



HLM RECOVERY 180

Meeting Title: Kankakee County ROSC Council Meeting

Date: June 23, 2026

Location: Virtual

Facilitator: Magdalena Campos

Attendees: Sarah Winkel (Project Sun); Liz Gibson (Birth to Five Illinois); Anthony Begesha (Kankakee HD); Josec Galindo (Kankakee State Attorney); Jessica Kinnersley (Rep. Jackie Haas); Alexia Scivally (Rep. Jackie Haas); Danielle Heffernan (Serenity House); Anne King (Project Sun); Michelle Pruium (NAMI Will-Grundy); Stephanie Gibbs (Pathway Resource Guide); Kirsten Anthony (HLM); Neesha Stringfellow (HLM); Tarcia Leak (HLM); Magdalena Campos (HLM); Celeste Fonseca (HLM)

Status Report on items pending from last meeting:

Who	Task	Status
HLM Recovery 180 Will County ROSC	Email May Meeting Minutes	Emailed

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Welcome & Presentation by
Sarah C. Winkel
Executive Director
Project Sun

- **Overview/Notes:** Magdalena Campos from HLM Recovery 180 opened the meeting, introducing the organization's mission to support communities affected by homelessness, unemployment, and addiction. Sarah Winkel from Project Sun presented on their family-run organization, which helps families navigate the mental health system. Project Sun focuses on peer support, empowering families, and addressing system gaps. Key points included the importance of accurate information, timely access to resources, and the need for collaboration among organizations. Challenges discussed

were disengagement due to incorrect referrals and long waiting lists, emphasizing the need for better coordination and immediate support for families in crisis.

- **Introduction and Initial Greetings:** Magdalena Campos from HLM Recovery 180 opens the meeting, praying for a fruitful session and inviting first-time attendees to introduce themselves. Anne King from Project Sun introduces herself and mentions Sarah Winkel's presentation. Magdalena Campos provides an overview of HLM Recovery 180, its history, and its mission to help communities affected by homelessness, unemployment, addiction, and other life challenges. The organization collaborates with various entities like HERO (Heroin Epidemic Relief Organization) for Narcan training and the Family Resource Center for webinars and education.
- **Introductions of Key Participants:** Magdalena Campos introduces the team members: Neesha Stringfellow (Executive Director), Celeste Fonseca (Executive Outreach Admin Coordinator), Jessica Kenersley (with Representative Jackie Haas), Alexia (Representative Haas's office), Kirsten Anthony (HLM Recovery 180 instructor), Danielle Heffernan (CORS coordinator at Serenity House), Liz Gibson (Regional Council manager for Birth to Five Illinois), Michelle Pruim (NAMI Will-Grundy), Tarcia Leak (Operations Director of HLM), Tony Begeska (Kankakee County Health Department), and Josec Galindo (Kankakee State Attorney's Office). Sarah Winkel, Executive Director of Project Sun, is introduced, highlighting her background and experience.
- **Overview of Project Sun's Mission and Structure:** Sarah Winkel begins her presentation on "From Lived Experience to Lasting Impact," explaining the mission of Project Sun to support families with children on mental health or substance use journeys. She explains that Project Sun is a nonprofit organization with a goal to help families navigate the system of care for their children. It is family-run, with 51% of staff and board members having lived experience. Project Sun focuses on peer support and empowering families to navigate their child's care without taking control. It aims to increase engagement and follow-through, build trust, and support families between appointments.
- **Core Supports and Programs:** Project Sun offers family and community outreach, peer family advocates for IEP and 504 meetings, and various trainings like mental health first aid and suicide prevention. The organization hosts Building Bridges meetings to identify gaps in the system of care and improve processes. It collaborates with organizations like Birth to Five and Success by Six to ensure a parent voice is represented. Provides support for families with children up to 21 years old, but is open to supporting families with older children and young adults.
- **Conclusion: Challenges and Solutions:** Sarah Winkel discusses common barriers to family engagement, such as incorrect information and long waiting lists. Anne King shares her experience of ensuring accurate referrals and following up to avoid roadblocks. Magdalena Campos emphasizes the importance of immediate access to resources during crises to prevent disengagement. The discussion highlights the need for better coordination and communication among organizations to support families effectively.