



HLM RECOVERY 180

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

**Date:** May 26, 2026

**Location:** Virtual

**Facilitators:** Neesha Stringfellow

**Attendees:** Morgan Roberts (UI Ext.); Cristina Banda (Illinois Family Resource Center); Elizabeth Francis (Jesus Mobile Christ Church); Jennifer Trivelli (Endeavor Health); Kaylaa McGinnis (Meadows Downers Grove); Lauren Ericksen (Chestnut Health); Sam Ortega-Hughes (Will County HD); Connie Dewall (Will County HD); Crystal A. Torres (NAMI Will-Grundy); Dr. Kathleen Burke, PhD (Will County HD); Ben Rudolph (ROSC Region 2 technical assist.); Danielle Heffernan (Serenity House/Dupage ROSC); Amanda Douglas (Lake County R.O.S.C.); Danielle Bonds; Marilyn Alexander; Dr. Deborah C. Anthony; Johanna Gonzalez (IDHS-DBHR); Jason Moss (HERO); Gloria Bloodsaw (Gateway Foundation); LeShae Hudson (2MMOROW Starz 2day) Tanya Reid (Soundminds); Len Cooper; Amy Bloomberg (Stepping Stones); Courtney Sanfilippo (WCHD); Brook Melvin (Will-Grundy Medical Clinic); Lisa Zeigler (GSU); William Sutton (Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County); Paula Ekstrom (Wilmington Coalition); Alyson Dizon (Fality Guidance Center); Dr. Evisha Ford (IcanDreamCenter); Kirsten Anthony (HLM); LaSondra Lee (HERO); Dr. Maria Crawford (HLM); Nichelle Alexandra (HLM); Joy Fink (Chestnut); Nia Robinson; Chantel Gamboa (B&GC Joliet); Wes Stringfellow (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 April Meeting Minutes	Emailed

11:00am - 12:00pm

Welcome & Presentation by  
Kirsten Anthony & Nichelle Alexander  
Project L.I.G.H.T. (Living In Grace, Hope & Transformation)

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**Overview/Notes:**

- **Overview:** The HLM Recovery R.O.S.C Will County Council Meeting, held in May, brought together a diverse group of community leaders, service providers, and partners to focus on mental health awareness and youth prevention initiatives in Will County. The meeting began with introductions and a welcoming atmosphere, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and resource sharing among organizations. New attendees were encouraged to introduce themselves and share their affiliations, highlighting the council's commitment to building a strong network of support. Dr. Kathleen Burke, Behavioral Health Coordinator at the Will County Health Department, provided a comprehensive overview of the department's services. She explained that the Health Department offers both medical and behavioral health care, including services for children, adolescents, and adults. The department operates multiple locations in Bolingbrook, Mokena, and Joliet, and provides a range of services such as primary care, dental, HIV prevention, and behavioral health. Dr. Burke highlighted the expansion of their substance use treatment programs, including intensive outpatient groups and individual counseling, and noted the department's commitment to serving all clients regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. She also discussed the department's efforts to reduce wait times for behavioral health services, the availability of bilingual counselors, and the importance of reaching underserved areas throughout the county. The department's Narcan distribution program was also mentioned, with 29 red boxes now available in the community to help prevent opioid overdoses. A key feature of the meeting was a presentation on Project Light, an initiative developed by college interns Kirsten Anthony and Nichelle Alexander in partnership with the 708 Will County Community Health Board. Project L.I.G.H.T. stands for Living in Grace, Hope, and Transformation, and is designed to educate youth about mental health and substance use. The presenters explained that the program was developed based on research and surveys conducted with local youth to ensure it addressed their real needs. The interactive presentation, typically delivered in schools, focuses on five main points: education about mental health, prevention of substance use, destigmatizing mental health struggles, fostering connections among youth, and inspiring personal transformation. The session included positive affirmations, breathing exercises, and open discussions about emotions, emphasizing that all feelings are valid and that seeking help is a sign of strength. The Project L.I.G.H.T. team also outlined common stressors and risk factors for youth, such as bullying, academic pressures, family conflict, social media, low self-esteem, financial instability, and health challenges. They stressed the importance of recognizing these triggers and using healthy coping skills. The presentation

encouraged adults and youth alike to check in with themselves and support one another, reinforcing the message that it is okay to not be okay, but it is important to seek help and not remain in distress. In addition to the main presentations, the meeting included updates from various partners about upcoming events and programs. These included a back-to-school event, a drone training program, and other community initiatives aimed at supporting youth and families in Will County. Attendees were encouraged to share their own resources and contact information to facilitate ongoing collaboration and support within the community. Overall, the meeting underscored the importance of mental health awareness, early intervention, and community partnerships in promoting the well-being of youth and families in Will County.

- **Welcome and Introductions:** Neesha Stringfellow welcomes everyone to the May ROSC Council partnership meeting for HLM Recovery 180 ROSC Council. She asks new attendees to introduce themselves and share their organizations. Lisa Zigler introduces herself as the director of grants for the School of Extended Learning at Edgar State University. Gloria Bloodshaw introduces herself as a senior regional professional manager at Gateway Foundation. Jason Moss introduces himself as a board member for Hero. Elizabeth Francis introduces herself as a member of Jesus Christ Mobile Church.
- **Overview of HLM Recovery and Project L.I.G.H.T.:** Neesha Stringfellow explains the purpose of the meeting and the role of HLM Recovery in connecting people to service providers. She introduces Dr. Kathleen Burke, the Will County Health Department's Behavioral Health Coordinator, Community Outreach. Dr. Kathleen Burke provides an overview of the Will County Health Department, including its medical and behavioral health services. Dr. Kathleen Burke highlights the federally qualified health center's services, including medical care, dental care, and HIV prevention programs. She discusses the behavioral health services provided by the health department, including adult services, child and adolescent services, and substance use treatment services.
- **Project L.I.G.H.T. Presentation:** Neesha introduces Kirsten Anthony and Nichelle Alexander, college interns who created Project L.I.G.H.T. Kirsten and Nichelle present Project L.I.G.H.T., which stands for Living in Grace, Hope, and Transformation. The presentation aims to educate, prevent, destigmatize, connect, and inspire transformation in youth. The presentation includes interactive activities to engage the audience and discuss mental health and substance use. The presentation covers the importance of seeking help, the impact of social media, and the dangers of vaping and substance use.
- **Interactive Activities and Discussion:** Joy Fink announces a back-to-school event for foster and families in need, inviting local agencies to be vendors and participate in activities. Lisa Zigler introduces a drone training program at Governor State University, inviting interested parties to register and participate. Danielle Heffernan discusses the CORS program, which provides peer recovery services in the community, including support groups and one-on-one support. Gloria Bloodshaw shares updates from Gateway Foundation, including an increase in cocaine use among younger populations and the availability of mental health services for those 18 and above.

- **Conclusion:** The meeting concludes with a reminder of the next meeting dates and a thank you to all participants for their contributions and engagement. If you would like Project L.I.G.H.T. to come to your organization please reach out to HLM Recovery 180 ROSC at [hlmrecovery@gmail.com](mailto:hlmrecovery@gmail.com) .