Breaking Barriers Collectively ROSC Council

ROSC Monthly Meeting Minutes — September

Region 1 | Connecting Partners • Strengthening Recovery • Building Community

Date	Friday, September 18, 2026
Time	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Format	Hybrid – In-person and Zoom
In-Person Location	Recovery Café Chicago, 6506 South Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60636
Facilitators	La Shaun Rickman, ROSC Supervisor Marsha Zanders, ROSC Coordinator
Attendance	Community partners and participants attended in person and virtually. See meeting sign-in/Zoom attendance records for the official roster below.

Meeting Purpose

The meeting focused on increasing community awareness of Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR) as an evidence-based approach to treating substance use disorders. Key objectives included reducing stigma, addressing misconceptions, promoting informed recovery choices, and strengthening access to treatment and support services.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Marsha Zanders welcomed participants and provided updates on BBC ROSC Council initiatives and community outreach efforts throughout Englewood, Gage Park, and Chicago Lawn.

La Shaun Rickman, ROSC Supervisor, and Marsha Zanders, ROSC Coordinator, introduced Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR) as the meeting's central topic, emphasizing its role in supporting long-term recovery, reducing overdose risks, and promoting overall wellness. The importance of education, stigma reduction, and recognizing multiple pathways to recovery was highlighted.

Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Overview

La Shaun Rickman, ROSC Supervisor, and Marsha Zanders, ROSC Coordinator, provided an overview of ROSC, emphasizing its commitment to person-centered recovery, community collaboration, and equitable access to services.

The discussion highlighted the importance of partnerships among treatment providers, recovery organizations, community stakeholders, and individuals with lived experience. The discussion reinforced ROSC's mission to reduce barriers, strengthen recovery resources, and support diverse recovery pathways, including MAR.

La Shaun Rickman, ROSC Supervisor, and Marsha Zanders, ROSC Coordinator, explained that Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) is a clinical term for using FDA-approved medications—often alongside counseling and behavioral therapies—to treat substance use disorders. Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR) emphasizes a person-centered approach that recognizes medication as a valid path to achieving and sustaining long-term recovery. Both approaches support evidence-based care, but MAR places greater emphasis on recovery, personal choice, stigma reduction, and overall wellness.

Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR) – Meeting Priorities

The council identified key priorities for strengthening MAR awareness, accessibility, and community support.

Meeting Priority	Community Focus
Reducing Stigma	Address misconceptions, promote respectful language, and recognize MAR as a valid recovery pathway.
Promoting MAR	Increase awareness of evidence-based medication options and support informed treatment decisions.
Promoting Harm Reduction	Strengthening overdose prevention education and awareness of naloxone and other harm reduction resources.
Ensuring Effective Service Delivery	Improve partnerships, coordinated referrals, warm handoffs, and continuity of care.
Prioritizing Equity	Address financial, transportation, cultural, and systemic barriers to accessing treatment and recovery services.

Community Collaboration and Partner Input

Community partners and stakeholders were encouraged to share perspectives, identify service gaps, and explore opportunities to improve MAR awareness and accessibility.

The discussion emphasized reducing stigma, strengthening referral networks, and improving coordination among treatment providers, recovery organizations, and community resources.

The discussion encouraged continued collaboration to support equitable access to evidence-based treatment and person-centered recovery services.

Next Steps / Follow-Up

The BBC ROSC Council announced its upcoming collaboration with **TEECH Foundation – Chicago** for a National Recovery Month celebration.

The event will promote recovery awareness, reduce stigma, strengthen community partnerships, and connect individuals and families with treatment and recovery support resources.

Community partners were encouraged to participate, share event information, and support outreach efforts.

Follow-Up: Continue coordinating with TEECH Foundation – Chicago and community stakeholders to support the celebration and expand community engagement.

Closing

The meeting concluded with appreciation for participants and community partners for their engagement in the discussion on Medication-Assisted Recovery.

The BBC ROSC Council reaffirmed its commitment to reducing stigma, strengthening partnerships, and promoting equitable access to multiple pathways of recovery.

Participants were encouraged to remain involved in upcoming council activities and continue supporting recovery-focused initiatives throughout Englewood, Gage Park, and Chicago Lawn.

Meeting Attendance

Community partners and participants attended the September monthly Meeting in person or via Zoom. Enter each attendee below before saving the completed minutes as a PDF.

#	Attendee Name	Organization / Agency	Attendance Type
1	Betty Washington	Program Director Debra Place	In Person
2	Kisha Johnson	BBC Community Partner	In Person
3	Krystal Martin	BBC Community Partner	In Person
4	Articia Jones	BBC Community Partner	In Person
5	Debrah Daughon	BBC Case Manager	In Person
6	Willie Hall	GEO Re-entry Service	In Person
7	Indigo Brown	Life Coach	In Person

#	Attendee Name	Organization / Agency	Attendance Type
8	Angelina Sanchez	BBC Program Coordinator	In Person
9	Ruth Wilson	AmeriCorps Project Navigator	In Person
10	Charlene Robinson	BBC Community Partner	In Person
11	Angela Blunt	Carrie Care Mobile Health Clinic Outreach and Engagement Coordinator	In Person
12	Dennis Weekly	BBC Community Partner	In Person
13	David Laws	BBC Community Partner	In Person
14	Marcus Diggs	BBC Community Partner	In Person
15	Anothy Dillon	RCO Care Coordinator	In Person
16	Krystal Martin	BBC Community Partner	In Person
17	Articia Jones	BBC Community Partner	In Person
18	Kenneth Bell	Comm Recovery Technical Assistance Specialist	Zoom

Due to technical difficulties, virtual participants could not access the meeting via Zoom. These issues prevented online attendees from joining and participating in the scheduled discussion.