

Lake County ROSC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 25, 2026

10:30 am -12:30

Virtual Meeting Topic: LC ROSC NIRCO's Transition

ROSC - A Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) is a coordinated network of community-based services and supports that is person-centered and builds on the strengths and resilience of individuals, families, and communities to experience recovery and improved health, wellness, and quality of life for those with or at risk of substance use and/or co-occurring conditions. The central focus of a ROSC is to create an infrastructure, or "systems of care", with the resources to effectively address the full range of substance use and/or co-occurring disorders within communities.

The purpose of this meeting is to be intentional about building and maintaining strong relationships with the faith-based community. Providing recovery related education, resources to assist this community to become a recovery focus, friendly, and prepared to embrace those in the process of change.

This is the final meeting of the Lake County ROSC (Recovery Oriented Systems of Care) as the organization transitions. The new organization will be the Lake County Recovery Task Force. The monthly meetings will continue on the fourth Thursday, with the continual focus on connecting sectors in Lake County, IL.

Amanda Douglas opened the meeting. She asked members to read the mission and vision of NIRCO.

Dr. Mary Roberson, founder of NIRCO explained NIRCO's sunseting plan.

Having served Lake County for over 33 years, and completing her mission, she explained her decision to end NIRCO and that plans for a Recovery Task Force are being discussed. The Recovery Task Force will continue to gather connecting sectors.

She also shared the three organizations that are being developed; Becoming More Mentorship, Lake County Recovery Hub and Shee Creates. NIRCO will host upcoming events, a Recovery Summit and the Eleanor Murkey Building on September 11, 2026, a Gratitude Celebration in November. She expressed gratitude to all team members, community partners, and funders who supported NIRCO since 2021. Specifically noting that the organizations successfully helped emerge other RCOS in Lake County.

Participants expressed gratitude for her leadership and the impact she made in the community. See below:

Ben Rudolph-"Grateful for NIRCO's efforts and accomplishments. Asked for a ride in Dr. Mary's Volkswagen."

Marie Washington-"It takes a village to do the work." She thanked Dr. Mary and all current and previous partners/members for helping to make NIRCO a success.

Charlotte Estelle-"I'm grateful for LC ROSC. I'm so proud to be a part of the work accomplished on the corner of hope and opportunity. It's wonderful to see a dream and goal materialize. The corner will never be the same."

Bruce Johnson-"Dr. Mary, I love you and all you've done. It's amazing how you moved us all forward. We really needed NIRCO. You're leaving a legacy. I respect your decision and I'm proud of you for making the decision. Thank you!"

Amanda announced the council would transition into a recovery task force while waiting for a new NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) to be released. She invited feedback from the group on what has worked well and suggestions for improvements as they move forward.

Responses included the following:

Ryan expressed that while the organization's name might change from Ross, the mission remains focused on serving individuals in Lake County, and he is confident about continuing the work with the current team. Ashley praised the ongoing collaboration and expressed hope that the transition would open doors for new community involvement and partnerships. Anthony compared the evolution to a caterpillar becoming a butterfly, emphasizing that the long-standing partnership between the Klamath Foundation and NRCO would continue. Dr. Mary shared that butterflies hold personal significance to her and noted that Amanda had created marketing materials featuring butterflies to symbolize the transition from NRCO to the new affiliate organization.

The meeting focused on reflecting on the Ross Council's impact and discussing future directions. Mariah expressed gratitude for her time with the council and praised Dr. Mary's leadership. Ashley suggested reviving the "Voices of Recovery" portion, which Amanda agreed would be a good idea despite missing the initial request due to technical issues. LaSheena shared her positive experience as a facilitator, highlighting the growth of the council from a single organization to NIRCO and praising Dr. Mary's energy and leadership.

The meeting focused on reviewing the past year's accomplishments of the Ross Council, particularly highlighting its collaborative efforts and community impact. Participants, including Bruce, Stephanie Rosales, and Shawn, praised the council's inclusive approach, effective partnerships, and successful initiatives such as Narcan trainings, community outreach events, and support for individuals with lived experience. The group discussed the transition to a new entity called the Recovery Task Force and acknowledged the ongoing legacy of reducing stigma and promoting recovery in Lake County. The conversation ended with a review of the FY26 impact report, celebrating achievements in strengthening recovery support systems and fostering community partnerships.

Ben announced that despite grant funding being paused, he would continue attending meetings and supporting the Lake County ROSC, emphasizing his personal commitment to the organization. The group discussed transitioning to calling themselves the "Lake County Recovery Task Force" instead of ROSC, with Dr. leading the group in repeating the new name multiple times. Various community

members shared upcoming events including a suicide awareness 5K, financial literacy course, community resource fair, and autism event, with Amanda encouraging everyone to sign in through their app to track attendance.

Participants were urged to upload flyers of their upcoming events to the app.

Amanda ended the meeting