



Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 6th, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM 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 10:00 AM

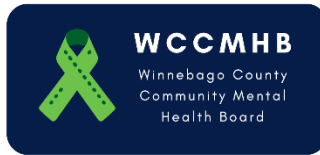
B) Roll Call

- 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 10:10 AM)
- Mohammad Yunus: Present
- Jason Holcomb: Present
- Guests:
 - **R1 Planning Council:** Chelsey Glatz, Alex McCann, Raegan Hilbrant, Patricia Moton, Amy Salamon
 - **Guidehouse:** *virtual:* Chiara Alvisi, Charlie Smith, Sydney Pedraza, Jamin Barber
 - **Behavioral Health Advisory Committee:** Dan Ross
 - **Community Foundation of Northern IL:** Sarah Lambert, Jen Smith
 - **Crusader:** *virtual:* Terry White
 - **Second First Church:** Karen Hill
 - **Family Peace Center:** Kelsey Hart
 - **UICOMR:** Joe Garry



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C) Public Comment

- 1) No public comment

D) Presentations

1) Guidehouse Presentation

- Presenters: Chiara Alvisi, Charlie Smith, Sydney Pedraza, Jamin Barber, Dan Ross
- Notes: On request from the City of Rockford and Winnebago County for an analysis of mental health coordination and system of care in Winnebago County, Guidehouse was contracted through a WCCMHB Accelerator Award.

Guidehouse staff were present via Zoom to provide an overview of their findings. Purpose of their study was to assess and improve how Winnebago County residents find and receive mental and behavioral health care.

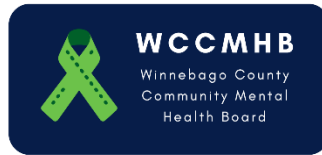
Principal report findings were:

1. Many people simply don't know which services exist and how to access them, particularly among those with limited English proficiency.
2. There are gaps in accessing care caused by geographical disparities, transportation, workforce, rural access, long waitlists, and insurance obstacles particularly with Medicaid and Medicare.
3. There are gaps when patients are referred from one agency to another.

The report recommended a hub and spoke model, allowing the system of care to be restructured while continuing to remain rooted in the community. Rosecrance, as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic, will serve as the hub. Funded agencies are grouped by function (jail, school, behavioral health providers, residential programs, etc.).

The hub and agencies will be responsible for five objectives, which are:

1. Increase awareness and engagement
 2. Enhance entry points and navigation
 3. Expand access and capacity
 4. Foster inclusion and acceptance
 5. Strengthen follow-through and coordination
- Benefits of this model: It is integrated to include a variety of needs and is community-based. It will provide faster access, better follow up, and inclusive care for residents utilizing mental and behavioral health care services.
 - All Mental Health Board Members will receive a copy of the full report following this meeting and are encouraged to provide feedback directly to Guidehouse.
 - Questions and discussion followed.



E) Monthly Activity Report – July 2025

- 1) Jason Holcomb, WCCMHB Director, gave the July 2025 Activity Report.
 - R1 coordinated with the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee and consultant to provide today's Guidehouse presentation and assemble the report. Mr. Holcomb recognized the Community Impact summer interns and thanked them for their work, particularly with enhancing the data dashboard.

F) Action Items

1) July 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the July 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 Member: Dr. K. Edward Copeland

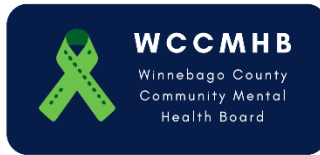
2) Resolution 2025-X: Resolution Authorizing Funded Programs' Budget Updates for Program Years 4 – 6

This resolution allows the Family Peace Center to contract telehealth services, among other budget adjustments in Years 4–6.

Motion: To approve the budget update for Family Peace Center.

- Raised by: Mr. Nielsen
- Seconded by: Mr. Yunus
- Discussion: None
 - 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



3) Resolution 2025-XX: Resolution Authorizing Audit Waiver for Program Year 4

Organizations have requested a professional financial review in lieu of a full formal audit. These organizations have operational budgets under the state threshold.

Motion: To approve an audit waiver for those requesting organizations.

- Raised by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
- Seconded by: Dr. Gorski
- Discussion: There were questions and discussion regarding the state financial requirements for an audit and how the financial review would be conducted.

- 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



4) Grassroots Funding Notice of Funding Opportunity

This item has been significantly discussed in past meetings. This is for Board approval of the program and includes a timeline. Feedback and legal review comments have been incorporated. The Grassroots Funding Notice of Funding Opportunity will be released pending the Board's approval.

Motion: To approve the Grassroots Funding Notice of Funding Opportunity

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
- Discussion: Mr. Nielsen had questions about whether enough time was allotted for each stage of the process. Mr. Holcomb explained that by requiring a letter of interest instead of a full application, it reduces the time and work required by organizations to apply. Dr. Gorski requested clarification on the Board's involvement and process for reviewing letters of interest.
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Member: Dr. K. Edward Copeland

G) Discussion Items

1) Guidehouse Presentation

- Mr. Nabors asked for additional clarification on types of services supported by Grassroots Funding, answered by Mr. Holcomb. There was additional discussion regarding the Guidehouse report and its implementation. Mr. Kunnert asked to include the implementation of the Guidehouse report as a discussion item at the September meeting.

H) Other Matters

1) Board Member Appointment

- Ms. Bragg-Shaw requested an update on the search for a new Board Member. There is no update at this time.

I) Adjournment

1) **Motion:** For Adjournment was carried. Adjourned at 11:09 AM.

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Member: Dr. K. Edward Copeland