



**Meeting Title:** Will County ROSC Council Meeting

**Date:** June 23, 2026

**Location:** Hybrid

Governor State University

1 University Pkwy

University Park, IL. 60484

**Facilitator:** Neesha Stringfellow/Celeste Fonseca

**Virtual Attendees:**Michelle Pruim (NAMI Will-Grundy); Kim Cunningham (Kankakee Forgives); Sam Ortega-Hughes (Will County HD);Crystal A. Torres (NAMI Will-Grundy);Gabriel Garcia (Will-Grundy Medical Clinic); Heather Drew (RCCJ); Joan Stefka (WCHD); Dr. Marie W. Hall (NIRCO-LC ROSC); Justin Wolfe (Gateway Foundation); Caitlin Thompson (Lewis University); Marianne Bithos (NAMI); Danielle Heffernan (Serenity House/Dupage ROSC); Brian Leonard (BLV Boxing Solutions); Amy Lake (Child Care Help); Brenda Paisa (Enlightened Words); Kevin Huckfeldt (DRC Will/Grundy); LeShae Hudson (2MMOROW Starz 2day); Paula Ekstrom (Wilmington Coalition);Kirsten Anthony (HLM)

**In-Person Attendees:** Teena Mackey (WCHD Mental Health 708 Board); Dr. Kathleen Burke,PhD (Will County HD); Lisa Zeigler (GSU); Michelle Sabasco (GSU); Deborah Hoyles (Moraine Valley); Carolyn (Bridges to a New Day); Giesela Grumbach (GSU); Latesha Newson (GSU); Maria Scruggs (Beyond Healing); Katrina; Cynthia Tyler (Second Baptist); Sheryl Palinski (Turning Point Counseling Center); Jessica Pendergast (Bridgeview Clinical Services); Carrie Nelson (Safe Families); Jarrett Venegas (Safe Families); Amy Bloomberg (Stepping Stones); Cassandra Allibalogun (Mindful Living Center); Jennifer Stranges (Cornerstone Services); Cynthia Staples (GSU); Taneda C. Anderson (Prairie State Legal Services); Tyler Giacalone (Joliet Township); Dr. Maria Crawford (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 |

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11:00am - 12:00pm

Welcome & Presentation by  
Teena Mackey, Executive Director  
Community Mental Health 708 Board

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- **Overview/Notes:**

The Will County R.O.S.C. Council meeting began with a welcome and prayer, followed by introductions from Governor State University's School of Extended Learning, highlighting workforce training, PRSS certification, community health worker apprenticeships, disability support programs, and free counseling services. Attendees were encouraged to share contact information and newsletter updates. New members introduced themselves, including representatives from the Disability Resource Center and Will County Health Department. Teena Mackey, Executive Director of the Will County Community Health 708 Board, presented on the board's mission, funding priorities, and recent grant cycles, noting \$5 million awarded in 2025 and \$4 million in 2026 for mental health, substance use, and developmental disability programs. She emphasized the new Connect Will County initiative, expanding free mental health services countywide, and shared success stories from funded programs. The meeting concluded with information on board structure, strategic priorities, and the impact of grant-funded services on the community.

- **Opening Remarks and Introductions:**

Neesha Stringfellow opens the meeting with a prayer, thanking for connections, partnerships, and the opportunity to serve communities. She introduces Lisa Ziegler, Grants Director of the School of Extended Learning, and discusses their workforce training programs aimed at upskilling community members for better job opportunities. and Michelle Sabasco, Deputy Director of the School of Extended Learning, highlights various programs including the PRSS program, apprenticeship for community health workers, and the Jaguar Jumps program for individuals with disabilities.

- **Programs and Services at Governor State University:**

Michelle continues to discuss the counseling lab at Governor State University, offering free services to community members. Mentions her involvement with Beyond Healing in Homer Glen, a mental health organization providing support to families affected by addiction. The School of Extended Learning offers continuing education units for therapists and works with the Will County Workforce Services Board to provide upskilling opportunities. Michelle emphasizes the importance of self-care for frontline workers and invites the community to participate in self-care activities like cacao ceremonies and drum circling.

- **Workforce Development and Drone Training:**

Michelle Sabasco introduces a new grant with Earth Rise for drone training, including cinematic drone, thermal drone training, and FAA 107 licensure. The drone training program will start on July 18 and is free for Will County residents who are

underemployed or unemployed. Neesha Stringfellow encourages new attendees to introduce themselves and share their contact information for future communication.

- ***Introductions of New Participants:***

Kevin Huckfeldt from the Disability Resource Center in Joliet introduces himself and explains their role in helping people with disabilities navigate services. Joan Stefka from the Will County Health Department discusses her work in community health education programs, specifically tobacco prevention and substance abuse initiatives.

- ***Overview of the Will County Community Mental Health Board:***

Teena Mackey provides an overview of the Will County Community Mental Health Board, which was established in 2024 as a separate taxing district. The board funded \$5 million in projects in the first grant cycle and \$9 million in the second cycle, with a focus on mental health, substance use, and intellectual developmental disabilities. Teena introduces a video showcasing testimonials from participants in the 2025 grant cycle, highlighting the impact of the funding on individuals and families.

- ***Testimonials and Impact of Grant Funding:***

Testimonials from participants in the 2025 grant cycle share their experiences and the positive impact of the funding on their lives. Participants discuss the importance of mental health support and the benefits of programs like respite sessions and mentorship programs. The funding has allowed for the expansion of services and the ability to reach more individuals in need. Teena emphasizes the importance of collaboration and the collective effort to support mental health and well-being in the community.

- ***Connect Will County Program:***

Teena introduces the Connect Will County program, which aims to provide free counseling services to residents of Will County. The program is modeled after a successful initiative by the Joliet Fire Department, which has reduced the number of mental health crisis calls. Connect Will County will offer assessments, appointments, and follow-up support to ensure individuals receive the necessary mental health services. The program will be available to underinsured, uninsured, and Spanish-speaking residents, with a focus on neurodivergent services and trauma-informed counseling. Teena outlines the strategic priorities for the 2026 grant cycle, including crisis supports, intellectual developmental disability programs, suicide prevention, workforce development, and awareness campaigns. The board awarded \$4 million to the Will County Health Department and \$4 million to subgrant recipients in the 2026 grant cycle. The strategic priorities drive the selection process, ensuring that funding is allocated to programs that address the most critical needs in the community. Teena emphasizes the importance of collaboration and the collective effort to support mental health and well-being in Will County.

- ***Q&A:*** Participants asked questions and connections were made.