



# Southland Recovery Coalition ROSC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes Date/Time: 8/28/2024 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

**LOCATION:** Virtual via Zoom

**PRESENTER(S):** Bridgett Carter and Kenneth Brown from Proactive Community Services

**TOPIC:** Behavioral Health Lab & Access to Resources

ATTENDEES	AFFILIATION	
1	Angelia F. Smith	Cornerstone CDC, Lead Partner Agency
2	Yvonne M. Orr	ICSC, Partner Agency
3	Kathryn Straniero	Together We Cope, Partner Agency
4	Kamil Walton	Cornerstone CDC, Deputy Director
5	April Haymond	Higher Hts Initiative, Network Coord
6	Leonard Noble	Cornerstone CDC, Workforce Dev Dir
7	Bridgett Carter	Carter & Carter; Proactive Community
8	Jasmine Atkins	ICSC, Community Navigator
9	Lamont Wallace	ICSC, Ideal Foundation Mentor
10	May Salman	Together We Cope
11	Maya Hardy	United Way of Metro Chicago

ATTENDEES	AFFILIATION	
12	Capucine Walls	Cornerstone CDC
13	Katie Huffman	Together We Cope
14	Andrea Coletta	Together We Cope
15	Souheir Rahman	Together We Cope
16	Christine Cornacchia	Together We Cope
17	Eula Burge	PCS
18	Kenneth Brown	PCS
19	Kami Garrison	IDHS SUPR
20	Neesha Stringfellow	Will Grundy ROSC
21	Johanna Gonzalez	IDHS SUPR
22	Kamil Walton	Cornerstone CDC
23	Denise Jones	Tender Touch Inc.

**MEETING SUMMARY:** The Southland Recovery Coalition ROSC Council Meeting introduced new members Jasmine and Lamont, highlighting their roles in community outreach. Kenneth Brown from Proactive Community Services detailed their services, including HIV testing, harm reduction, and job readiness training, serving a community with 93% African American, 28% male, and 91% below \$24,000 income. Bridget Carter discussed developing a community advisory board for Proactive. Kathryn Straniero from Bremen Township shared updates on their Wellness Center, including new programs and upcoming events. Maya Hardy announced the April Food Day and a legislative mixer and introduced her new role as Community Engagement Manager.

## Minute Highlights:

### *Introduction of Guest Speakers from Proactive Community Services*

Kenneth Brown is a seasoned professional, with over 20 years of experience in the social services and corporate and independent sectors. He currently serves as the senior director of harm, reduction and deflection for proactive community services in Flossmoor, Illinois. Led by Eula Burge. Thank you for putting your info in Eula. His diverse background includes work in child welfare, behavioral and mental health, domestic violence, prevention, homelessness and drug addiction. Kenneth understands the critical role that family and community play in fostering resilience and providing support.

**SOUTHLAND RECOVERY COALITION**  
 943 EAST LINCOLN HWY • FORD HEIGHTS, IL 60411  
 708.758.2565 | [WWW.SOUTHLANDRECOVERY.ORG](http://WWW.SOUTHLANDRECOVERY.ORG)

*Changing Communities...Restoring Lives!*  
**SRC ROSC COUNCIL PARTNER AGENCIES**  
 Cornerstone Community Development Corporation, NFP (Lead Fiscal Agent)  
 Indigenous Community Service Center • Together We Cope (Partner Agencies)

Funded in whole or in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery



# Southland Recovery Coalition ROSC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes Date/Time: 8/28/2024 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

---

He believes that strong family ties and a supportive community are essential for individual and collective well-being. Helping people navigate challenges and achieve their fullest potential. Kenneth has an amazing wife and 3 children that keep him grounded and motivated. Kenneth is known for his ability to teach, motivate, and inspire people, helping them achieve success from a young age. Kenneth has shown a passion for writing, having been a published author since the age of 14. My man, he is also a regular performer at open mic nights, where he shares his spoken word pieces. And, Kenneth, we have something we want to follow up with you. Regarding cornerstone and your spoken word talents. His work is not only a Testament to his talent, but a reflection of his dedication to inspiring others through words.

Bridgett Carter is also a seasoned professional in community engagement and health education with over 40 years dedicated to enhancing social cohesion and community resilience. Her journey began with grassroots, outreach and organizing, where she played a pivotal role in mobilizing local communities around key social health issues, such as infant mortality, reproductive health, HIV STD chronic disease and environmental sustainability. Bridgett has a proven track record in creating and managing programs that connect diverse groups and strategic partnerships, making her a key figure in driving positive change, elevating community voices and gaining community trust. Through her work Bridgett continues to empower individuals and organizations to work towards common goals and solutions. Bridgett attended both Fisk (an historic HBCU), and Illinois State universities, majoring with concentrations in healthcare administration and planning and community health education. After a successful 36-year career with the Cook County Department of Public Health, she started her own company. Carter & Carter Community Engagement Consultants, helping community-based organizations, bridge engagement partnerships and elevate community resources. She presently serves on the Board of Directors for Southland Ministerial Health Network. One of our partners mentoring you through technology and Governor State University's Serious Advisory Board, which is community engagement for early stroke recognition and immediate action in stopping a stroke. Bridgett is a resident of Richton Park, and enjoys reading, watching foreign films, live jazz, and spending time with her grandsons. Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you Kenneth Brown and Bridgett Carter, from proactive community services.

## Proactive Community Services and Programs

- Provided demographic information about the community they serve, including income levels, gender, and race. Outlined the various services provided by Proactive Community Services, including HIV care coordination, harm reduction, and job readiness training.
- Discussed the integrated services plan at Proactive Community Services, focusing on meeting the needs of the whole individual. Highlighted the importance of collaboration and working with clients to achieve desired outcomes.
- Emphasized the goal of preventing death and overdose through harm reduction principles. He emphasized the importance of using quotes as motivational tools for success. He shared Proactive Community Services' mission to provide chronic disease prevention and wellness services.

**SOUTHLAND RECOVERY COALITION**  
943 EAST LINCOLN HWY ♦ FORD HEIGHTS, IL 60411  
708.758.2565 | [WWW.SOUTHLANDRECOVERY.ORG](http://WWW.SOUTHLANDRECOVERY.ORG)

*Changing Communities...Restoring Lives!*  
**SRC ROSC COUNCIL PARTNER AGENCIES**  
Cornerstone Community Development Corporation, NFP (Lead Fiscal Agent)  
Indigenous Community Service Center • Together We Cope (Partner Agencies)

Funded in whole or in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery



# Southland Recovery Coalition ROSC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes Date/Time: 8/28/2024 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

---

## Employment Services and Community Engagement

- Talked about the employment services provided by Proactive Community Services, including job readiness training and transportation assistance.
- Discussed the challenges faced by individuals with low incomes and the importance of financial stability. Mentioned the medication adherence program, which provides pharmaceuticals at lower costs to vulnerable populations.
- Highlighted the importance of community engagement and the role of Proactive Community Services in providing resources and interventions and noted that as one of SRC's priorities in its FY25 Strategic Plan.

## Q&A and Additional Information

- Johanna Gonzalez-IDHS-SUPR asks about partnerships for employment placement and transportation assistance. Kenneth Brown explains the partnerships with local organizations and the use of mobile vehicles for transportation.
- Yvonne Orr mentions Uber credits available for HIV clients.
- Eula Burge shares success stories of hiring clients and providing job training within the agency.

## Bridgett Carter – Community Advisory Board

- Discusses the development of a community advisory board (CAB) for Proactive Community Services. Also emphasizes the importance of community members with lived experiences in the CAB.
- Outlined the benefits of the CAB, including stipends, transportation, and lunch for participants.

## Announcements

- Kathy provided updates on Bremen Township's Wellness Center, including new programs and activities.
- Noted the upcoming Women's Wellness Walk and the various activities and services available at the event. Also shared about the need for resources to transport young adults with mental issues to various appointments and services.
- Maya announced the April Food Day event and encouraged SRC's participation and support. She provided information about the Southland Human Services Leadership Council and the upcoming legislative mixer.
- Maya also shared info about her new role as Community Engagement Manager and expresses gratitude for the support from the team. She emphasized the importance of networking and collaboration among the participants.
- April highlights the importance of neighborhood networks and applauded SRC's continued focus on continued collaboration and support for community initiatives.

**SOUTHLAND RECOVERY COALITION**  
943 EAST LINCOLN HWY • FORD HEIGHTS, IL 60411  
708.758.2565 | [WWW.SOUTHLANDRECOVERY.ORG](http://WWW.SOUTHLANDRECOVERY.ORG)

*Changing Communities...Restoring Lives!*  
**SRC ROSC COUNCIL PARTNER AGENCIES**  
Cornerstone Community Development Corporation, NFP (Lead Fiscal Agent)  
Indigenous Community Service Center • Together We Cope (Partner Agencies)



# Southland Recovery Coalition ROSC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes Date/Time: 8/28/2024 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

## ACTION ITEMS:

1. Refer potential community advisory board members to Proactive Community Services.
2. Share information on the Bremen Township women's wellness walk event scheduled for October 19th.
3. Research options for transportation assistance for mental health services for non-senior adults.

## UPCOMING ROSC COUNCIL MEETINGS:

### SRC ROSC Council Meeting Schedule

July 31, 2024	October 23, 2024	January 29, 2025	April 30, 2025
<b>August 28, 2024</b>	November 20, 2024	February 26, 2025	May 28, 2025 (Recovery Conference)*
September 25, 2024*	December 18, 2024*	March 26, 2025*	June 25, 2025

INDICATES: **upcoming meeting** in-person meeting

To be added to the SRC ROSC Council as a member, please email [afsmith@cornerstone-cdc.org](mailto:afsmith@cornerstone-cdc.org) or [yorr@cornerstone-cdc.org](mailto:yorr@cornerstone-cdc.org)