

N8V Good Life ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: June 17th. 2026

Time: 4:00 PM - 5:00PM

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Welcome & Opening

The meeting began with informal conversation about summer activities and the weather. Sherrine shared a documentary, *Against the Current*, which highlights Black resistance in Illinois, and suggested that the Intertribal Youth Council may benefit from viewing it. The council discussed the possibility of inviting the documentary creators to participate in the upcoming Back-to-School event in August.

The group acknowledged lighter attendance due to summer schedules and noted that Jane was unable to attend because of a scheduling conflict with Openlands. Gabriel opened the meeting with a prayer.

Reflection on FY26 Impact

Council members reflected on the accomplishments and impact of the past fiscal year. Members shared that one of the most meaningful outcomes has been creating a welcoming environment where community members feel comfortable discussing healing and recovery without fear of judgment.

Discussion highlights included:

- Continued strengthening of community connections through Indigenous cultural practices.
- The successful shift from using "recovery" language toward emphasizing "healing," which better reflects Indigenous approaches to wellness.
- Increased acceptance of Indigenous healing practices among both Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members.
- Recognition that organizations across Illinois have begun adopting similar healing-centered language and approaches.

Community Engagement & Cultural Programming

Gabriel shared that hands-on cultural activities continue to have a lasting impact on participants. Workshops where community members create items such as dreamcatchers, drums, and other cultural pieces provide individuals with meaningful reminders of their healing journey that they can take home.

Sherrine recognized Gabriel's contributions as co-MC at recent community events, noting his increased emphasis on cultural teachings throughout programs. Members observed that both Indigenous and non-Indigenous attendees have responded positively, with many returning to future events after experiencing the welcoming environment.

The council reflected on recent community gatherings, including the powwow, where families, youth, and children actively participated. Members emphasized that providing meals alongside cultural programming supports a holistic approach to healing by addressing both physical and spiritual well-being.

FY27 Priorities & Planning

The council discussed priorities for the upcoming fiscal year and agreed to continue many of the successful strategies established during FY26.

Key priorities include:

- Continue emphasizing healing-centered language and Indigenous cultural teachings.
- Expand community outreach to engage both Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members.
- Increase opportunities for participants to create and take home cultural items.
- Explore hosting additional multi-day cultural and healing events.
- Continue incorporating food into events as an essential component of holistic healing.
- Recruit more Indigenous individuals in recovery to participate in the Native Good Life ROSC Council.
- Strengthen partnerships with organizations including the Veterans Administration (VA) and local law enforcement to increase community collaboration and awareness.

Upcoming Events

The council discussed several upcoming opportunities, including:

- Round Dance scheduled for **December 19**
- Annual Holiday Market
- Potential inclusion of **Toys for Tots** during the Round Dance event

Action Items

Gabriel

- Share the December 19 Round Dance date.
- Coordinate with Gina regarding the inclusion of Toys for Tots during the event.

Gina

- Continue developing partnerships with the Veterans Administration (VA).
- Explore opportunities to invite Indigenous law enforcement officers to future events to strengthen relationships and provide community education.

Kenneth

- Share feedback with state leadership regarding the importance of grant funding that supports food and holistic healing activities as essential components of Indigenous recovery efforts.

Sherrine

- Confirm meeting attendance and distribute meeting information to the Trickster team.
- Coordinate cultural sharing content for the coalition newsletter with Gabriel and other council members.
- Follow up with Jane regarding vaping prevention discussions and support for the Intertribal Youth Council.

Yassi

- Begin conversations with the Schaumburg High School Student Resource Officer about connecting with Indigenous law enforcement representatives.

Closing

The meeting concluded with appreciation for the council's continued dedication to Indigenous healing, cultural preservation, and community wellness. Members expressed enthusiasm for building on the successes of the past year and expanding opportunities for healing, education, and cultural connection throughout FY27.