Lake County ROSC Council

Meeting Minutes | October 22, 2026

Time: 10:30 a.m. | **Location:** Zoom | **Facilitator:** Amanda Douglas

Welcome & Council Updates

Amanda welcomed members, including several new faces from Staben House, Youth and Family Counseling, the Illinois Public Health Association/HAP Foundation, and Brighter Behavior Choices. She shared a few takeaways from the recent ROSC gathering in Effingham and explained that meetings will be more discussion-based moving forward. Agendas will be sent a week ahead, along with a consent form for recording and sharing meeting materials. Bruce Johnson, Niko Rosales, and Amanda reviewed the council's mission, vision, and purpose.

Housing Challenges

The planned housing speakers will be joining next month, so members shared what they are seeing firsthand. Loretta Pable spoke about high rents, long subsidy waitlists, and strict landlord requirements. Niko Rosales described how shelter eligibility rules can leave people without options, and Tracey Smith stressed that keeping housing can be just as difficult as finding it. The group also discussed barriers facing people leaving treatment or incarceration. Amanda asked everyone to bring the housing resources they know about so the council can build one shared list and continue the discussion with housing partners.

Community Needs Survey

Amanda invited ideas for the annual survey. Nicholas Bailey and Tracey Smith raised gaps in communication between agencies, while Debra Bobo spoke about how exhausting and traumatic it can be for people to repeat their stories at every stop. Other suggestions included questions about missing services, job training, transportation, mental health support, and possible Medicaid coverage concerns. Members also talked about how hard it can be to find reliable information about available services. The proposed questions will be reviewed before the survey is finalized.

Resource Navigation, Peer Support & Basic Needs

Susan Sommers suggested a central, dependable resource hub and more mentorship opportunities. Amanda shared her goal of a place where people can get help navigating services rather than simply receiving phone numbers. Debra spoke about the impact mentors had on her own recovery. William Negron of Community Healing Resource Center described the growing need for showers, laundry, socks, clothing, and toiletries among people experiencing homelessness in Waukegan. Loretta raised the idea of a day center. Amanda will explore possible laundromat partnerships, and Bruce Johnson and Debra discussed connecting William with available supplies through Nicasa. Debbie Rueber also reminded the group to consider VA resources for eligible veterans.

Announcements

William shared information about the Blooming and Blossoming women's peer support group at the NIRCO Hub. Dr. Mary announced NIRCO's Breast Cancer Awareness event on October 23. Members were encouraged to share housing contacts at next meeting. Amanda and Bruce thanked everyone for the conversation and participation.