

Northern Cook County ROSC June 2026 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Friday, June 26, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Facilitator: Deona Williams, Recovery Support Specialist – Peer Services

Attendance

- Deona Williams – Peer Services / NCC ROSC
- J. Garsenstein – Erie Health
- Cherese Ledet – YWCA Evanston North Shore
- Wanda Bryant-Salaam – YWCA Evanston North Shore
- Dragana Vasic, LSW – Peer Services

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Deona Williams. Attendees were welcomed, introductions were made, and partners shared brief organizational updates. Appreciation was expressed for the continued collaboration and commitment to strengthening recovery support throughout Northern Cook County.

Community Recovery Success Story

The meeting featured a Recovery Success Story that highlighted the impact of recovery support, resilience, and community connection. Participants reflected on the importance of incorporating lived experience into coalition meetings to encourage hope, celebrate recovery milestones, and reduce stigma. Members agreed that Recovery Success Stories should remain a recurring agenda item for future meetings.

NCC ROSC Updates

Coalition members discussed the future direction of NCC ROSC and expressed a collective desire to strengthen and restructure the coalition to better meet the needs of the communities it serves.

The coalition agreed to begin revisiting the NCC ROSC Strategic Plan with an emphasis on developing SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound) goals that are realistic, attainable, and reflective of current community priorities.

Members reaffirmed NCC ROSC's commitment to:

- Building meaningful community partnerships.
- Increasing collaboration among organizations and stakeholders.
- Serving as a connector of recovery services and community resources.
- Expanding outreach throughout Northern Cook County.

- Strengthening support for individuals and families impacted by substance use and mental health challenges.

Recovery Capital Discussion

Members engaged in a collaborative discussion regarding Recovery Capital and the barriers individuals continue to experience while pursuing and sustaining recovery.

Key Barriers Identified:

- Transportation
- Affordable and stable housing
- Lack of peer support and recovery connections

The coalition recognized that transportation, housing instability, and limited access to peer support continue to impact recovery outcomes throughout the region. Members discussed the importance of strengthening peer support networks and intentionally inviting additional community partners into future Recovery Capital discussions to identify collaborative solutions, improve access to resources, and better address the needs of individuals in recovery.

Recovery Month Planning

Members briefly discussed Recovery Month planning and the importance of continuing efforts to reduce stigma, increase recovery awareness, strengthen community engagement, and promote available recovery resources throughout Northern Cook County.

Resource Sharing

Partners shared organizational updates, available resources, and upcoming opportunities for collaboration. Members reaffirmed the importance of maintaining open communication, strengthening cross-referrals, and continuing to work together to improve access to recovery support across Northern Cook County.

Action Items

- Begin revising the NCC ROSC Strategic Plan.
- Develop SMART goals that are measurable, attainable, and aligned with community priorities.
- Expand Recovery Capital discussions by inviting additional community partners and stakeholders.
- Continue incorporating Recovery Success Stories into future coalition meetings.
- Strengthen NCC ROSC's role as a connector of services, partnerships, and recovery resources throughout Northern Cook County.

Meeting Highlights

- Recovery Success Stories were positively received and will continue to be incorporated into future meetings.
- Transportation, housing, and limited peer support remain priority barriers impacting recovery.
- Members agreed that expanding coalition participation will strengthen Recovery Capital discussions and community problem-solving.
- The coalition committed to restructuring its strategic priorities to increase effectiveness, sustainability, and community impact.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately **11:00 AM**. Attendees were thanked for their continued partnership and commitment.

Next Meeting:

Date: Friday, July 17th, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM