



# Southland Recovery Coalition ROSC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes Date/Time: 9/25/2024 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

**LOCATION:** Cornerstone Community Development Corporation, 943 E Lincoln Highway, Ford Heights, IL 60411

**PRESENTER(S):** Yvonne M. Orr

**TOPIC:** Understanding Community Listening Forums

ATTENDEES		AFFILIATION	ATTENDEES		AFFILIATION
1	Angelia F. Smith	Cornerstone CDC, Lead Partner Agency	25	Katie Huffman	Together We Cope
2	Yvonne M. Orr	ICSC, Partner Agency	26	Latrina Silas	IL Family Resource Center
3	Kathryn Straniero	Together We Cope, Partner Agency	27	Denise Jones	Tender Touch, Executive Dir
4	Kamil Walton	Cornerstone CDC, Deputy Director	28	David Underwood	PLE
5	April Haymond	Higher Hts Initiative, Network Coord	29	Yasmeen Hismeh	Together We Cope
6	Leonard Noble	Cornerstone CDC, Workforce Dev Dir	30	Capucine Walls	Cornerstone CDC, Workforce Coor
7	Bridgett Carter	Carter & Carter, Engagement Consult	31	Ester Viverette	Cornerstone CDC
8	Jasmine Atkins	ICSC, Community Navigator	32	Eric Hernandez	PLE
9	Lamont Wallace	ICSC, Ideal Foundation Mentor	33	Terrence Houston	PLE
10	May Salman	Together We Cope	34	Keylon Vaughn	PLE
11	Maya Hardy	United Way of Metro Chicago	35	Michael Jackson	PLE
12	Sam Hill	Kirby Rehab	36	David Parcher	PLE
13	Marianne Bithos	NAMI South Suburbs	37	Destiny Cattouse	PLE
14	Denise Holman	Cook County Dept of Public Health	38	Raqwar Dixon	PLE
15	Souheir Rahman	Together We Cope	39	Angelo Chalmers	PLE
16	Christine Cornacchia	Together We Cope	40	Cory Parker	PLE
17	Jonathan Lott	PLE	41	Enycee McGregor	PLE
18	Quincy Wright	PLE	42	Sharon Wright	PLE
19	Darrien Watson	Stability Services	43	Gennesha Robinson	PLE
20	Neesha Stringfellow	HLM Recovery Will Grundy ROSC	44	Issac Logan	PLE
21	Toni S	Cornerstone CDC	45	Ronald Brotzcosch	PLE
22	Kamil Walton	Cornerstone CDC	46	Yolanda Jones	Cornerstone CDC
23	Coree Banks	Cornerstone CDC	47	Trumaine Roberson	PLE
24	Elouise Robinson	Cornerstone CDC	48	Betty M	Tender Touch Inc.

**MEETING SUMMARY:** The Southland Recovery Coalition ROSC Council Meeting covered Understanding Community Forums; discussed outreach strategies and shared “common” language/storytelling when conducting education and awareness activities throughout the Southland. Suggestions were provided for agency-to-agency potential partnerships and additional outreach to churches and schools. Participants provided insightful information about their experiences shared with peers while canvassing.

**SOUTHLAND RECOVERY COALITION**  
943 EAST LINCOLN HWY • FORD HEIGHTS, IL 60411  
708.758.2565 | 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



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## Minute Highlights:

Yvonne Orr presented on Community Listening Forums, which are a powerful way to foster understanding, build connections, and drive meaningful change for recovery awareness, especially in areas where support and resources may be limited.

Some highlights and suggestions that emerged during a robust discussion and engagement from participants for hosting effective community listening forums in the Southland are noted below:

1. **Safe Space for Sharing:** SRC needs to offer a welcoming environment to share personal stories and struggles with addiction and recovery without judgment.
2. **Resource Accessibility:** We should provide an opportunity to connect people with local recovery resources, treatment centers, mental health professionals, and peer support groups. Angelia mentioned The HUB; April noted Entry Point; and Yvonne reminded people about the Illinois Helpline.
3. **Collaborative Solutions:** By bringing together individuals in recovery, their families, local government representatives, healthcare providers, and nonprofit organizations, these forums foster a collaborative approach to addressing addiction in the community. Yvonne encouraged SRC members to use their own networks to partner with churches, barber and beauty shops to pass out information about recovery awareness.
4. **Reducing Stigma:** Listening forums work to reduce stigma by educating the public and breaking down misconceptions about addiction, making it easier for people to seek help. Kathy shared a personal story about a personal family friend's challenges with overcoming stigma and getting the help he needed.
5. **Empowering Voices** should be added as a focus for FY25: SRC will amplify the voices of those in recovery by bringing back its newsletter and "upping" its social media presence (especially during the upcoming holiday season). This allows their stories to inspire others and helps foster resilience and hope within the community.

## Suggested Activities:

1. **Storytelling Circles:** Begin each forum with a storytelling segment where participants can share their experiences with addiction and recovery. Consider inviting individuals who have successfully completed recovery programs to inspire hope and highlight the transformative power of recovery.
2. **Resource Fair and Information Booths:** Use SRC's mini recovery fair to invite where local treatment centers, health clinics, mental health counselors, and nonprofit organizations to provide information about available services and answer questions (like a resource fair but with information on the tables around the room).
3. **Interactive Workshops:** Offer workshops on stress management, coping mechanisms, job readiness, and financial literacy for those impacted by addiction. These skills can help individuals in recovery better manage their lives and reduce the risk of relapse.

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Use these activities can increase engagement, foster meaningful connections, and provide practical tools and information to support recovery in the south suburbs of Chicago.

## Announcements

- Maya Hardy mentioned the Legislative Forum and the Southland Human Services Leadership Council doing an event October 2<sup>nd</sup> with more information to follow.

## ACTION ITEMS:

1. Update strategic plan to include Empowering Voices.
2. Invite people to the in-person meeting on December 18th at Cornerstone.
3. Submit MOU if not already done.
4. Let's make our newest ROSC Council members feel welcome and comfortable!

## UPCOMING ROSC COUNCIL MEETINGS:

### SRC ROSC Council Meeting Schedule

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