

THREE CORDS STRONG ROSC ALLIANCE MEETING AGENDA

TRANSITIONAL TRAINING SERVICES

LOCATION: 4455 S KING DRIVE SUITE 101-B

DATE: 2/27/2025

Facilitator: Marjorie Howard

Facilitator: Vawnshekia Oklah

Facilitator: Je'Taun Scott

Speaker: 2 PLE Testimonials or Hardship and Resilience

TIME: 09:30 AM – 11:45 AM

ZOOM MEETING ID: Hybrid- in person and on zoom

I. Call to Order: Je'Taun Scott

II. OPENING STATEMENTS - Je'Taun Scott

III. 3 CORDS MISSION, VISION, PAST MEETING REVIEW- Je'Taun Scott

- At Three Cords Strong, our mission is to empower individuals on their recovery journeys by weaving together the essential strands of personal growth, family support, and community resilience. We believe that recovery is a continuous journey rather than a final destination and strive to embrace and support individuals on their unique paths to recovery.
- Three Cords Strong ROSC Alliance envisions a world where recovery is celebrated as a lifelong journey, weaving the threads of personal growth, family bonds, and community support into a resilient tapestry not easily broken.
- What is ROSC
- Recap on last meeting topics
- Introducing the topic and focus for this meeting

IV. INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER AND TOPICS – VAWNSHEKIA OKLAH

- Vawnshekia Oklah- Three Cords Strong
- Speaker 1 -ROSC PLE
- Speaker 2 - ROSC PLE

V. Speaker – Speaker 1 Testimony, Speaker 2 Testimony, Vawnshekia Oklah and Counsel at Large

Speaker 1

Speaker 1, a 54-year-old has endured immense hardships but remains resilient and giving. Growing up in the Robert Taylor Homes, she raised 26 children without government assistance while also experiencing poverty, domestic violence, drug addiction, and homelessness. She lost two sons she raised to gun violence and multiple friends to drugs, including fentanyl.

Her friend battled addiction, starting with marijuana at 15 and progressing to fentanyl. One of the young men she cared for died from an overdose at 32, just hours after she last saw him. She has been to jail, is currently on probation with a year left, and is homeless, sleeping in her daughter's living room. Despite these struggles, she continues to care for others, even while experiencing breast cancer, for which she had surgery last April.

Throughout her life, she has worked as a security officer, nurse, chef, and restaurant owner, always finding ways to help people. Her abusive husband knocked her teeth out, but she remains grateful to be alive. She has never been

homeless on the streets, surviving in basements and park benches while washing up in public restrooms. She believes in staying positive, wants others to be happy, and continues to work towards rebuilding her life.

Speaker 2

Speaker 2, has faced profound hardships but remains steadfast in her faith and positivity. After her son was killed on Thanksgiving in 2018, she was deeply traumatized but refused to lose hope. She completed high school, went to college, and built a career as a CNA.

She survived a stroke and seizure that left doctors convinced she would never walk or talk again. On the day she was supposed to be transferred to a nursing home, she was found walking, defying medical expectations. She believes that God has a plan for her and that she has a purpose to fulfill.

Despite experiencing homelessness, having her house burned down, and surviving being shot, she remains a beacon of strength. She embraces self-love, honoring and trusting herself above all. She shares her story to inspire others, reminding people to be grateful, confident, and aware of their purpose. She believes everyone has a story worth telling and finds fulfillment in spreading positivity to those who need it most.

Vawnshekia Oklah-Brown

- Black fist protest
 - Was called anti american
 - People were persecuted
- Anytime you try to love yourself, people will come against it
- ROSC believes that this recovery journey the hardest part is dreaming again, loving yourself again, deciding another day that i can do something
- People often face discouragement from others but it's all a lie
- Self love activity
 - Use a sticky note to write down one thing that you love about yourself
- Three Cords Strong seek to build resiliency
 - Has to do with love and what you are strong enough to take
- Sometimes we do not believe that we are resilient enough
- You can not be resilient if you do not love yourself
- If you do not believe in you and love yourself, you are going to run yourself into the ground
- Make sure that not only are you living, you are enjoying that life
- Introduce the results from the community needs survey
- Think Tanks
 - Smaller groups where we problem solve things

VI. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION—

VII. COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENTATION –

- **Sharon Batiest-** TCA Health- Insurance Enrollment Specialist- Assist people with signing up with Medicaid or Marketplace Health Insurance, SNAP, redetermination, and primary doctor appointment
- **Janeen Allen-** PLE
- **Bahiyah-** Outreach coordinator- Statewide ROSC
- **Kenneth Bell-** Technical Assistant- Statewide ROSC
- **Anthony Gardner-** Case Manager- Project Hood
- **Florence Wright-** Southside Heroin Opioid Task Force

VIII.GROUP DISCUSSION – COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY

- Recidivism rates have been at 47% within the last 3 years
- Recidivism the rate of which a person reoffends and goes back to prison
- 50% of people who have had any encounter with the justice system will reoffend within the next 3 years
- 45-65 age range overdose deaths
- Male black population
- Alarming rates of homelessness
- People who use drugs deserve respect but are not treated with respect
- People with mental illness deserve respect but are not treated with respect
- Need more education on Medical Assisted Recovery
- People do not know where to find narcan or syringe programs
- People feel that programs need more funding from the government
- No designated places that provide specific substance services
- More use of grassroot programs
- How can we make these community based again
- Community resilience at a community level
- How will we survive if things are cut
- We have food deserts and not enough nutrition foods
- We are the key for change
- Our goal is community based solutions
- For PLE's, the experience makes you an expert

IX. NEXT ACTION STEPS

- a) Invitation to join ROSC
- b) Invitation to next meeting – March 27, 2025, 9:30am
- c) Stipend for PLE Members who come to meetings
- d) Invitation to join our Think Tank

X. MEETING CLOSE – VAWNSHEKIA OKLAH