melanie L. Harris, September 24, 5:30-6:30 pm CT/6:30-7:30 pm ET