

Westside ROSC Council

Lead Agency: Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition

Friday, January 24, 2025

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; Ed Boone: 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: Pedro Gonzalez, Chicago Survivors; Sandra Harrison, DVA Leadership & Development Training Consultants; Kami Garrison, Statewide ROSC Region 3 TA; Stacy Zawacki, The Perfectly Flawed Foundation; Bahiyah Khalilallah, SROSC; Aimee Rabe, CRCC; Kenneth Bell, Chestnut Health; Victor Escobedo, Trilogy Inc.; Angeliqe Valerio, The Perfectly Flawed Foundation; Toniesha Roberts, Trilogy Behavioral Health; Jamelia Hand, Vantage Clinical Consulting; Anthony Baker, Kalimba Foundation; Charlotte A Estell, Kalimba Foundation; Cristina Banda, Illinois Family Resource Center; Kimberly Haywood, Brighter Behavior Choices RC Chicago; Candyce Banford, CRCC; Velvetta Young, LegalShield; Maria Gonzalez, Campaign For A Drug Free Westside Inc.; Derrick Brewer, CRCC; George Ebert, Kalimba Foundation; Wateka Kleinpeter, Individual; Tiffany Webb, Healthcare Alternative Systems; Angel Crowder, CRCC; Sharon McDaniel, WestCare Illinois; Yulanda A Thomas, CRCC; Linda Sharp, Individual; Karen Thomas, CRCC; Tom Johnson, CRCC; Arlisia Dockery, Echo Development Center; Helen Land, Where Do We Go From Here, Inc.; Ed Boone, CRCC; Carla Widit, PLE; Frances Gordon, CRCC; Walter Houston, Kalimba House; Aimee Potter, VA; Jocelyn Beckham, Adrian's Purpose Sober Living; Tim Hooper, CRCC; Darryl Harrison, DVA Leadership & Development Training Consultants; Nita Lawson, ECHO Development Center; Jim G, PLE; Jade Austin, MADO Healthcare; Carlos Freytes, Rincon Family Services; Pearl Williams, Where Do We Go From Here, Inc.; Venessa Moreno, CRCC; Dora Wright, CRCC; Priscilla Johnson, PLE

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; Ed Boone: 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 the inclusion of PLE's (persons with lived experience) voices to be heard.

ROSC Council Speaker: Chicago Grief Groups; Presenter: Helen Land, Where Do We Go From Here, INC. & Pedro Gonzalez, Chicago Survivors, Inc.

Council Updates by Ed: Ed discussed Council goals and objectives. Provided updates on deliverables and the importance of the needs assessment and had all individuals on the call fill it out and encouraged them to share with their network and participants.



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Topic Discussion: Chicago Survivors: Helping Families Beyond Violent Loss, Pedro Gonzalez

Pedro Gonzales provided an overview of the Chicago Survivors program which includes wrap-around services that are trauma informed and is a community-based response to violence. The program provides increased awareness and support pertaining to the effects of a violent loss on immediate families and youth. The specializations for approaches to working with youth and caregivers after a homicide. In addition to a Chicago Public Schools program offering accessibility for youth and families.

The Chicago Survivors Hotline receives a call, and dispatchers alert a Crisis Response team which is available 24/7 to a crime scene of hospital after a homicide. The Crisis Response team provides emotional de-escalation services, in addition to Crime Victim Rights, crime scene clean-up, accompanying family members to the Medical Examiner's office, funeral planning rights, clinical services for child eyewitnesses, accompanying family to bond court, safety planning: Assessment for retaliation and relocation, if needed.

The Chicago Survivors has a great relationship with the Chicago Police Department which includes Special Order re. Dispatching, crime scenes, meetings with detectives, flier distribution, vigils, working on unsolved case meetings for families, Criminal Justice Advocacy after arrests. And exceptionally clear cases. Mr. Gonzales spoke about the effects homicide can have on the whole family and its basic functioning, explaining how CS can assist with the family's safety concerns, communication problems, conflict within the family, caregiver stress or unavailability, financial, emotional support, and social resources.

The Family Support and Case Management program has three components:

Engagement:

- FSS Team assesses the impact of homicide on the family through a survivor focused lens of motivational interviewing
- FSS Team administers a series of assessments (*PTSD, Health, Practical Needs, Family and Community Strengths, Daily Functioning, Threat of Retaliation*)

Intervention:

- Service Planning Establishing Guardianship for minors, Emergency Food and Transportation, Funeral Planning, Assisting w/ Crime Victim Compensation
- Supportive Counseling Active Listening & Coping Skills to support families through grief and loss
- Liaison between Families and Detectives
- Routine Home Visits
- Community Referrals (housing, Legal, and continued care/therapy)

Transition:

- Collaborate with families to identify long term needs, and link families with the proper resource referrals
- Transition families to our Community of Survivors team, prevent future isolation through continued engagement.

The CS Youth Program provides rapid screen by a Crisis Responder or Family Support Specialist, fast-tracked response or referral and supports eyewitnesses, severely impacted children & youth and very young children. They also include interventions /treatment options, depending on:

- Youth Relationship to Caregiver(s)
- Cognitive Disability of Youth or Caregiver
- Investment of Caregiver(s)
- Time Frame

Mr. Gonzales stated that there is a Chicago Public Schools program which was launched in 2024, is based in 16 schools providing individual therapy to youth directly impacted by violence loss, therapeutic groups address grief and loss, staff trainings to support Crisis Response for youth.

Mr. Gonzales mentioned that they offer Peer-Based Continued Healing through: Support Groups, which provide an open forum for families to talk about their traumatic experiences in a judgement free zone among their peers. It also reminds families that they are not alone. It offers Memorial and Wellness in that families want to know that their loved one's legacy lives on. Therefore, we provide a healthy platform for them to obtain this goal. Through our Family Social events we bring families together who have shared experiences, and the impact of this community helps PTSD symptoms which can interrupt the cycle of violence.



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Mr. Gonzales went on to mention how anyone can connect and engage with Chicago Survivors

Five Ways to Use Chicago Survivors

1. Engage Youth in Clinical Services
2. Connect Us to a Caregiver We May Not Have Served
3. Alert Us to a Homicide We May Not Have Received
4. Engage Us in Services for Schools in need of our services or information sharing
5. Ask Us to Assist with Practical Needs – Currently providing Emergency Supplemental Victim Funds to families of Youth who were victims of homicide ages 24 and younger.

Mr. Gonzales thanked everyone and answered a few questions from the group.

Topic Discussion: Chicago Grief Groups; Presenter: Helen Land, Where Do We Go From Here, INC.

Ed Boone introduced Helen Land of the group Where Do We Go From Here who provided the groups purpose stating that it is to empower mothers who have loss a child to untimely gun violence, illness, overdose, suicide, natural causes or disappearance to help channel their loss. disappointment, confusion, loneliness, isolation, and the unintentional lack of emotional support from others which is all a part of the grieving process.

Ms. Land went on to state the group's Mission is to create and provide grieving mother's with a safe and compassionate environment through emotional support and positive change by addressing social-economic challenges and promoting holistic well-being.

Ms. Land stated that Where Do We Go from INC. was founded in Nov of 2022 with Vision of assisting grieving Mother's beyond therapy so that they can be more resilient in the years to come over two years we have implemented.

1. Safe compassionate environment (to share their experience strength and hope)
2. Mother one on one engagement (texts, chats and via telephone)
3. Private group chat face book platform for Mothers to share daily memories of their child or post photos
4. Zoom Mothers Grieve support groups developing a compassionate connection between Mothers
5. Providing Annual events
6. Sending flowers to funeral service
7. Referral resources for mothers who are experiencing depression, using alcohol and drugs due to the loss of their child

Ms. Land further explained that the group's project objectives were to:

Empowering Grieving Mothers For Sustainable Emotional Development in their communities

1. To understand the complexities of grief and loss
2. Reinforces that you are not alone in your grieving process
3. Meeting other Mothers who are experiencing similar life changes as you are even though differently

All of which is done by:

Activities:

1. Offer first responders training
2. Healthcare initiatives, Organized Mothers grief retreats awareness groups on grief to family to promote preventive healthcare practices.



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Ms. Land spoke about the groups Sustainability Plan and that it is a established 501(c) (3) organization which seeks to:

- Establish income-generating activities that will generate revenue for program continuation.
- Build partnership with local Alderman, community organization, hospital, Pastors, Police department resource mobilization and support initiatives.
- Implement monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress. identify challenges and adapt strategies accordingly.

She also mentioned that the group has an evaluation plan stating that we will evaluate the organizations impact quarterly and:

- Pre and post intervention assessments to measure changes in knowledge, behavior, and socio- economic indicators.
- Beneficiary surveys and feedback mechanisms to gather qualitative data on Organization effectiveness and relevance
- Key performance indicators and quantitative metric to track organization output and incomes.

In conclusion, Ms. Land stated that by year 2027, WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE. INC will not only support the immediate needs of Mother's who have loss a child in our community, but also contribute to other mothers in 30 states a long -term sustainable socio-economic development.

Closing Remarks

Ed announced that the Westside ROSC would be hosting its first 'Roundtable Discussion' with partners on January 29th to discuss a Chicago Sun-Times article that focused on opioids killing the same generation of Black men in Chicago for decades. The article also mentioned that organizations were not targeting this population for services.

Wrap Up

Ed: 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 February 28, 2025.

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,
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