



Meeting Name: Kane County ROSC (Recovery Oriented System of Care) Council Meeting

Date: June 18, 2026

Location: Kane County Sheriff's Department, 37W755 Route 38, Suite A, St. Charles, IL

Attendees

In-Person:

- Kelsey Chavez
- Matilda Farias
- Ashley Catieu
- Alicia Klimpke
- Sharon Cabrera
- Mark Matthews
- Marco Fajardo
- Annette Villarreal (Meeting Facilitator)
- Amy Johnson (Under Sheriff of Kane County)
- Alicia Klimpke (Presenter, Kane County Sheriff's Office)
- Nene Velasquez

Virtual (Online via Zoom):

- Sarah Mendoza
- Michelle Meyer
- Carissa Felber
- Herb Stricklin
- Brianna Haug (Oxford House)
- Justin Wolfe (Gateway Foundation)
- Toni Garcia (Kane County Health Dept.)
- Maiyela Fitz (Serenity House Coach)
- Jennifer Simmons (Northwestern Medicine)



1. Welcome & Opening

Meeting Called to Order:

- Annette Villarreal welcomed all attendees, both in-person and online, and expressed gratitude to the Kane County Sheriff's Department for hosting the meeting.

Housekeeping:

- Virtual attendees were asked to remain muted to manage background noise.
- Participants were encouraged to use the Zoom chat for questions or comments and to use the "digital hand" feature to ask questions.

Introduction to the Kane County ROSC (Recovery Oriented System of Care):

- A brief introduction was provided for new attendees, explaining that the ROSC meets people where they are, not where the system is, to ensure a direct connection to tailored services that support long-term wellness.

Icebreaker Activity:

- **Topic:** "What is your favorite thing to do in the summer, or what are you looking forward to doing this summer?"
- Participants shared personal interests, including feeding birds, watching baseball, and spending time with family. The activity provided a casual and engaging start to the meeting.

2. Community Partnership Spotlight: Kane County Sheriff's Department

Introduction:

- Annette Villarreal recognized the front desk staff at the Sheriff's Department for their welcoming and graceful service.
- Amy Johnson, the Under Sheriff of Kane County, welcomed everyone and spoke about the department's commitment to partnerships, inviting feedback on how they can improve.



Presentation by Alicia Klimpke:

- Alicia Klimpke, a 31-year veteran of the department, presented on the Sheriff's Office's re-entry program. The program's purpose is to support rehabilitation and accountability for incarcerated individuals to prepare them for successful community re-entry.

Key Programs and Initiatives:

- **Programming Focus:** Voluntary programs are offered with a focus on substance abuse rehabilitation and personal growth.
 - **Lighthouse Program:** A dedicated pod for men in recovery.
 - **The Three E's (Employment, Education, Enrichment):**
 - **Employment:** Job placement, resume writing, and partnerships with employers (e.g., WorkNet Batavia). The department is seeking funding for two new employment navigators.
 - **Education:** GED classes and vocational training, including a new forklift certification program in partnership with Elgin Community College.
 - **Enrichment:** MRT (Moral Reconation Therapy), anger management, and a "garden crew" program.
 - **New Programs:** Two new barber programs (one for females, one for males) are launching in partnership with FIDES Academy to provide a trade and free education upon release.
 - **ID Program:** Assists individuals in obtaining essential documents like ID cards, social security cards, and birth certificates.
 - **"A Way Out" Program:** A 24/7 service to connect anyone seeking substance abuse treatment with resources and assessments.

Discussion & Q&A:

- A question was raised about the correlation between the programs and reduced recidivism rates. Alicia Klimpke confirmed a direct link, attributing the decrease to the comprehensive services provided (housing, treatment, etc.).
- Discussion covered the importance of providing job training while individuals are incarcerated so they can "hit the ground running" upon release.



- **On Funding:** It was noted that budget cuts have impacted the department, and they are actively seeking grants and funding to expand programs, including employment navigators and financial literacy courses.
- **On Eligibility:** The Lighthouse program is for Kane County residents, but other services are available to everyone.
- **On Housing Assistance:** While the department cannot provide direct financial assistance for rent, they refer individuals to resources like 211 for help with security deposits and other needs.
- **A Public Testimony:** A community member shared a story of how Alicia Klimpke helped them connect a client to treatment through the "A Way Out" program, which was successful.

3. End of Fiscal Year Review & Strategic Plan

Presenter: Annette Villarreal

Overview:

- Annette Villarreal provided an end-of-year fiscal review for the ROSC, reflecting on the accomplishments of the fiscal year.

Goal A: Strengthening Membership:

- The ROSC membership has grown significantly, starting later than other counties but finishing strong.
- The council successfully connected with 15 different sectors as requested by the state, including faith-based organizations, judicial departments, and colleges.
- Monthly meetings remain hybrid (in-person and Zoom) with an average attendance of 10-20 people.

Goal B: Reducing Stigma:

- A "stigma reduction campaign" was discussed. The focus for the next fiscal year is to develop a specific plan, such as a "Language Matters" campaign, to address stigmatizing language.
- Input from council members is requested to develop this campaign further.

Goal C: Expanding Access to Recovery Support Services:



- **Drop-in Services:** Announced weekly drop-in services held at the Serenity House office in Geneva on Tuesdays from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM.
- **Re-entry Fellowship:** A program for both men and women focused on re-entry support.
- **Harm Reduction Van (Serenity House):** A van that goes out twice a week to provide supplies (clothing, toiletries) and support to the unhoused. Jarrett Burton clarified that the van operates in Aurora on Sundays, providing essential items like food and clothing to the tent cities.

Goal D: Ensuring Service Equity and Cultural Understanding:

- A critical focus is to reduce barriers by providing services in multiple languages.
- The ROSC has been ensuring dual-language support for warm handoffs and culturally appropriate referrals.
- Materials are being translated into Spanish, and there is a push to recruit bilingual council members and Certified Recovery Support Specialists (CRSS).

Partnership Achievements:

- Annette Villarreal highlighted the signing of a new MOU between Serenity House and Greater Family Health to offer rapid HIV testing at the harm reduction van on Sundays and at a location in DuPage on Fridays.

4. Partner Updates & Announcements

- **Nene Velasquez & Kelsey Chavez (Serenity House):**
 - Gave an update on the harm reduction van's outreach efforts.
 - Announced a critical need for men's clothing donations, especially pants (sizes 36-38), shoes, socks, and underwear. They also requested toiletries like baby wipes.
- **Mark Matthews (Greater Family Health):**
 - Announced he will be presenting at the upcoming Illinois Association for Behavioral Health (IABH) conference on the value of peer support in mental health services.
 - Acknowledged the good work of the Kane County Health Department and the Sheriff's Department.



- **Sheron Cabrera (Kane County Health Department):**
 - Announced a public training will be held at the health department on July 31st at 1:00 PM.
- **General Announcements:**
 - **Juneteenth:** The meeting adjourned with a reminder that there will be no services on Friday, June 19th, in observance of Juneteenth.

5. Closing

- **Next Meeting:** The meeting is scheduled for the following month (July 2026), which will mark the beginning of the new fiscal year.
- **Request for Hosts:** The ROSC is seeking a location for the next meeting. Organizations interested in hosting are asked to contact Annette Villarreal or Jarrett Burton.
- **Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned with thanks to all participants.