Regional Data Advisory Council Agenda

Date: Wednesday, January 28th, 2025

Time: 3:30 PM CT

Location: Region 1 Planning Council, 127 N Wyman Street, Rockford IL 61101

Called by: Amanda Mehl, Committee Chair Nominee

Members: Alignment Rockford, Boone County Health Department, Bridges to Prosperity Northern Illinois, City of Rockford, Discovery Center, Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce, Growth Dimensions, Northern Illinois Center for Nonprofit Excellence, Platform Housing, Rockford Regional Health Council, Rockford Park District, Rockford Public Schools District 205, Rockford University, The Workforce Connection

Director: Jason Holcomb, Region 1 Planning Council

Agenda:

A) **Call to Order**
B) **Roll Call**
C) **Public Comment**
D) **Presentations**
E) **Action Items**
   1) Approval of October 2025 Meeting Minutes
   2) Approval of Regional Health Atlas Indicator Recommendations
F) **Discussion Items**
   1) Livable Communities Initiative Index Methodology
   2) Alignment Rockford Early Development Instrument (EDI) 2025 Gallery Walk
G) **Other Matters**
H) **Adjournment**

Opportunities for public comment will be provided at all meetings. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the Region 1 Planning Council at 815-319-4180 at least two working days before the need for such services or accommodations.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 25th at 3:30 pm

E 1)

October 2025

Meeting Minutes

Regional Data Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 29, 2025
127 N Wyman St, Ste 100, Rockford, IL 61101

1. **Call to Order**
   With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Jason Holcomb at 3:33 pm.

2. **Roll Call**
   A quorum was present. Attending members included:

x	Alignment Rockford	x	Platform Housing
x	Boone County Health Department		Rock Valley College
x	Bridges to Prosperity Northern Illinois	x	Rockford Regional Health Council
x	City of Rockford	x	Rockford Park District
	Discovery Center		Rockford Public Schools District 205
x	Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce		Rockford University
x	Growth Dimensions		The Workforce Connection
x	Northern Illinois Center for Nonprofit Excellence		

   Other attendees: Raegan Hilbrant, Isaac Guerrero, Phil Pittsford, Maria Tiongco, Chelsey Glatz, Michael Welford from R1, additional member

3. **Action Item: Approve August 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes**
   Motion by Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce, seconded by the Rockford Regional Health Council, to **approve** the August 20, 2025 meeting minutes.
   Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

4. **Action Item: Officer Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair**
   Mr. Holcomb explained that nominations will be recommended to the R1 Governing Board, who will then approve the nominations for this advisory committee. Mr. Holcomb also explained duties of officers. Amanda Mehl was nominated for chair and Emily Klonicki was nominated for vice-chair. Nominations were approved by the committee through unanimous voice vote.

   Officers will serve through June 2026, where they will then be renewed for a full term.

5. **Presentation: Community Data Summit**
   Jillisa Bondurant, Alignment Rockford

Jillisa briefly described Alignment Rockford's activity, specifically their work on the Early Development Instrument (EDI), which assesses children for kindergarten readiness. Data gathered by kindergarten teachers is then de-identified and overlaid on maps to provide context.

Alignment Rockford's Countywide Data Summit takes place on November 20. This event is a public presentation of the new Wave 3 of EDI data, followed by afternoon breakout sessions and a community discussion. Committee members received a flyer with additional details about the summit and encouraged to attend.

Discussion and questions followed.

6. **Discussion: Northern Illinois Data Dashboard**
Isaac Guerrero, R1 Director of Economic Development & Policy, gave an update on the dashboard's contents and next steps. R1 staff is now adding education and workforce data points. This group was asked to suggest additional data points for this tool. Gina Caronna, Exec Director for TWC, provided a list of categories, including:

WORKFORCE
- In-demand skills, identified by employers
- Educational attainment
- Largest industries
- Growing industries
- Age cohorts
- Total workforce availability and change in workforce (regional and county)
- Workforce by industry
- Labor participation rate

The committee suggested adding:
- Housing (individual metrics to include access, inventory, affordability, property tax for both rental and ownership; cost burden breakdown). It was commented that there may be enough information to make this category a separate dashboard tab.
- Health indicators
- Education (school districts)
- Safety
- Number of available seats in early education programs (to go on Education tab)

It was pointed out that these proposed metrics speak to separate audiences with separate needs, such as site selectors and individuals seeking to move into the area.

The R1 team and primary dashboard partners will continue building out the Workforce tab for committee feedback at the January meeting. The committee will also further discuss additional Education metrics for inclusion at the next meeting.

7. **Discussion: Regional Health Atlas**
Mr. Holcomb announced that there is now a prototype of the health dashboard, found at r1.metop.io. The committee was able to provide feedback on its contents.

Raegan Hilbrant gave a presentation on the regional Health Atlas, demonstrating how comparable municipalities use their atlases. This region's features a list of 87 indicators, sourced from Metopio's database. The committee was asked to provide feedback on the following questions:

1. Which indicators should be included for the public quick access (critical must-haves for your organization)?
   a. Insurance source (public vs. private, providers)
2. Which local topics should be built out into separate tabs?
   a. Committee members would like to talk to their clients to see what *their* priorities are in order to determine where the focus should lie
   b. Provide examples of other datasets that universities and other organizations already provide that the atlas could include
   c. Maternal health and youth wellness
   d. Neighborhood equity
   e. Housing quality + health connections
   f. Kids + DV survivors. Efficacy in child protection or recidivism rate. How schools are increasing protective factors for kids. There is a concern with the county supporting making this data publicly available.
3. Are there local datasets you have access to that you would like R1 to explore for inclusion?
   a. Urban Institute overall access to healthcare vs. poverty level
   b. Family Peace Center domestic violence
   c. Data USA
   d. Something through NIU
   e. Assessing housing structure quality, vacant lot status

8. **Other Business**
   There was no other business

9. **Adjournment**
   Motion by Platform Housing, seconded by Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce, to **adjourn**.
   Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.
   Meeting adjourned at 4:46 pm.

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Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

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Meeting minutes prepared by: Amy Salamon
Minutes approved by action of the Board: _____

E 2)

Regional Health Atlas Indicator Recommendations

<u>Supporting Item</u>

- Memorandum on Proposed Indicators for the Regional Health Atlas

DATE: January 14th, 2026

TO: Regional Data Advisory Council

FROM: Jason Holcomb, Director of Community Impact, Staff Liaison to Regional Data Advisory Committee

RE: Proposed Indicators for the Regional Health Atlas

The Regional Health Atlas was presented to the Regional Data Advisory Council (RDAC) during the meeting on 10/29/2025. Feedback on indicators was collected during the meeting and welcomed from 11/6/2025 to 11/17/2025. The Regional Health Atlas was also presented to the Rockford Regional Health Council (RRHC) on 11/5/2025 and solicited feedback on indicators from 11/5/2025 to 11/18/2025.

Feedback from RDAC members was reviewed, as well as Boone and Winnebago Counties' Illinois Project for Local Needs (IPLAN) and local health systems' Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA), and compiled a list of proposed indicators for the Health Atlas.

Boone County's 2023-2027 IPLAN identified the following three priorities as its focus: behavioral health, maternal and child health, and food security.

Winnebago County's 2025-2030 IPLAN identified the following three priorities as its focus: maternal and child health, mental and behavioral health, and violence.

The overlap of behavioral health and maternal and child health indicates these are two of the most relevant health issues in our area. It is important to select indicators related to these topics, as two county health departments received community input that led them to establish similar priorities.

OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center 2025 CHNA identified two health priorities for the coming year, mental health including substance use and healthy behaviors – preventative health.

MercyHealth Javon Bea Hospital– Riverside 2023 CHNA indicated their priorities as: chronic diseases; nutrition, physical activity, and obesity; and maternal, infant, and child health.

UW Health SwedishAmerican Hospital and UW Health Belvidere Hospital identified the following priorities in their 2025-2028 CHNA: chronic disease prevention and management; access, community

well-being & social support; mental health and substance use; and health literacy and trust in health care.

Overlapping priorities found in various CHNA reports are mental health and substance use and chronic disease prevention (including preventative health).

All proposed topics were cross-checked in Metopio to ensure data was existent, up-to-date, and thorough. If RDAC and RRHC member organizations do not see an indicator that was picked as relevant, it is likely due to the indicator being similar to another previously vetted indicator or the data was deemed insufficient.

Following a soft-launch of the Regional Health Atlas at community events like Alignment Rockford's Data Summit on November 20th, 2025 and Region 1 Planning Council's Community Action Forum on December 11th, 2025, select indicators were identified as out-of-date, missing, or not ideal for use in the Health Atlas. Region 1 Planning worked with Metopio to identify alternatives indicators for those

Thus, the following indicators are recommended for publication on the Health Atlas, focusing on behavioral/mental health and substance use, maternal and child health, and preventative health and chronic disease.
- Binge drinking
- Drug overdose mortality
- Alcohol-related mortality
- Peer specialists per capita
- Opioid dispensing rate
- Substance use treatment facilities per capita
- Cigarette smoking rate
- Child psychologists per capita
- Poor mental health days
- Mental health providers per capita
- Suicide mortality
- Psychiatry physicians per capita
- Single parent households
- Infant mortality
- Low birth weight
- Medicaid coverage
- OB-GYN physicians per capita
- Primary care providers per capita

- Preterm births
- Private health insurance
- Teen birth rate
- Uninsured rate
- Chronic kidney disease
- Colorectal cancer screening
- Colorectal cancer mortality
- Coronary heart disease mortality
- Coronary heart disease
- Newly diagnosed diabetes
- Diagnosed diabetes
- No exercise
- High blood pressure
- Mammography use
- Lung, trachea, and bronchus cancer mortality
- Motor vehicle traffic mortality
- Unintentional injury mortality
- Stroke mortality
- Cancer mortality
- Visited doctor for routine checkup
- Visited dentist
- Dentists per capita
- Dual eligible coverage
- Hospital beds per capita
- ICU beds per capita
- Medicare coverage
- Clinical social workers per capita
- Young invincibles without health coverage
- Years of potential life lost
- Unmet mental health provider needs
- Unmet primary care provider needs
- Community health workers
- Public health insurance
- Recent child and in the labor force
- Depression
- Maternal hardship index
- Hardship index

The following indicators are additionally recommended as they are important to RDAC and RRHC member organizations.

- Private not-for-profit workers (NICNE)
- Percent of workers by industry sector (NICNE)
- Moved within county in past year (NICNE)
- Green space proximity (Chamber of Commerce)
- Walkability index (Chamber of Commerce)
- Private for-profit workers (Chamber of Commerce)
- Self-employed (Chamber of Commerce)
- Work at home (Chamber of Commerce)
- Poverty rate (Rockford Regional Health Council)
- Area deprivation index (Rockford Regional Health Council)
- Households below ALICE thresholds (Rockford Regional Health Council)
- Transportation burden (Rockford Regional Health Council)
- Poor literacy and functionally illiterate (Rockford Regional Health Council)
- Social vulnerability index (Rockford Regional Health Council)
- Childcare cost burden (Rockford Regional Health Council)
- Opportunity youth (Rockford Regional Health Council)
- Preschool enrollment (Rockford Regional Health Council)
- College graduation rate (Rockford Regional Health Council)
- Total births (Rockford Regional Health Council)
- Voter participation rate (Rockford Regional Health Council)

The following is important demographic data that should be included as indicators.

- Disability
- Foreign born
- Median household income
- Per capita income
- Demographics
- Population
- Veterans
- Unemployment rate
- High school graduation rate
- Median age
- Adjusted gross income
- Limited English proficiency households

The following topics of housing, food access, crime, and environment include information that RDAC members and other research indicated is also important to feature in the Health Atlas.

- Food insecurity
- Food stamps (SNAP)
- Households in poverty not receiving food stamps (SNAP)
- Violent crime
- Property crime
- Prevalence of Housing Choice Vouchers
- Housing cost burdened
- Annual income needed to afford 2 bedroom at fair market rate
- Eviction rate
- Housing inventory
- Median year structure built
- Shelter and other facilities census
- No heat
- No internet
- Extreme heat days
- Gun violence victim rate

And, the following indicators were identified as alternates following the soft-release roll-out and review:

- Mean travel time to work, no vehicle available
- Rental assistance priority index, 2.0
- Third grade reading scores
- Birth rate
- Kidney disease mortality
- Below 200% of poverty level
- No computers or smartphones
- Obesity
- 9th grade education rate

Indicators will be reviewed annually based on community priorities as identify through published community plans and community usage and updated recommendations will be brought to the committee as applicable.

F 1)

Livable Communities Initiative

Index Methodology

F 2)

Alignment Rockford Early Development Instrument (EDI)

2025 Gallery Walk