



NEAR SOUTH SIDE

MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: Virtual – Zoom

DATE: 06/09/2026

ATTENDEES:

- Daniel Mendez (EDDR Foundation), Halle Berghoff (EDDR Foundation), Gloria Landingham (EDDR Foundation), Kenneth Bell (Statewide ROSC), Leslie Givens (Alliance Care 360), Lavis Lennon (Alliance Care 360), Tiffany Webb (Healthcare Alternative Systems), Edward Boone (Brighter Behavior Choices), Kathryn Goetzke (The Shine Hope Company), Marsha Zanders (Breaking Barriers Collectively), Mimi Tsang (MAHA), Jiayan Wu (MAHA), Kiauna Cooper-Echols (Purpose Over Pain), Jaye Kalopisis, Maria'h Foster (Life is Work)

TIME: 10:30am – 11:30am

AGENDA ITEMS

- I. **Introductions: Name, Organization, how to stay in touch.**
- II. **ROSC Overview: What is the ROSC and why is it important to the community?**
- III. **Presentation: Kathryn Goetzke**
 - a. Kathryn Goetzke took some time to speak about the Shine Hope Company's Hopeful Cities Ambassador Training and Recovery Program. She discussed how Chicago is now a hopeful city, and that all their programs can be used at no cost. Their trainings cover how to manage hopelessness in healthier ways, as hopelessness is directly tied to

substance use, depression, suicide, etc. There is a free 35-minute training you can take to become a certified Hopeful Cities Ambassador. Their programs cover a variety of topics and can be implemented into curriculum easily. All of their resources are located at no cost on their website.

IV. Data Highlights: Gun Violence Awareness Month,

- a. In honor of Gun Violence Awareness Month, Daniel highlighted recent data related to gun violence in Chicago. In 2025 541 homicides were handled by the Cook County Medical Examiner, 426 of which occurred in Chicago. That was the first year since 2014 with fewer than 600 homicides. Chicago had approximately 1,878 gun-violence victims in the last 12 months, 19% of which died. CDPH reports that both gun violence victimizations and suspected opioid overdoses increase between May and August. Black and Latino residents represented 86% of Cook County gun-related deaths in 2023. Exposure to violence is strongly tied to trauma, PTSD symptoms, depression, anxiety, and substance use risk. Victims of non-fatal gun violence will experience trauma and survivor's guilt expanding across families and witnesses.
- b. After his presentation there was a discussion surrounding how to support victims of gun violence. Specifically, how to approach talking about those subjects if we haven't dealt with them ourselves. Having compassion and empathy towards victims, as well as consistent support were identified as some of the most important points.

V. ROSC in Action,

- a. Open call to encourage participants to invite someone who may be interested in joining the ROSC.
- b. NSSR Health Fair happening 06/15
- c. Southside Heroin Opioid Task Force Community Prevention Outreach Event 06/15

VI. Cook County Events and Trainings – MAY EVENTS

Wednesday, June 3, 2026	MBK Chicago Southside Regional Meeting: Men's Mental Health Month Lakeside Chat – Presented by MBK Chicago, Brilliance & Excellence, Obama Foundation
Wednesday, June 3, 2026	Workforce Development Mid-Season Hiring Event – Metropolitan Family Services
Saturday, June 6, 2026	"Pairs is Burning" Chicago Viewing & Panel Discussion – Presented by Life Is Work
Saturday, June 6, 2026	Annual Housing Fair – Presented by the Chicago Urban League's Housing & Financial Empowerment Center
Sunday, June 7, 2026	Leadership for Entrepreneurs: Build. Structure. Elevate – Part 1 – Presented by Impossible Academy
Saturday, June 13, 2026	Expungement Fair: Fulfilling the American Promise – Presented by Rainbow Push & Black Men United
Monday, June 15, 2026	EDDR's 3 rd Annual Health Fair – Presented by EDDR Foundation & the Near South Side ROSC
Tuesday, June 16, 2026	Parenting Again: Grandparents/Kinship Care Updates – Presented by The Illinois Family Resource Center
Wednesday, June 17, 2026	13 th Annual Citywide Job Fair – Presented by Chicago Urban League
Friday, June 19, 2026	Juneteenth Freedom Fest: Love, Music, and Community – Presented by KROC Center: Chicago
Tuesday, June 23, 2026	Good in the Hood Summer Job & Resource Fair – Presented by Greater Harvest & Metropolitan Family Services
Tuesday, June 23, 2026	South Chicago June Hiring Event – Presented by Stan Martin Jobs

Wednesday, June 24, 2026	Family Sex Trafficking: The Hidden Ugly – Presented by The Illinois Family Resource Center
Saturday, June 27, 2026	Leadership for Entrepreneurs: Build. Structure. Elevate – Part 2 – Presented by Impossible Academy
Sunday, June 28, 2026	Leadership for Entrepreneurs: Build. Structure. Elevate – Part 3 – Presented by Impossible Academy
Tuesday, June 30, 2026	Feed Your Heart: Using the Circle of Care Tools – Presented by The Illinois Family Resource Center
EVERY WEDNESDAY	Walk-in Wednesdays – Now Hiring at World’s Finest Chocolate

VII. Dedication:

- a.** Daniel took the time to give a dedication to Saanti Bonét Valentino, a close friend of his. She was a Natural Activist, Social Justice Humanitarian, Advocate for Inclusion, Artist & Performer, Empathic Ally, and Authentic Counselor.

VIII. Adjournment