Breaking Barriers Collectively

ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: June 18, 2026 **Location:** Breaking Barriers Collectively (Region 1 – West Englewood, Chicago Lawn, Gage Park) **Facilitator:** Marsha Zanders, ROSC Coordinator **Note Taker:** La Shawn Rickman, Senior Director

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Marsha Zanders welcomed community partners, service providers, faith-based leaders, individuals with lived experience, and new attendees. She emphasized the purpose of the ROSC Council:

- Strengthening community wellness
- Reducing barriers to care
- Building a person-centered, community-driven Recovery-Oriented System of Care

Engagement Prompts:

- "What stands out as most important in our work today?"
- "Where do you see the biggest opportunity for collaboration in the community?"

2. What Is a ROSC?

A brief overview was provided on the role of a Recovery-Oriented System of Care, highlighting:

- Community engagement
- Person-centered support
- Long-term recovery pathways
- Cross-sector collaboration
- Reducing stigma and increasing access to resources

Region 1 Focus Areas: West Englewood • Chicago Lawn • Gage Park

3. Guest Speakers & Partner Highlights

Angela Russell – Envision Unlimited (Faith-Based & Mental Health Services)

- Addressed reducing stigma around mental health

- Emphasized creating safe spaces for healing
- Highlighted the importance of faith-based partnerships

Gateway Foundation – Patrice Beamon (Clinical Services & Support)

- Provided updates on clinical treatment options
- Discussed access to substance use services
- Encouraged continued collaboration

Natia Barnett – Nourishing Hope

- Shared information on food resources across Chicago
- Encouraged referrals for families experiencing food insecurity

Geneva Brown – A New Leaf (Legal Services for Reentry)

- Discussed expungement services and legal support
- Highlighted the connection between legal relief and employment opportunities
- Encouraged deeper collaboration with reentry partners

4. Where We Are Today

The council reviewed current community needs and progress:

- Increasing understanding of substance use and mental health
- Hosting workshops on addiction as a chronic health condition
- Normalizing help-seeking behaviors and reducing shame
- Strengthening communication among providers
- Expanding access to recovery, reentry, and prevention resources

Identified Gaps:

- Limited treatment access
- Employment barriers for returning citizens
- Need for stronger coordination among community partners

5. Goals Moving Forward

Priority goals outlined by the council:

- Bridge service gaps through stronger partnerships
- Improve communication and information sharing
- Strengthen networks among providers, businesses, community leaders, and residents
- Promote prevention, education, and harm reduction
- Encourage community leadership and elevate lived experience voices
- Expand collaboration with new partners across Region 1

6. Opportunities for Collaboration

Participants discussed:

- Aligning services more effectively
- Integrating lived experience into planning
- Co-hosting workshops, resource fairs, and community events
- Strengthening reentry pathways through legal, employment, and mental health support

7. Upcoming Events & Initiatives

Abundant Living Christian Center

14540 Lincoln Avenue, Dolton, IL 60419 **Envision Unlimited – July 25, 2026** *Mental Health Awareness Event: "Healing Happens Here."*

Back-to-School Community Event

August 29, 2026 Dreamcatcher Café – 1824 W. 47th St., Chicago, IL 60609

Action steps will be finalized and shared with the council.

8. Open Discussion

Attendees shared:

- Questions
- Concerns
- Suggestions
- Ideas for collaboration

- Feedback on community needs

This input will guide future ROSC priorities and meeting topics.

9. Closing Remarks

Marsha Zanders thanked all partners for their continued commitment to building a strong, recovery-friendly community. She encouraged ongoing collaboration and invited partners to stay connected for upcoming initiatives.

ROSC Council Meeting Attendance

June 18, 2026 – Theme: Reducing Stigma

- Geneva Brown – CARLS Legal Aid
- Clarence Lovelaire – BBC RCO, PLE
- Paula Burges – BBC RCO, PLE
- Clara McCary – BBC RCO, PLE
- Charlene Robinson – BBC RCO, PLE
- Krystal Martin – BBC RCO, PLE
- Jennifer Koonce – Stakeholder
- Anthony Dillon – BBC Recovery Coach
- John Edwards – Abraxas Youth & Family Services
- Angela Russell – Envision Unlimited, Faith-Based Empowerment Program
- Patricia Beamon – Stakeholder
- Robert King – BBC RCO, PLE
- Jermaine Hobson – BBC RCO, PLE
- David Laws – BBC RCO, PLE
- Marcus Diggs – BBC RCO, PLE
- Enice Funches – BBC RCO, PLE
- James Hughes – BBC RCO, PLE
- Anthony Sidney – BBC
- Angelina Sanchez – BBC Recovery Support Specialist

- Natia Barnett – Nourishing Hope, Food Pantry