



Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 3rd, 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

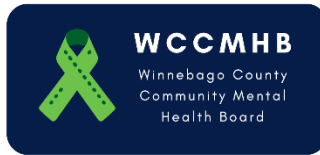
B) Roll Call

- Mary Ann Abate: Present
- Andrell Bragg-Shaw: Present
- Dr. K. Edward Copeland: Absent
- Dr. Terry Giardini: Present
- Dr. Bill Gorski: Absent
- Richard Kunnert: Present
- Tim Nabors: Present (Left 2:34 PM)
- Jeff Nielsen: Present
- Dr. Amanda Penney: Absent
- Mohammad Yunus: Absent
- Jason Holcomb: Present
- Guests:
 - **R1 Planning Council:** Chelsey Glatz, Alex McCann, Patricia Moton, Seth Boswell, Raegan Hilbrant, Amy Salamon
 - **Rockford University:** Kristen Clarke
 - **Life4Lali:** Laura Fry, Ciceli McIn
 - **Rockford Fire:** Jonathan Larson
 - **City of Rockford:** Mary Trujillo
 - **UICOMR:** Kathleen Monteleone
 - **Rosecrance:** Sadie Cobio, Stephen Smith
 - Tracy Zander



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





C) Public Comment

1) Tracy Zander

- Ms. Zander gave a statement regarding her experience with Rosecrance DBT and the Single Point of Entry programs. She expressed dissatisfaction with the condition of her apartment.

2) Sadie Cobio, Regional Director, Rosecrance

- Ms. Cobio introduced the Board to the new director of Rosecrance for Northern Illinois, Stephen Smith.

3) Kristen Clarke, Director of Social Work, Rockford University

- Ms. Clarke wanted to thank the Board for the work and funding given to the social work program. She states that there are 17 students enrolled in the initial classes and the university is seeking accreditation. Ms. Clarke is asking for help in securing businesses to partner with the social work program and possibly host social work interns.

4) Laura Fry, Executive Director Live for Lali

- Ms. Fry wanted to thank the Board for funding their mobile outreach van.

D) Presentations – None

E) Monthly Activity Report – August 2025

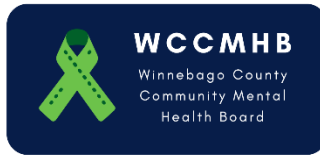
1) Jason Holcomb, WCCMHB Director, gave the August 2025 Activity Report.

Mr. Holcomb reported that Rosecrance as the Youth Mental Health System of Care coordinator presented at the most recent LNC and encouraged agencies to register with IRIS.

Rockford University was invited to present at the next Learning Network Collaborative connect funded agencies for internship possibilities for the RU social work program.

Grassroots funding opportunity has been presented to community networks and received media coverage. The Board has already received three letters of interest and others are in progress.

Metopio has been contracted as the vendor for the geo-spatial needs assessment platform and will be utilized for the Board's strategic plan update. Core Program PY4 impact videos are now published on YouTube, highlighting impacts from PY4 programming from the agencies themselves.



F) Action Items

1) August 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the August 2025 Meeting Minutes.

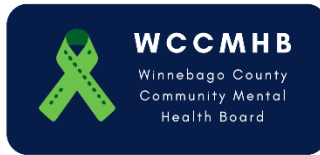
- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Mr. Nabors
- Discussion: None
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Members: Dr. Bill Gorski, Dr. Amanda Penney, Dr. Edward Copeland, Mohammad Yunus

2) FY26 Workplan

Mr. Holcomb explained the fiscal year workplan. Many of the functions are systematic and are similar to those of previous years. The strategic plan is due for an update in FY26 and the workplan includes details for new grassroots funding.

Motion: To approve the WCCMHB FY26 workplan.

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



G) Discussion Items

1) Data Dashboard Updates

- Mr. Holcomb described why the data dashboard was created and his team's efforts to make the dashboard more user-friendly, incorporated in the recent update. Seth Boswell presented specific improvements in the update. The dashboard can be accessed through the WCCMHB webpage.
- Mr. Kunnert and Mr. Nabors commented that the dashboard should be presented to the Winnebago County Board to display the amount of progress and transparency available for Mental Health Board-funded programs.

2) Guidehouse Report

- Mr. Holcomb presented on highlights from the Guidehouse report for the Board to discuss. He pointed out that CCBHC model is a researched, modernized extension of the CSS that has been previously used. Both have many components in common. The report lists 20 actionable items that have been paired with WCCMHB strategic plan components and current status through distributed accelerated and core program grants. The handout shows how the Board is already doing some of the activities recommended by the report and points out opportunities for possible inclusion in the next strategic plan.
- Dr. Giardini spoke on his progress in finding out more about homelessness in Rockford, mental health, and people being sent to Rockford from outside communities. His investigation is still ongoing. Mr. Holcomb added that R1 Planning is leading a community health needs assessment funded through an EPA grant that explores supported housing needs and will share the findings when it's completed.
- Discussion followed regarding Rosecrance as the hub, strengthening the overall community support system model in the community. A request was made to distribute handouts to the missing Board Members.



H) Other Matters

- 1) No Other Matters

I) Adjournment

- 1) **Motion:** For Adjournment was carried. Adjourned at 2:51 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. Bill Gorski, Dr. Edward Copeland, Tim Nabors, Dr. Amanda Penney, Mohammad Yunus