

## **Westside ROSC Council**

**Lead Agency: Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition**

**Friday, November 22, 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:** Angelina Sanchez, Brighter, Behavior, Choices Inc., NFP - Phase II Recovery Cafe Chicago; Kami Garrison, Statewide ROSC Region 3 TA; Ondrea Ward, Perfectly Flawed; Angelique Valerio, The Perfectly Flawed Foundation; Cristina Banda, Illinois Family Resource Center; Toniesha Roberts, Trilogy Behavioral Health; George Ebert, Kalimba Foundation NFP; Johanna Gonzalez, IDHS - SUPR; George Ebert, Kalimba Foundation NFP; Borris Powell, Malcolm X College; Wateka Kleinpeter, Independent Contractor; Summer Angel Chism, The Perfectly Flawed Foundation; Mary Dowling, West Side Heroin Opioid Task Force; Michael A Murray, The Multitude of Zion Men's Residents; Derrick Brewer, CRCC; John Wright, CRCC; Chris Leavy, CRCC; Dora Wright, CRCC; Candyce Banford, CRCC; Aimee Rabe, CRCC; Venessa Moreno, CRCC; Yulanda A Thomas, CRCC; Carolyn Hartfield, Consultant; Jocelyn Beckham, Adrian's Purpose Sober Living; Kimberly Haywood, Brighter, Behavior, Choices; Karen Thomas, CRCC; Linda Sharp, CPD: Police Administration Clerk. CADC, ICDVP; Nyla Christian, CAARD

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:** Cultural Responsiveness in Recovery Support: Two Part Series; Presenter: Nyla Christian, Executive Director of CAARD

**Council Updates by Johanna Gonzalez:** Johanna provided an overview of how Westside ROSC Councils connect to other ROSC Council across the state of Illinois. The purpose of ROSC is to make sure we coordinate efforts and bring organizations together by connecting dots and support the efforts that all agencies make in our network.

We look at ROSC Councils as problem solving coalitions across Illinois. We ask the ROSC Councils to Identify 3 top priority that you are working on – has helped us be more intentional It has been great because we've seen change in food insecurities, unhoused population, re-entry community, and getting people employed which all helps in reducing the stigma in communities.



# Westside ROSC Council

---

## Supporting a Diverse Chicago West Side Community

ROSC councils DO NOT PROVIDE SERVICES. CRCC is an RCO which brings everyone together, sharing their ideas and providing training.

We are looking into having a Recovery Farm coming soon to Illinois, Collegiate Recovery is gaining traction. This is really taking the next level. Speaking with a coach at the Rally for Recovery he shared that we started with 11 Coalitions now we are at 43 coalition across the State of Illinois. We are starting to see a very small decrease in Overdoses, I want to contribute that to the work that the ROSC councils and the RCO's are doing across the state of Illinois.

When you are asked to complete multiple surveys, it is for a reason Joanna handles all that information. Joanna reads all our deliverables, monthly reports and connects all the dots across the state. One of our biggest priorities is education. We can't stop and we must get the events out to the organizations.

### **Topic Discussion: Cultural Responsiveness in Recovery Support: Two Part Series; Presenter: Nyla Christian, Executive Director of CAARD**

- Black men hit hardest by drug overdose deaths in recent years
- Older Black men are disproportionately affected by the opioid use - This was reported in August 2024
- Older Black men driving a stark increase in opioid overdose
- Fentanyl and COVID-19 pandemic reshaped racial profile we must talk about it ...Having uncomfortable conversations=
- Culture
- Race
- Intergenerational trauma
- Black Racism
- We must lean in and have these conversations to make recovery possible.

CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS IN RECOVERY SUPPORT: A TWO-PART SERIES: If you light a lamp for someone it will also brighten your path – Buddha. We only get to keep it when we give it away

Overview of Cultural Responsiveness in Recovery: Purpose of the Series: to provide foundational knowledge and practical tools for fostering culturally responsive environments

- Foundation of Cultural Responsiveness
  - understanding what cultural dynamics are, what do they mean and how do they have an impact bias
- Practical Strategies for Inclusive Recovery
  - Enriches my experience, Enriches my organization
  - Our young generation X does not think about recovery the same way.
  - Cultural Responsiveness is about Race and Gender

Introduction to Cultural Responsiveness in Recovery Support

- Cultural responsiveness is an approach that respects and integrates diverse cultural backgrounds in recovery support
  - Are you giving space for people to have agency in voice, in the space of recovery, are you passing the mic
  - Critical Self Reflection
  - Deconstruct and Recovery
  - Agency and action
    - If you look around and there is no one different, think about it, are you giving space for others.
  - Support and Sustenance
    - Why Cultural Awareness Matters in Recovery
      - To truly heal, we must not only address the individual but also understand the cultural landscape in which they live.

# Westside ROSC Council

## Supporting a Diverse Chicago West Side Community

- Things we are doing to address the social life
- Reducing stigma in the black community
- Culture shapes the way we proceed in the world

### Open Discussion:

- Covid - has caused so much anxiety, causing people to drink and rely on other substances. Can you help us with some other ways to assist us with these issues?
- Surgeon General on Impact of the Pandemic please look for that up on You Tube. You will find several of them there for you to watch.
- We all recover differently, and we all get to recover in our own way. However, it doesn't stop us from recovering together. Recovery is what I say it is

### IMPACT ON RECOVERY JOURNEY

- Cultural Values, beliefs, and lived experiences shape an individual's unique recovery needs, challenges, and pathways.

### Intent vs. Impact

- Well-meaning actions or recovery approaches may have unintended negative consequences when they do not account for cultural differences.
  - example: Working in the South ...challenge with Nationally, Gender and age

### Self- Reflection for Cultural Awareness

- Unpack Your Assumptions
- Explore Your Identity
- Recognize Blind Spots
- Challenge Your Comfort Zone
- Guided Reflection Activity

Empowering Leading in the Community, empowering to bridge the cultural gap that they are, respecting developing them into Leaders Finding Black or Brown Men that reflect the community so the community can see that it is OK to bridge that gap and grow.

### 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 December 20, 2024.

**Please Join Us in Building a Sustainable Westside ROSC Council**

This project is funded in whole or part by the Illinois Department of Human Services,  
Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery.