



Supporting a Diverse Chicago West Side Community

Westside ROSC Council

Lead Agency: Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition

Friday, September 27, 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; 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: Toniesha Roberts, Trilogy behavioral health; Fred L Nance Jr, C.L.I.C.K. Services NFP; Borris Powell, Malcolm X College; Michael Murray, Individual; Kami Garrison, Statewide ROSC Region 3 TA; Mary Dowling, West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force; John J. Reed, WestCare Foundation; Francisco Celis Yanez, New Bethel; George Ebert, Kalimba Foundation NFP; Sylvester Bisaga, Way Back Inn Foundation; Charlotte Estell, Kalimba Foundation; Angelina Sanchez, Brighter Behavior Choices

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.

ROSC Council Speaker: September: Celebrating Recovery Month and Overdose Awareness with Community Action; Presenter: Westside ROSC Council Team

Council Updates by Venessa Moreno: 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 ROSC Council, we will always be working on bringing more speakers to provide community education each month.

Topic Discussion:

Recap Recovery Month and the events that happened throughout the Chicagoland area. There were events in our community and there was the National Recovery Rally that is in Chicago on September 21, 2024, at UIC Credit Union 1 Arena. The Rally promotes Recovery for the entire nation to reduce stigma and show that recovery is possible. The Rally was a huge success and so many council members attended and other ROSC Councils from around the state and even country.

Several members at the meeting today shared their own stories about attending the Rally and other events. How it had a huge impact on the community, their participants and the work done personally.

Now as a council we will have a group discussion about what are your takeaways from recovery month if you participated in some kind of event. Is Recovery Month providing more public awareness that Recovery is possible? What does recovery month mean to

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you? Is it being part of the events? Is it putting a face and voice on recovery? Is it aiding in providing more community education? The council had an open discussion about the impact here on the Westside of Chicago.

Recovery month is important to support peer workers in the community. Borris Powell shared about how peers need to see recovery month activities and experience advocacy and seeing people in long term recovery in action. We need to show up. Drugs are readily available in our communities and why are recovery resources are not visible in the same way.

West Side Heroin Opioid Task Force – Overdose Awareness Day – The Council supported that event. Great turnout from the community. One item that stood out is they had a mock OPS site tent to educate the community on why OPS sites are saving lives and can help a community.

We reviewed as a council the goals of the council and what we will be gearing up for coming into the end of 2024 and going into 2025. How council members can be part of next steps.

Go to websites like: <https://www.overdoseday.com/> and <https://www.samhsa.gov/recovery-month> and download the toolkit to get images and text that you can use for your organization to celebrate with your participants and can be used the rest of the year promoting recovery and reducing stigma.

For those that are new to the council we have the needs assessment to fill out and this is vital to the work we do with this council. <https://forms.gle/rmYtSN2zCZBSBsr29>

Discussion Highlight Talking Points:

Francisco: Shared attending the Pre-Rally Social and how it was great to meet folks from around the US and to bring folks with him to experience an evening celebrating Recovery.

Derek: Spoke to the impact that Recovery Month has on him and supports the work he does in the community. Participants and people in recovery need to see this in action.

Mary: The West Side Task Force was a huge success, and it was great to see the community involvement. I followed along on social as well and it feels like you are there. It is great to see that today there is a movement, and the Rally symbolizes that. We are recovering in the open. To see those honored at overdose awareness day. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

Toni: Working on the streets doing outreach I see more recovery now than I did back then. It is still hard when businesses do not want to have recovery set up by them even though we are there to be more visible than the addiction by their storefront.

John R: I am a person in long term recovery, and I have worked as a CADC for 20 years in the field. I have been in many recovery environments. The advocacy for recovery is increasing and I see the increase of awareness of opioid crisis. I see the stigma being reduced since I started working in the industry. There is more awareness of all types of addictions now. John R announced that she wants to work with Mary Dowling and provide much needed camping gear to folks who are homeless (~\$1.5K). This was an incredible moment to share during the council meeting between two folks wanting to make a difference.

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 October 25, 2024

Please Join Us in Building a Sustainable Westside ROSC Council

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