



Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 5th, 2026 **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, Dr. Collene Taylor, 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: Present
- Dr. Terry Giardini: Absent
- Dr. Bill Gorski: Present
- Richard Kunnert: Present
- Tim Nabors: Present
- Jeff Nielsen: Present
- Dr. Amanda Penney: Absent
- Dr. Collene Taylor: Present
- Mohammad Yunus: Present
- Jason Holcomb: Present
- Guests:
 - **R1:** Chelsey Glatz, Raegan Hilbrant, Alex McCann, Patricia Moton
 - **City of Rockford Family Peace Center:** Kelsey Hart
 - **Family Counseling Services:** Stan Goral, Brenda Marquez
 - **Rockford Police Department/CCRT:** Edward King
 - **Rosecrance/Crisis Co-Response Team (CCRT):** Meghan Johns
 - **Rosecrance:** Robert Jones
 - **University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford (UICOMR):** Joe Garry, Kathleen Monteleone
 - **ROE #4:** Scott Bloomquist, Marc Hooks, Alexandra Zimmerman
 - **Rockford Barbell:** Elliot Ganet
 - **Second First Church/Overnight Cafe:** Karen Hill



r1planning.org/community-impact/wccmhbb | infoementalhealth.wincoil.gov | bit.ly/m/WCCMHB





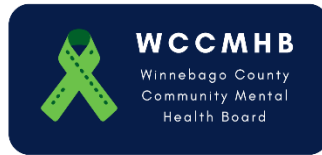
C) Public Comment

- 1) Alexandra Zimmerman, Regional Office of Education #4 (ROE4)
 - Notes: Ms. Zimmerman, Senior Director of Student Services, gave an update on ROE4's accelerator award, placing 11 interventionists to serve 400 students. They accelerated real, measurable outcomes as interventions took on student caseloads. The interventionists improved students' grades and attendance. She also shared a success story about a student who had a severe social anxiety, but an interventionist helped her transition. The program will begin its next school year, and they have come a long way thanks to the accelerator funding.

D) Presentations – None

E) Monthly Activity Report – June and July 2026

- 1) Jason Holcomb gave the June and July 2026 Activity Report.
 - Mr. Holcomb highlighted 33 impact videos for PY5, and they are now available on the YouTube page. He invited the Board and everyone to check the videos and share them with their networks.
 - The MHFWSS had 3 enrolled institutions: OSF School of Nursing, University of Illinois School of Social Work, and Rockford University Bachelor's in Social Work. Mr. Holcomb is working with these institutions regarding enrollments.
 - The National Regional Councils Association recognized R1 and collective partners with an achievement award for the development of the Regional Health Atlas which is part of the Metopio subscription.



F) Action Items

1) June 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the June 2026 Meeting Minutes.

- Raised by: Mr. Yunus
- Seconded by: Mr. Nabors
- Discussion: Mr. Nielsen raised a clerical correction that needs to be made.
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Members: Dr. Terry Giardini, Dr. Amanda Penney

2) Resolution 2026-X: Resolution Authorizing Funded Programs' Budget Updates for Program Years 4 – 6

Rockford Barbell, FPC, and FCS requested budget modifications. The expenses changed for direct personnel salary, direct tax, fringe benefits, commodities, travel, training, and education.

Motion: To approve Resolution 2025-X Authorizing Funded Programs' Budget Updates for Program Years 4-6

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Mr. Nielsen
- Discussion: Dr. Gorski has a question about the expense change for FCS. Mr. Holcomb clarified that the agency requesting a budget amendment also has revenue generated from insurance and Medicaid billing, which is why they needed to do a budget adjustment, because they have seen more revenue than originally projected. They needed to increase their revenue, which would increase their expenses as well.
 - Motion **approved** by a roll call vote.

• Andrell Bragg-Shaw:	Aye
• Dr. K. Edward Copeland:	Aye
• Dr. Terry Giardini:	Absent
• Dr. Bill Gorski:	Aye
• Richard Kunnert:	Aye
• Tim Nabors:	Aye
• Jeff Nielsen:	Aye
• Dr. Amanda Penney:	Absent
• Dr. Collene Taylor:	Aye
• Mohammad Yunus:	Aye
• Mary Ann Abate:	Aye



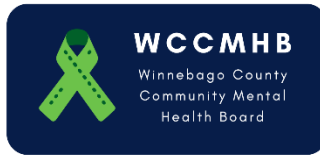
3) Resolution 2026-XX: Resolution Authorizing Formation of Mental Health Diversion Advisory Committee

Mr. Holcomb gave an update on contracting with The Leifman Group (*Miami Model*) for the development of a mental health jail diversion program. The consultant is under contract for 12-months to identify opportunities for implementation of best practices in jail diversion in Winnebago County, including the potential for a new facility. He discussed forming an advisory committee and engaging key stakeholders to advise the Board. He also shared in the meeting about the task phases and deliverables. Consultants will review the collected WCCMHB data and the reports/plans. There will be targeted interviews with stakeholders. There will be an on-site meeting on November 16-18, 2026, where the consultants will host community workshops and engagement activities and convene stakeholders to present their findings on mental health diversion planning. A strategic framework and recommendations will be developed. There will be actionable goals and implementation plans, focusing on crisis response, housing, primary care, and jail diversion.

Ms. Bragg-Shaw asked if this committee would have any community members. Mr. Holcomb said that community members will be included in community engagement efforts, but the advisory committee needs to be a manageable size as it will be a public body under Open Meetings Act. Mr. Yunus asked if the workshop would be in Winnebago County and also clarified the role of the advisory committee. Mrs. Abate clarified that the advisory committee will serve as the advisor to the mental health board and provide expertise. The advisory committee will consist of individuals from the nominee list, pending acceptance and confirmation of appointments.

Motion: To approve Resolution 2026-XX: Resolution Authorizing Formation of Mental Health Diversion Advisory Committee

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
- Discussion: Ms. Bragg-Shaw wants to ensure that it is on record so the public can participate and not feel left out. Dr. Gorski asked if the nominees from the list are willing to serve. Mr. Holcomb said there will be a next step to the process, and the slate of appointments will be announced at the September board meeting for approval.
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Members: Dr. Terry Giardini, Dr. Amanda Penney



4) Mental Health Workforce Student Support Special Condition

The special condition is sending a copy of the recent financial audit once the budget is approved and finalized.

Motion: To approve that the special condition has been met to release funding.

- Raised by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
- Seconded by: Mr. Nabors
- Discussion: None
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Members: Dr. Terry Giardini, Dr. Amanda Penney

5) Grassroots Special Conditions

Two organizations have submitted evidence to show their special conditions have been met. Rockford Area Arts Council had a special condition to have an intake screening, which was fulfilled by Hello Insight Tool.

Motion: To approve that special conditions have been met by all agencies to release grassroots funding.

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Dr. Gorski
- Discussion: None
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Members: Dr. Terry Giardini, Dr. Amanda Penney



6) Strategic Plan 3.0 Approval

The Board members expressed appreciation for the plan.

Motion: To approve the final version of the Strategic Plan 3.0

- Raised by: Mr. Nabors
- Seconded by: Dr. Taylor
- Discussion: None
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Members: Dr. Terry Giardini, Dr. Amanda Penney

G) Discussion Items

1) HIPAA Compliant Rideshare Update

- Mr. Holcomb stated that HIPAA-compliant rideshare has completed its first year. Ms. Hilbrant presented the data and summarized what had been accomplished since its launch. She gave a brief background on what the rideshare is and where the funding goes.
- There have been 1,656 rides completed between June 2025 and May 2026. Many people saw their providers, a result that would not have been possible without the funding. She presented data and identified April as the month with the largest completed rides. She also discussed the money spent per target population, where those with Serious Emotional Disturbance (3-21) receive the most funding. She discussed the zip codes of unique passengers, including those in rural areas, and the total monthly spending in dollars.
- Board Members asked about incomplete rides and the breakdown of no-show passengers. Ms. Hilbrant responded that incomplete rides occur when riders miss their rides, when providers cancel unnecessary rides, or when other ride options are available. Kaizen Health has been great to work with, and they're very responsive, whether the rides are complete or incomplete.



2) Special Board Meeting for Elected Officials

- Mr. Holcomb and Mrs. Abate met with the County Chairman and a board member. The request was to host a special board meeting for the mental health board to present operational updates to the appointing authority boards, Winnebago County Board and Rockford City Council. The suggestion is to hold special evening meetings at R1, and Mr. Holcomb will send out potential dates over the next couple of months to see what options exist. Board members asked who requested the meetings, and Mrs. Abate responded that it was requested by the Winnebago County Board. It will be an open meeting for anyone to attend. One idea is to host this annually for the County Board and City Council, as it is challenging to maintain a consistent cycle of presentations to the appointing boards. A special meeting will meet the Board's obligation to have information presented to these bodies.

H) Other Matters – None

I) Adjournment

- 1) **Motion:** For Adjournment was carried. Adjourned at 2:39 PM.
 - Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
 - Seconded by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Members: Dr. Terry Giardini, Dr. Amanda Penney