



Kane County July ROSC Council Meeting Minutes

Date: July 2026 (Fiscal Year 2027 Kick-off)

Location: Messenger Public Library, North Aurora, Illinois

Meeting Type: Hybrid (In-Person and Virtual)

Attendees

In-Person

- Annette Villarreal – Kane County ROSC Coordinator
- Jared Burton – DuPage ROSC Coordinator, Serenity House
- Toni Garcia – Kane County Health Department
- Dr. Marco Fajardo – West Suburban Oral Health
- Alex Brower – Serenity House

Virtual (Zoom)

- Ben Rudolph – ROSC Technical Assistant, Region 2 (IL-DHS)
- Kelly Glover – Ecker Center (Supervisor, Substance Use and Co-Occurring Services)
- Justin Wolf – Gateway Foundation (Director of Outpatient Services)
- Mark Matthews – Greater Family Health
- Lily Peterson – Kane County Health Department (Tobacco/Nicotine Cessation)
- Marcy Milberg – Northwestern Medicine (Integrations and Operations)
- Shalley Marie

Meeting Called to Order

Annette Villarreal welcomed all attendees and acknowledged both in-person and virtual participants. The meeting was hosted at Messenger Public Library as part of the council's ongoing effort to rotate meeting locations throughout Kane County.

Agenda and Key Discussions

1. Introductions and Fiscal Year 2027 Kick-off

- Formal introductions were conducted to begin the new fiscal year.
- This meeting marks the start of the second year of the Kane County ROSC Council.
- The council is funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery.
- Highlights from the previous year included:
 - Relationship-building across 16 sectors in Kane County.
 - Increased connections for individuals and families seeking recovery resources.
 - Initiatives focused on harm reduction and re-entry support.
 - Growth of council membership, with 97 new members added this year.



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- Average meeting attendance of 15–20 participants.
- The full Community Impact Report is available on the Governor State University ROSC Hub.

2. Community Impact Report – Top Priorities

Priority 1: Reducing Stigma

- Development of a countywide stigma reduction campaign (in progress).
- Recruitment of committee members and partner organizations continues.
- Language shift implemented from “substance abuse” to “substance misuse.”
- Ongoing challenge: identifying a Latino organization to support Spanish-language outreach.

Priority 2: Expanding Access to MAT and Harm Reduction

- MAT provider network expanded from 4 to 10 providers.
- Updated resource list includes MAT providers, bilingual providers, and transportation access information.
- Serenity House operates a weekly bilingual drop-in center on Tuesdays, staffed by CRSS professionals.
- Men’s Re-entry Fellowship expanded to a co-ed program.
- Challenge: sustaining consistent volunteer coverage, particularly bilingual staff.

Priority 3: Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Care

- Connections established with dual-language organizations.
- Three key resources translated into Spanish: intake forms, harm reduction materials, and the MAT resource guide.
- Jared Burton shared that DuPage County has a comprehensive resource guide available in Excel and map formats upon request.

3. Vape and Smoke Shop Findings

Annette Villarreal and Jared Burton presented findings from recent visits to gas stations, vape shops, and convenience stores across Kane County.

Substances identified included:

- Kratom (loose leaf, capsules, beverages)
- Feel Free and 7-Hydroxymitragynine products
- Mushroom-based products containing Amanita muscaria
- Nitrous oxide canisters and culinary chargers



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Additional observations:

- Youth-targeted promotions such as raffles for electronics and buy-one-get-one deals.
- Products marketed to help individuals pass drug tests.
- No ID checks observed at any location visited.

Jared offered to share the full presentation via email.

4. Guest Speaker: Susanna, Live for Lai

- Susanna provided an overview of Live for Lai's harm reduction efforts.
- The organization distributes more than 200 Narcan kits per month.
- Upcoming Event: "Bring Your Own Clothing Item" Dye Event
 - Scheduled for late July 2026
 - Free participation; optional \$5 donation or donation of drive items (art supplies, new socks/underwear, ready-to-eat food, bottled water)
 - Free HIV and Hepatitis C testing provided by Greater Family Health
 - ROSC and Serenity House will participate

5. Hidden in Plain Sight Demonstration

Alex Brower and Annette Villarreal led a walkthrough of a mock teenager's bedroom to highlight common concealment methods for substances and paraphernalia.

Examples included:

- Stash cans disguised as beverage containers
- Whipped cream canisters used for nitrous oxide
- Hair ties with hidden zipper compartments
- "Spoofs" made from toilet paper rolls and dryer sheets
- THC-infused candies
- Nicotine pouches
- Key fobs and combs with hidden compartments

The demonstration emphasized education and awareness rather than fear-based messaging. The presentation is available to community organizations upon request.

6. Announcements and Upcoming Events

- Challenge to Change: Volunteers needed for food distribution.
- Greater Family Health: Bilingual services available Mondays and Tuesdays, 6:00–9:30 PM.
- Sunday Van Outreach: Seeking prepared food and summer clothing (especially men's clothing). Donation boxes and volunteers welcome.



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- Re-entry Fellowship Program: Meets Wednesdays, 6:00–8:00 PM in Geneva; harm reduction materials available.
- Overdose Awareness Day: Monday, August 31, 6:30–8:30 PM. Event will include speakers, activities, a resource fair, and a food truck. Contact Donna Renard or Annette/Jared for details.

Closing Remarks

Annette Villarreal thanked all attendees for their continued commitment and contributions. The council welcomes offers from partner organizations to host future meetings.

Next Meeting: August 2026 (details forthcoming)

Contact Information

- Annette Villarreal – Kane County ROSC Coordinator
- Jared Burton – DuPage ROSC Coordinator, Serenity House Counseling