FSSRI Far Southside ROSC Initiative

PLANNING FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY

Far Southside ROSC Community Meeting

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Agenda | October 26, 2026

FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER

Robert Bufford, Recovery Coach (RC), Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS), National Certified Recovery Specialist (NCRS)

Multiple Pathways to Recovery

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Presenter: Frederick Buford, RC, CPRS
Opening welcome, introductions, and brief community reflections to establish collaboration and shared purpose.

ROSC Overview and Community Updates

Presenter: Frederick Buford, RC, CPRS
Overview of the Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC), community priorities, recent progress, and opportunities for engagement.

Guest Speaker Introduction

Presenter: De'Shara Shells, M.S., BSM, CPC, RC, RCP, CAMS I
Formal introduction of featured guest speaker Robert Bufford, RC, CPRS, NCRS.

Guest Speaker Presentation

Presenter: Robert Bufford, RC, CPRS, NCRS
Discussion Focus: Multiple Pathways to Recovery
Presentation and discussion honoring diverse pathways to recovery and strengthening inclusive community support and resources.

Community Discussion

Facilitated discussion on choice, connection, diverse pathways, and practical ways to strengthen recovery support and resources.

Emerging Substances Handout

An informational handout on emerging substances will be provided to attendees.

Resources and Closing Remarks

Presenter: Executive Director De'Shara Shells, M.S., BSM, CPC, RC, RCP, CAMS I
Review of resources, community supports, next steps, and closing reflections.

Networking and Community Connection

Exchange information and connect around future collaboration and community partnerships.

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Far Southside ROSC Community Meeting Minutes

Date: October 26, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: TEECH Foundation, 1750 W. 103rd Street, Chicago, IL 60643

Format: Hybrid (In-Person and Zoom)

Welcome, Introductions, and Community Sharing

Frederick Buford, RC, CPRS, provided the October ROSC community update. Robert Bufford, RC, CPRS, NCRS, was scheduled to present on Multiple Pathways to Recovery.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The presentation shared information about breast cancer, including the importance of knowing your risk, getting recommended screenings, and talking with a healthcare provider if you notice any changes. The information included the lifetime risk of about 1 in 8 women and 1 in 755 men, along with mammogram screening guidance.

Emerging Substances and Overdose Prevention

The Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) update covered substances and products that are becoming more common in our communities. This included kratom and 7-OH, phenibut, kava drinks, mushroom gummies, ketamine, whippets, Delta-8, HHC, THCP, K2/Spice, and BORG mixtures. Some of these products may be sold as natural or legal, but that does not mean they are safe. The presentation also reviewed the importance of calling 911 during an emergency, using naloxone when opioids may be involved, and staying with the person until emergency assistance arrives.

Far Southside Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Service Area and FY27 Focus

Far Southside ROSC serves 15 communities, including 11 Chicago neighborhoods and 4 surrounding suburbs. Our FY27 work continues to focus on making services easier to find, connecting people with resources, supporting individuals returning to the community, and working together to reduce stigma.

Overall Referral Totals – Recovery Support Services (RSS) and Community Service

We have received 46 referrals overall: 41 individuals enrolled in Recovery Support Services (RSS) and 5 additional individuals involved in Community Service.

- RSS – 19 completed services (41.3% of all 46 referrals).
- RSS – 16 are still enrolled (34.8%).
- RSS – 3 transitioned to programs in other states through coordination with Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) (6.5%).
- RSS – 3 returned to active substance use (6.5%).
- Community Service – 3 completed their service (6.5%).
- Community Service – 2 are still participating (4.3%).

Referrals: 22 individuals have completed services, 18 are still participating, 3 transitioned to other programs through IDOC, and 3 returned to active substance use.

Overall, 43 out of 46 individuals, or 93.5%, have completed services, are still involved, or were connected to continued support through a coordinated transition. This reflects participation and service outcomes.

All percentages are based on the overall total of 46 referrals and rounded to one decimal place.

Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Goals and Community Resources

Our FY27 goals include supporting people returning to the community, building stronger connections between treatment and recovery support providers, and working with partners on diversion opportunities. We continue to share resources for housing, employment, transportation, recovery support, health services, and other needs in the community.

Educational Presentation - Multiple Pathways to Recovery

Robert Bufford, RC, CPRS, NCRS, presented Multiple Pathways to Recovery. The main message is that recovery does not look the same for everyone. Some people use treatment, counseling, medication, peer support, support groups, family, faith, or other services. People may use more than one pathway, and their needs may change over time.

The presentation also covered four important areas of recovery: health, home, purpose, and community. It emphasized listening to people, respecting their choices, connecting them to resources, and following up. The materials also shared emergency resources, including emergency services at 911, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, and the Illinois Helpline at 833-234-6343.

Community Comments and Participant Responses

One participant shared that although he knew there were different pathways to recovery, he continued to be told he had to attend Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and obtain a sponsor. He explained that this was not something he wanted to do and that his church was working for him as his pathway to recovery.

A woman attending the meeting shared that she had always been afraid to offer people resources or information about recovery. She stated that the discussion changed her perspective. She reflected that if someone had offered her this type of information and support earlier, she might not have remained in active substance use for as long as she did.

A representative from Alpharus Health (formerly Gateway Foundation) stated that recovery has come a long way, but some people are still unwilling to accept changes in how recovery is supported. The representative emphasized the importance of giving individuals the power to choose their own recovery pathway.

Community Survey and Participation

Community members and partners were encouraged to complete the Far Southside ROSC Community Survey. The survey is available in English and Spanish. We continue to encourage community participation, referrals, and sharing information about available services.

Announcements and Closing

Far Southside ROSC meets on the fourth Monday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 1750 W. 103rd Street, Chicago, with an option to join by Zoom. Meeting-specific announcements, comments, and closing remarks will be added once the October 26 meeting has taken place.

October Far Southside ROSC Sign-In Sheet

Name	Sector
1. Dr. Karen White	Recovery-Oriented System of Care / Recovery Support Services (ROSC/RSS)
2. De'Shara Shells	Recovery-Oriented System of Care / Recovery Support Services (ROSC/RSS)
3. Jamia Pickett	Recovery-Oriented System of Care / Recovery Support Services (ROSC/RSS)
4. Michael Carter	Recovery-Oriented System of Care / Recovery Support Services (ROSC/RSS)
5. Frederick Buford	Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC)
6. Dr. Patrice Beamon	Treatment / Medication-Assisted Recovery Support (MARS) / Recovery Housing
7. Tiffany Webb	Treatment/MARS/Gambling
8. Priscilla Johnson	Recovery Housing
9. Latasha Taylor – Online	Education – High School
10. Christopher Cruz	Community
11. Agent Reed	Law Enforcement
12. Kazimierz Nizynski	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
13. Cornelius Shaheer	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
14. Jason Ralph	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
15. Fernando Martinez	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
16. Angelo Guerro	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
17. Alvin Prater	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
18. David Cook-Bey	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
19. Laverano Trevino	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
20. Michael Sterwart	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
21. Annette Brown	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
22. Franklin Luper	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
23. Steven Usher	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
24. Anthony Hardy	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
25. Andriana Ambrose	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)

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October Far Southside ROSC Sign-In Sheet — Continued

Name	Sector
26. Christian Barajas	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
27. Ernie Tisdel	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
28. Rev. Lawrence Cameron	Clergy
29. Brother Benedict	Clergy
30. Tracie Caldwell	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
31. Monique Guillory	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
32. Jessica Brown	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
33. Clifford Williams	Older Adults / Senior Services
34. Warren Avery	Retired Law Enforcement / Community
35. Jaye Kalopisis – Online	Treatment/MARS/Gambling
36. LaFlora Winfield – Online	Recovery Housing
37. Juan Hernandez	Community
38. Janyah Brown	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
39. Kristi Macek	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
40. Tracey Stewart	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
41. Shanel Hughes	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
42. Pamela Martin	Person with Lived Experience (PLE)
43. Dr. Julia	Medical/Community
44. Michael Russell	Veteran/Community
45. Artist Easterling	Union/Employment