



Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 7th, 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: Absent
- Jeff Nielsen: Present
- Dr. Amanda Penney: Absent at Roll Call, Arrived 2:00 PM
- Mohammad Yunus: Absent
- Jason Holcomb: Present
- Guests:
 - **R1 Planning:** Chelsey Glatz, Alex McCann, Emily Kate, Amy Salamon, Patricia Moton
 - **Winnebago County Health Department:** Cynthia Hall
 - **UICOMR:** Kathleen Monteleone, Nabil Khan (Student)
 - **Winnebago County JDC:** Julie McCray-Grotto
 - **City of Rockford CCRT/MIH:** Mary Trujillo
 - **Rockford Park District:** Jessica Steinberg
 - **Live4Lali:** Will Crandall



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C) Public Comment

- 1) No Public Comment

D) Presentations

- 1) No Presentation

E) Monthly Activity Report - April 2025

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

- Notes: Chelsey Glatz gave an update on public engagement events. The third year of the annual community event with NAMI, Building Bridges, will be held on May 21, with Mr. Kunnert speaking as a Board representative. All of the core and accelerator programs will have tables at the event for the "meet and greet." The University of Chicago School of Medicine Social Work is hosting a press conference for the SWOT Program on May 22 at 1:00 PM and is seeking a Board representative to speak.

Mr. Holcomb gave an update on findings and recommendations from the consultant for the City/County Behavioral Health Advisory Committee. They will conduct meetings during May on how their findings align with local needs, strategic plans to prioritize community needs and seek models from. The consultant will present at the July WCCMHB meeting before the report is adopted. He pointed out that the data collected was difficult to aggregate, since the organizations supplying data are from organizations providing disparate services and four of the committee partner organizations did not provide any data. He answered questions from Board Members. Dr. Gorski mentioned resurrecting the letter sent to all health organizations and voicing a concern with the quality of the analysis.

Mr. Kunnert moved to ask the advisory committee for reasons why health organizations did not provide information to the consultant, given they had previously signed agreements to do so.



F) Action Items

1) April 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the April 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. K. Edward Copeland, Tim Nabors, Mohammad Yunus

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

Mary Ann Abate read the resolution where the Winnebago County Health Department's Trauma Informed Care Coordination Program had expense changes.

Motion: To approve the amended changes to their budget.

- Raised by: Mr. Nielsen
- Seconded by: Mr. Kunnert
- 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: Absent
 - Jeff Nielsen: Aye
 - Dr. Amanda Penney: Aye
 - Mohammad Yunus: Absent
 - Mary Ann Abate: Aye



4) Resolution 2025-XXX: Resolution for Making a Recommendation to the Appointing Authority for Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Vacancy

The Board put forth recommendations for applications to fill the vacant Board position. The Board is recommending Colleen Taylor, who is a licensed mental health provider with extensive experience in community mental health, and noted an additional candidate with relevant skills in Matthew Kindler, a licensed mental health practitioner with extensive community mental health experience.

Motion: To recommend named individuals to the appointing authority.

- Raised by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
- Seconded by: Dr. Gorski
- Discussion: None
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Members: Dr. K. Edward Copeland, Tim Nabors, Mohammad Yunus



3) **Resolution 2025-XX: Resolution Authorizing the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Funding and Allocation of Special Project Funds for Accelerator Award Applications**

This resolution was tabled at the previous meeting for approval with a first and second. Mr. Holcomb explained the options for moving forward. It can be taken off the table so it can be voted on. Mr. Nielsen clarified when discussion could take place regarding this resolution. Julie McCray-Grotto from the JDC was present to answer questions from the Board. She described architectural changes to take place at the justice center that altered requested project costs for Board funding. These new architectural plans are adjustments to the original plans based on a reduced amount of available Mental Health Board funding. Mr. Nielsen was concerned that a wall removal would reduce confidentiality and spread out juveniles receiving services, but Ms. McCray-Grotto explained how the mental health suite would preserve provider/patient confidentiality. Dr. Giardini had concerns about classroom space being sufficient and space for youth being served. Ms. McCray-Grotto maintains that even though there is less classroom space, it's still an improvement over the current situation, which spreads students throughout the building. Ms. Bragg-Shaw clarified that this project will move forward regardless and Ms. McCray-Grotto said that the center is dedicated to exploring all available options for funding. This architecture will not be affected by further construction phases at the center. Ms. McCray-Grotto explained that she is satisfied with the proposed plan, given that it provided additional spaces that offer privacy to juveniles receiving services from therapists. Mr. Holcomb reminded the board that the funding structure is pay for deliverables, meaning that it will only be paid out when specific deliverables are completed.

Motion: To take from the table

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

Motion: To approve the original resolution

- 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: Absent
 - Jeff Nielsen: Aye
 - Dr. Amanda Penney: Aye
 - Mohammad Yunus: Absent
 - Mary Ann Abate: Aye



5) HIPAA Compliant Rideshare Program Funded Program Use Policy

Mr. Holcomb gave an update on the rideshare program. The Mental Health Board is now piloting with 16 providers participating in the first year to implement service in the community. It is a last resort rideshare for non-emergency HIPAA-compliant transportation services. Trainings are being scheduled and the Board is asked to provide a user policy that has been modeled off of McHenry County's mental health user policy.

Mr. Nielsen asked how this is HIPAA compliant. Mr. Holcomb explained that the user's name and destination are visible to the third party vendor. R1 wants to be sure to gather personal information so they know that the gap is truly being met, but while keeping sensitive information private from the vendor.

Dr. Giardini clarified that the client would be exploring alternate methods of transportation in good faith and that there would not be a point where they would be cut off from services. This was confirmed.

Motion: To approve the HIPAA Compliant Rideshare Policy.

- 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. K. Edward Copeland, Tim Nabors, Mohammad Yunus



G) Discussion Items

1) WCCMHB Impact Report Issue 3 Draft

- Notes: Miss Glatz asked that members provide any comments on the impact report draft by Friday, May 9, before it is printed.

2) Grassroots Funding

- Notes: Mr. Holcomb distributed information from St. Louis Children's Service Fund that answered questions brought up at the last meeting. Mr. Holcomb said that he would draft a notice of funding to begin Grassroots Funding, to be voted on at a future Board meeting.

Mr. Nielsen asked if Mr. Holcomb thought there would be a number of organizations who would take advantage of this form of funding. Mr. Holcomb thought so, supported by Dr. Gorski. Dr. Gorski described a site visit to Tommy Corral Memorial Foundation (TCMF), which is the smallest organization the Board funds. He thought TCMF had a broad impact in their activities and mentioned that they will be losing their location. He described this as an example of a small organization doing good work that could benefit from the grassroots type of additional funding. Additional staff is a clear need for these kinds of small organizations. Mr. Holcomb anticipates a 10% increase in R1's administrative budget to operate the additional programming with integrity.

Ms. Bragg-Shaw echoed Dr. Gorski's sentiments on TCMF and its impact.

R1 will proceed with drafting a NOFO for the next Board meeting.



H) Other Matters

1) Outside Residents

- Notes: Dr. Giardini spoke on a visit he had with the CCRT team at District 100. District 100 is seeing an increase in people from other communities seeking services. He expressed his opinion that CCRT should serve Winnebago County residents and serving people from outside communities would dilute its effectiveness. He wants to undertake a data collection/fact-finding with the team and police officers to do this. He will report back to the Board and communities with his findings. If anyone has stories or information on this issue, they were instructed to contact Jason to pass on to Dr. Giardini. Dr. Giardini asked for the Board's permission to undergo a fact-finding mission.

Mr. Nielsen commented that this has been a concern for many years. He agrees that it's worth seeing if this issue is fact or fiction. Anecdotally, other Board Members agree that people from other communities have been directed to or requested mental health services in Winnebago County. There was verbal consensus from the Board for Dr. Giardini to investigate.

Mr. Nielsen asked if Board members should wear nametags to the Building Bridges event to identify them as WCCMHB Members. R1 will provide the Board with nametag and branded clothing options for their consideration.

I) Adjournment

1) **Motion:** For Adjournment was carried. Adjourned at 2:56 PM

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Dr. Penney
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Members: Dr. K. Edward Copeland, Tim Nabors, Mohammad Yunus