



Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 4th, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM CT

Location: Region 1 Planning Council, 127 N Wyman Street, Rockford, IL 61101 or virtual at [Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board YouTube Page](#)

Called by: Mary Ann Abate: President

Members: Richard Kunnert: *Vice President*, Dr. Bill Gorski: *Secretary*, Dr. Terry Giardini: *Treasurer*, Andrell Bragg-Shaw, Rev. Dr. K. Edward Copeland, Tim Nabors, Jeff Nielsen, Dr. Amanda Penney, Mohammad Yunus

Director: Jason Holcomb, Region 1 Planning Council

Agenda:

A) Call to Order: President Mary Ann Abate called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM

B) Roll Call

- Mary Ann Abate: Present
- Andrell Bragg-Shaw: Present
- Dr. K. Edward Copeland: Absent
- Dr. Terry Giardini: Present
- Dr. Bill Gorski: Present
- Richard Kunnert: Present
- Tim Nabors: Present
- Jeff Nielsen: Present
- Dr. Amanda Penney: Absent at roll call. Arrived at 2:02 PM
- Mohammad Yunus: Present
- Jason Holcomb: Present
- Guests:
 - **R1 Planning:** Chelsey Glatz, Alex McCann, Emily Kate, Patricia Moton, Amy Salamon
 - **UICOMR:** Kathleen Monteleone
 - **Second First Church:** Karen Hill
 - **Rockford Fire:** Jon Larson
 - **Rosecrance:** Sadie Cobio
 - **Transform Rockford:** Wally Haas
 - **Live4Lali:** Will Crandall
 - Serena Fombang (No organization)



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C) Public Comment

- 1) Karen Hill, *volunteer with the Overnight Cafe hosted by Second First Church January through March*
 - Notes: The Overnight Café opened its gym to provide shelter for unhoused individuals during the past winter. There were 398 total guests, 263 of which were from Winnebago County and some of which have mental health and/or substance use issues. Second First Church is now beginning to identify funding in preparation for next winter. Funding would pay for staff time. Second First also has volunteers who help staff, and has formed partnerships with other non-profits for logistics, funding, and additional staffing needs

D) Presentations

- 1) No Presentation

E) Monthly Activity Report – May 2025

- 1) Jason Holcomb, WCCMHB Director, gave the May 2025 Activity Report.
 - Notes: The Building Bridges event was a big success. All Funded Programs and Accelerator Awards were present. Mr. Holcomb noted that, while the main audience for the event was community members, he also received feedback from the programs themselves that they were able to meet other programs and form partnerships for future collaborations. Thanks to Chelsey Glatz and NAMI for coordinating.
 - The Winnebago County HIPAA-Compliant Rideshare Program is active as of June 1st. There are 15 participating programs in the inaugural year of the program.
 - Only two site visits remain to be conducted.
 - Mr. Holcomb discussed a workshop he and Alex McCann attended on the Miami Model and asked the Board to consider setting aside travel funding in the next budget to attend future workshops. The Miami model is for justice-involved individuals with serious mental illness and incorporates several elements that could be replicated in Winnebago County.



F) Action Items

1) May 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the May 2025 Meeting Minutes.

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
- Discussion: None
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Members: Dr. Copeland
 - Abstained Board Member: None

2) Election of Officers

Mary Ann opened the floor for nominations.

- Dr. Giardini nominated Mary Anne Abate for **President**.
- Ms. Abate nominated Mr. Kunnert for **Vice President**.
- Dr. Gorski nominated Dr. Giardini for **Treasurer**.
- Mr. Kunnert nominated Dr. Gorski for **Secretary**.

Mary Ann Abate entertained a vote on the full slate.

Motion: To approve the full slate of nominations.

- Raised by: Mr. Nielsen
- Seconded by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
- Discussion: The Board expressed satisfaction with the job that Board officers have been doing and to continue that work.
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Members: Dr. Copeland



3) Resolution 2025-X: Resolution Authorizing Funded Programs' Payment Process Updates for Program Years 5 & 6

The resolution will allow three Funded Programs to change their payment process to an advanced payment format for Program Years 5 & 6.

Mr. Holcomb provided context for the resolution. Initially, he believed that grantees would desire having a certain percentage of awarded funds paid in advance, but in practice, the majority of Funded Programs preferred a reimbursement system. Since then, several agencies have expressed a desire to move to an advanced payment system. The communication to Funded Programs has always been that switching to an advanced payment system is allowable as long as it is done before the next fiscal year.

Motion: To approve an advanced payment process for three Funded Programs.

- Raised by: Dr. Giardini
- Seconded by: Mr. Yunus
- Discussion: Dr. Gorski asked a question regarding payment frequency and schedule which Mr. Holcomb answered.
- Motion **approved** by a roll call vote.
 - Andrell Bragg-Shaw: Aye
 - Dr. K. Edward Copeland: Absent
 - Dr. Terry Giardini: Aye
 - Dr. Bill Gorski: Aye
 - Richard Kunnert: Aye
 - Tim Nabors: Aye
 - Jeff Nielsen: Aye
 - Dr. Amanda Penney: Aye
 - Mohammad Yunus: Aye
 - Mary Ann Abate: Aye



G) Discussion Items

1) Grassroots Funding

- Notes: Mr. Holcomb explained that R1 has moved forward with preparing policies and documents necessary to begin Grassroots Funding. R1 will send draft documents for the Board to review. Mr. Holcomb will also have them reviewed by legal. It is anticipated that the Board will vote for program approval at the August board meeting.
- A question was asked regarding the interest in this new program. Mr. Holcomb explained that smaller non-profits and specific programs have previously expressed interest in this kind of funding. Board wanted to clarify program specifics: up to \$100,000 will be allocated for each year for two years, and organizations with an annual operating budget of \$1 million or less will receive priority consideration.

H) Other Matters

1) 1) Outside Residents

- Notes: Ms. Abate asked if there was an update on the new Board member. Mr. Nabors explained the approval process through the Winnebago County Board, which includes a minimum of 28 days before final approval by the county Board. Mr. Nabors asked if the Mental Health Board felt it would be helpful to suspend county rules to expedite the approval. Upon discussion, no reasons were provided to support an expedited process.

I) Adjournment

1) **Motion:** for Adjournment was carried. Adjourned at 2:29 PM

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Dr. Giardini
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Members: Dr. Copeland