



Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 4, 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: Richard Kunnert: *Vice President*

Members: Mary Ann Abate: *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: Vice President Richard Kunnert called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

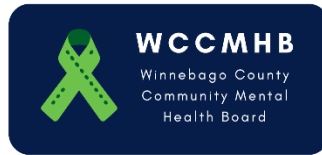
B) Roll Call

- Mary Ann Abate: Absent
- Andrell Bragg-Shaw: Present
- Dr. K. Edward Copeland: Present (Left at 2:27 returned at 2:29)
- Dr. Terry Giardini: Present
- Dr. Bill Gorski: Present
- Richard Kunnert: Present
- Tim Nabors: Present
- Jeff Nielsen: Present
- Dr. Amanda Penney: Absent
- Mohammad Yunus: Absent
- Jason Holcomb: Present
- Guests:
 - **R1:** Chelsey Glatz, Raegan Hilbrant, Alex McCann, Patricia Moton, Amy Salamon, Maria Tiongco, Seth Boswell
 - **Zukowski, Rogers, Flood & McArdle Law (ZRFM Law):** Brandy Quance
 - **Rockford Police Department:** Sgt. Brian Mace
 - **Rockford Fire:** Jon Larson
 - **City of Rockford:** Mary Trujillo



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- **Winnebago County Sheriff's Department:** Sana Siddiani
- **UICOMR:** Joe Garry, Alex Stagnaro-Green, Carol Schuster
- **UIUC School of Social Work:** Meggi Aspengren, Cheryl Street
- **Rockford University:** Kristen Clarke
- **NAMI:** Danielle Angileri
- **Rosecrance:** Sadie Cobio
- **Community Physicians:** Heather Hackman
- **Community Advocate:** Jeff Bailey
- **Second First Church:** Karen Hill
- Susan Rotello

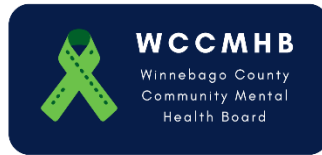
C) Public Comments

1) Dr. Alex Stagnaro-Green, UICOMR

- Dr. Stagnaro-Green, recipient of SWOT Program grant to create social worker pipeline in the Winnebago County. Rockford University, University of Illinois, Rock Valley College, University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford, and Rockford Public Schools are part of a consortium that began 16 months ago, and achieved all its objectives. Dr. Stagnaro-Green explained the progress and success of the program. Twenty-nine students enrolled in Cohort one, an additional eight in the fall to reach goal of 40 students in Cohort one. RPS 205 has a collaborating partner has 80 students participating in their programs. Dr. Stagnaro-Green wants to request \$1.5 million funding for Cohort two, additional 27 students at Rockford University and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to continue the momentum.

2) Sadie Cobio, Rosecrance

- Ms. Cobio explained the Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR) Program or MAT Medication-Assisted Treatment. The program welcomed Dr. Grewal who is a board-certified family medicine physician specializing in addiction medicine. Currently serving people over age 18 for a broad spectrum of substances with various treatment methods. Rosecrance serves mental health, but wants to do so collaboratively in instances when a mental health patient might need MAR. Clients can walk in at the Ware Center off North Main or at any point in their treatment if already enrolled.



3) Karen Hill, Second First Church

- Ms. Hill is the assistant coordinator of the Overnight Café at Second First Church on Jefferson. Ms. Hill wanted to provide the number like she did a year ago. The season wrapped up with 379 guests served by the Overnight Cafe program. Of the guest 303 were male, 72 female, and 2 other. They have more metrics that they have not gotten collected yet. In talking with many of the guest Ms. Hill stated that many have gotten on waiting lists for housing or received resources on getting housing. The program received support from St Vincent de Paul and seven other churches that assisted with meal and some also contributed financially. Some of the staff of the program also work at Rosecrance and were able to connect with some of the guests or guest that they needed to meet with. Ms. Hill explained an instance they did open on a Saturday during the day due to sever cold. They were able to recruit volunters from their church and the Homeless Coalition. Mr. Hill explained they were still open on Sunday after the day opening to get people out of the elements The program is now closed because of funding issue and staff tapped out. Overall it has been a good year for the program. They will reevaluate and make adjustments for the next season.

D) Presentations – None

E) Monthly Activity Report – February 2026

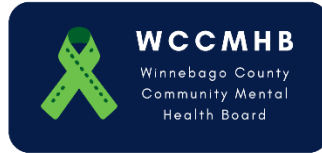
- 1) Jason Holcomb, WCCMHB Director, gave the February 2026 Activity Report.
 - Mr. Holcomb highlighted coordination with network groups related on mental health related issues. The Miami workshop attendance list has been confirmed, and registration has gone out. There are many site visits scheduled through March to May. The Board members are encouraged to review the list against their schedules and sign up for visits with Alex.

F) Action Items

1) February 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the February 2026 Meeting Minutes.

- Raised by: Mr. Nabors
- Seconded by: Mr. Nielsen
- Discussion: None
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Members: Mary Ann Abate, Dr. Amanda Penney, Mohammad Yunus



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

The City of Rockford CCRT wants flexibility in emergency placement for clients. HUD-funded programs are a challenge, so they would like budget flexibility to account for variances in emergency housing. NAMI is also requesting a budget amendment as they were not able to identify a national speaker in the previous allocated budget for their Building Bridges event and would like a modification to account for the higher speaker cost.

Motion: To approve resolution 2026-X

- Raised by: Mr. Nabors
- Seconded by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
- Discussion: None
 - Motion **approved** by a roll call vote.
 - Mary Ann Abate: Absent
 - Andrell Bragg-Shaw: Aye
 - Dr. K. Edward Copeland: Aye
 - Dr. Terry Giardini: Aye
 - Dr. Bill Gorski: Aye
 - Tim Nabors: Aye
 - Jeff Nielsen: Aye
 - Dr. Amanda Penney: Absent
 - Mohammad Yunus: Absent
 - Richard Kunnert: Aye



3) Resolution 2026-XX: Resolution Authorizing the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Funding and Allocation of Grant Funds for Grassroots Funding Applications

Mr. Kunnert read the full resolution.

Motion: To approve Resolution 2026-XX.

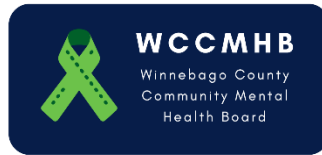
- Raised by: Mr. Nielsen
- Seconded by: Dr. Gorski
- Discussion: Dr. Giardini stated that he recommended rejecting 7 of the proposals during evaluation, as he believed they were insincere and prepared by AI. He will go along with the Board's decision, but wanted to voice his opposition. Ms. Bragg-Shaw asked if there was an expressed standard for applicants, to which Mr. Holcomb replied there was no expressed standard and the Board will need to discuss one for future rounds if they wish to implement a standard.

- Motion **approved** by a roll call vote.
 - Mary Ann Abate: Absent
 - Andrell Bragg-Shaw: Aye
 - Dr. K. Edward Copeland: Aye
 - Dr. Terry Giardini: Aye
 - Dr. Bill Gorski: Aye
 - Tim Nabors: Aye
 - Jeff Nielsen: Aye
 - Dr. Amanda Penney: Absent
 - Mohammad Yunus: Absent
 - Richard Kunnert: Aye

G) Discussion Items

1) Annual Report FY25

- The Board received a draft of the annual report. Mrs. Glatz requested the Board to submit comments or changes to her by March 9 at the close of business.



2) Strategic Plan 3.0, Environmental Scan & Goal 1: Programming

- Mr. Holcomb and Ms. McCann described details of the drafted Programming content in the third version of the WCCMHB strategic plan. The Board will hear presentations on all sections of the strategic plan during regular monthly meetings. Ms. McCann read all objectives and strategies for ongoing programming.
- Mr. Holcomb gave results of the environmental scan, which looks at elements of the CSS and surveys direct service agencies to find strengths and gaps of each of these elements. This scan received feedback from 53 agencies. Results included a Services breakdown. There is a notable increase in services for housing, medication management, substance abuse services. Number of services offered: median was 5 services per organization. For the populations being served, 19-25 years old is the highest number, as they are the age group where there is the most likely onset of mental illness. For client volumes, there is a large variety of types (high volume which is 300+ clients is almost half of all organizations, and the largest type). On to the funding sources, WCCMHB is most common funding source, with the state of IL comes second. Local funding is critical to Winnebago County mental health services. For sliding scale payments, it is higher for those with mental health board grants. The language support services went up. Not only Spanish, Arabic and Swahili had significant needs too. Regarding waiting lists, wait times have gone down compared to the last environmental scan. On service locations, it is primarily main or alternate office locations (still mainly in-person in office setting). Lastly, for services for mental illness and SUD, many are providing dual services for co-occurring diagnoses.
- Ms. McCann continued with drafted objectives and recommended changes. They were largely similar to the previous plan's objectives and measures.
- Draft strategic plan will be ready for the June meeting, with a public comment period to follow.
- The Board was allowed an opportunity to comment on the strategic plan and proposed changes, as well as submit gaps that should be included. Dr. Gorski wondered if the Board should be more proactive in filling gaps by identifying and seeking organizations that can fill those gaps instead of waiting for them to seek out the Board. Mr. Holcomb thought that could be useful in addressing some gaps that have repeatedly not received any proposals that addressed issues (eating disorder). Could also issue targeted NOFO for those gaps. Mr. Holcomb agreed that this issue is good to incorporate into the strategic plan.
- Mr. Kunnert pointed out that historically, gaps could be pointed out and then community organizations would begin programs to address those gaps.
- The Board thanked R1 staff for their work in putting together the plan draft.



H) Other Matters

1) 100 Club of Illinois

Dr. Giardini thanked community members and organizations for attending today's meeting and explained 100 Club of Illinois, which he recently attended. 100 Club addresses police, fire, first responders who have been involved in a traumatic experience. Mentioned 100 Club is exploring bringing a chapter to Rockford and encouraged attendees to support that.

2) Grassroots Review

Mr. Kunnert thanked the Board for their work in reviewing grassroots applications.

I) Adjournment

1) Motion: For Adjournment was carried. Adjourned at 3:02 PM.

- Raised by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
- Seconded by: Dr. Gorski
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Members: Mary Ann Abate, Dr. Amanda Penney, Mohammad Yunus