



HLM RECOVERY 180

KANKAKEE COUNTY R.O.S.C. STRATEGIC PLAN

Lead Agency: Heartlife Ministries
6/05/2026

Council Mission: We work with community partners to improve access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services, strengthen communication, and help individuals and families get the support they need.

Council Vision: A healthy and connected Kankakee County where everyone can get support, recovery is possible for all, and community partners work together to build safe and thriving communities.

Needs Assessment:

Community Demographics

(Source: ([U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Kankakee County, Illinois](https://dph.illinois.gov/); <https://dph.illinois.gov/>)

Kankakee, IL: 105,525 residents

- Age: 39.1 years young - (5.6% under 5 years old; 23.3% Under 18 years old; 61.8%; 18.7% Seniors 65+)

Race/Ethnicity:

- White: 80.6%
- Black/African American: 15.2%
- American Indian and Alaskan Native 0.6%
- Asian: 1.1%
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander 0.1%
- Multiracial 2.4%
- Hispanic/Latino: 13.8%

Income and Poverty:

- Median household income: approximately \$71,281
- Approximately 13.1% of families in Kankakee County live below the poverty line

Household and Community Characteristics:

- Average household size: 2.48 persons
- Approximately 40,996 are family households
- 10.9% speak another language other than English at home

Overdose/Death related Data:

- 20 overdose deaths in 2024, a 52% decrease from 34 overdose deaths in 2023

Although Kankakee County has experienced a decrease in overdose deaths, substance use and overdoses continue to impact individuals, families, and the community. Ongoing partnerships among healthcare providers, first responders, schools, prevention programs, and recovery organizations are important to strengthen education, improve access to treatment and recovery services, and support healthier outcomes for the community over time.

Council Outreach and Communication Plans:

Purpose: The purpose of the Kankakee County ROSC Council Outreach and Communication Plan is to help community members learn about available services and supports, build strong partnerships, and improve communication across the county. This plan will help connect individuals and families to prevention, treatment, recovery, and wellness resources while increasing community involvement and support.

Objectives: By following this plan, the outreach efforts can effectively -

- Increase awareness of behavioral health, prevention, treatment, and recovery services available in Kankakee County.
- Build strong partnerships with schools, healthcare providers, first responders, community organizations, faith-based groups, and individuals with lived experience.
- Improve communication and teamwork among community partners to help reduce service gaps.
- Increase participation in community events, educational activities, and recovery programs.
- Support overdose prevention education, recovery awareness, and healthy community initiatives.
- Expand outreach efforts to reach individuals, families, and underserved populations.
- Increase connections and referrals to treatment, support services, and recovery resources.

Target Audiences:

Audience	Purpose of Engagement	What	How
Justice and Community Support Partners (courts, probation, parole, re-entry, housing organizations)	Work together to improve support and connect people to services and resources.	Referral information, recovery services, housing resources, re-entry support, and community programs.	Partner meetings, resource sharing, trainings, and collaborative planning.
Healthcare and Behavioral Health Partners	Improve teamwork and help people connect to care and recovery services.	Service updates, treatment resources, referral information, community programs, and educational materials.	Meetings, emails, trainings, healthcare partnerships, and newsletters.
Recovery Partners and Families (peer organizations, families, caregivers)	Increase recovery support, education, and community involvement.	Recovery resources, family support information, educational materials, and event updates.	Support groups, workshops, social media, newsletters, and community events.
Employers and Community Leaders (workforce agencies, coalitions, local leaders)	Build awareness and create stronger community support systems.	Recovery-friendly workplace information, community initiatives, prevention resources, and partnership opportunities.	Coalition meetings, presentations, community events, and outreach activities.
Community Members and High-Risk	Increase awareness and connect people to	Health education, prevention messages,	Social media, outreach events, flyers,

Populations (general public and underserved populations)	prevention and recovery resources.	community services, and available support resources.	workshops, and community partnerships.
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Key Messages:

- Working together helps people recover better. Courts, probation, police, treatment programs, and community groups all work together to help people coming home from jail or prison.
- Good communication helps people get help faster. When agencies share information and work together, people can more easily get treatment, recovery support, and services.
- Safe housing and good jobs help recovery. Groups like the Kankakee Workforce, Kankakee Housing Authority, and SASI Branden House help people find jobs and stable homes.
- Peer support helps people stay strong in recovery. Programs like Iroquois Mental Health Center and Project Headspace and Timing give people support from others who understand their experiences.
- When the whole community works together, people do better. Strong teamwork between all partners helps people stay in recovery and build better lives.

Communication Channels & Frequency:

Communication Channel	Purpose	Frequency	Coordinating organization
Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter)	Share educational information, recovery stories, short videos, event updates, partner announcements, and community resources. Promote messages using hashtags and encourage partners to share content.	Weekly	ROSC Coordinator and Communication Team
Website / Blog	Provide information about co-occurring disorders, local resources, FAQs, downloadable materials and partner events.	Monthly or as needed	ROSC Coordinator and Partner Organizations

Email Newsletter Strategy	Share local resources, upcoming events, recovery stories, partner announcements, and educational information with the community and stakeholders.	Monthly	ROSC Coordinator
Printed Materials (flyers, brochures, posters)	Provide easy-to-read information, service resources, and steps for getting help. Materials will be shared through community locations and partner organizations.	Quarterly and during events	Outreach Team and Community Partners
Community Events & Workshops	Host educational workshops, trainings, support groups, and community activities that increase awareness and strengthen community engagement.	Monthly	ROSC Coordinator and Community Partners
Local Media & Evaluation	Share public awareness messages through radio, newspapers, and community media while collecting feedback to improve outreach efforts and track impact.	Quarterly and ongoing	Communication Team and Community Stakeholders

Roles and Responsibilities

ROSC Council Coordinator: The ROSC Council Coordinator helps plan and organize meetings, share information, and support communication between community partners. They also help connect people and families to recovery resources, support outreach activities, and track progress toward council goals

ROSC Council Supervisor: The ROSC Council Supervisor provides leadership, oversees council activities, supports staff, and makes sure all goals and grant requirements are being met to support strong community partnerships and services.

Evaluation & Feedback:

- Ask community members and partners for feedback through surveys, meetings, and conversations.
- Track attendance at meetings, events, and outreach activities to see who is being reached.
- Collect information on referrals and connections to services and supports.
- Review what is working well and what needs to be improved in programs and outreach.
- Use feedback and data to make changes that better support the community.

Goal 1: Work together to improve coordination with law enforcement partners. (Kankakee City Police Department), behavioral health agencies (Duane Dean Behavioral Health Center; Rosecrance), and community partners (Kankakee County Health Department; Over Dose Response Strategy Program CDC Foundation; Kankakee Forgives) to improve communication, referrals, and recovery support for people returning to the community from the justice system. Kankakee ROSC Council will hold quarterly meetings with the Justice system and behavioral health partners to improve communication and planning, totaling 4 meetings in addition to the monthly ROSC Council Meetings by June 31, 2027.

Objectives/Strategies:

- Hold quarterly meetings with the law enforcement (Kankakee City Police Department) and behavioral health partners (Duane Dean Behavioral Health Center; Rosecrance) to improve communication and planning by June 31, 2027.
- Create stronger planning conversations between agencies before and after release from jail or prison by Dec. 31, 2026.
- Improve communication between courts, probation, healthcare, and community organizations by January 31, 2027.
- Work together to reduce barriers people face when returning home from incarceration by June 31, 2027.
- Share important information about recovery services, housing, and support programs weekly/monthly by June 31, 2027.

Measure	Target
Build and maintain active partnerships by hosting quarterly meetings	5 partnerships quarterly
Hold coordination meetings to create stronger re-entry planning conversations between agencies	1 meeting monthly
Maintain post-release coordination efforts by sharing information about recovery services, housing, and support programs	Monthly by 10%

Expected Outcomes:

Short-Term (0–12 Months)	Intermediate (1–3 Years)	Long-Term (3–5 Years)
Better communication between justice systems and health providers.	Fewer gaps in care between jail/prison and community services.	Fewer repeat justice system involvement cases.

More people connected to services after release.	More people using referral pathways and recovery supports.	Strong, lasting countywide re-entry support system.
Stronger coordination between agencies.	Improved stability after release.	Better long-term recovery and community reintegration outcomes.

Goal 2: Enhance Recovery Stability Through Workforce and Housing to Improve recovery success by building stronger relationships with employers, workforce agencies (Kankakee Workforce), housing providers (Kankakee Housing Authority), peer recovery groups (Iroquois Mental Health Center; Project Headspace and Timing), and sober living (SASI Branden House) to support stable housing (Spanish Community Center), and employment by developing 2 monthly partnerships to prompt recovery-friendly jobs, totaling 24 yearly partnerships. The ROSC Council will host/partner in 2 quarterly community outreach events, totaling 8 yearly events by June 31, 2027 .

Objectives/strategies:

- Partner with workforce agencies (Kankakee Workforce) and employers to promote recovery-friendly jobs by December 31, 2026.
- Work with housing organizations (Kankakee Housing Authority) to improve access to stable housing by June 31, 2028.
- Strengthen peer recovery support programs (Iroquois Mental Health Center; Project Headspace and Timing) by June 31, 2028.
- Coordinate planning meetings focused on recovery stability needs by January 31, 2027.

Measure	Target
Develop employer and workforce partnerships to promote recovery-friendly jobs	2 partnership monthly
Strengthen housing collaboration efforts to improve access to stable housing	Monthly by 4%
Increase peer recovery partnerships	Quarterly by 5%
Host or in partnership community outreach events	2 quarterly events

Expected Outcomes:

Short-Term (0–12 Months)	Intermediate (1–3 Years)	Long-Term (3–5 Years)
Stronger communication between housing, employment, and recovery partners.	15% increase in job placements through partnerships.	Stronger long-term employment and housing stability.
More awareness of recovery-friendly workplaces.	20% increase in recovery-friendly workplace participation.	Improved recovery success and reduced instability.
More community engagement in recovery support	Better coordination of housing and support services.	Strong community system supporting recovery and reintegration.

For the past year as we have worked in Kankakee County , HLM Recovery R.O.S.C. has joined forces with over 7 major community partners, to share the mission of how we can bring more advocacy & education to individuals and families and connect people to resources for recovery support services throughout Kankakee County.

As we move forward, our focus is to expand and strengthen these efforts by building stronger partnerships across Kankakee County, increasing access to behavioral health and recovery services, improving coordination and crisis response systems, and setting clear goals that support long-term recovery, stability, and community wellness over the next 1–5 years.