

## Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 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:** 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

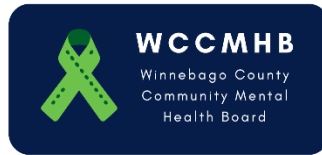
### B) Roll Call

- Mary Ann Abate: Present
- Andrell Bragg-Shaw: Present
- Dr. K. Edward Copeland: Present
- Dr. Terry Giardini: Absent
- Dr. Bill Gorski: Absent
- Richard Kunnert: Present
- Tim Nabors: Absent
- Jeff Nielsen: Present
- Dr. Amanda Penney: Present
- Mohammad Yunus: Present
- Jason Holcomb: Present
- Guests:
  - **RI:** Raegan Hilbrant, Alex McCann, Patricia Moton, Amy Salamon
  - **City of Rockford:** Mary Trujillo
  - **University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford (UICOMR):** Kathleen Monteleone
  - **Winnebago County Sheriff's Department:** Sana Siddiqui
  - **Winnebago County Health Department:** Cynthia Hall
  - **Department of Children and Family Services:** Samantha Beverley, Brandi Beck
  - **Second First Church/Overnight Cafe:** Karen Hill
  - **Shelter Care:** Sarah Parker-Scanlon
  - **Local Community Member:** Richard Hayes



[rplanning.org/community-impact/wccmhb](http://rplanning.org/community-impact/wccmhb) | [infoementalhealth.wincoil.gov](http://infoementalhealth.wincoil.gov) | [bit.ly/m/WCCMHB](https://bit.ly/m/WCCMHB)





**C) Public Comment**

1) Octavine Horton, Live4Lali

- Notes: Ms. Horton, Program Manager, gave an update on Live4Lali's mobile outreach van activities. Approximately 577 individuals were served at four locations. There is good collaboration with UIC medical students, who are gaining experience by job shadowing in the van and providing a link between clients' mental and primary health care needs.

**D) Presentations - None**

**E) Monthly Activity Report - March 2026**

1) Jason Holcomb, WCCMHB Director, gave the March 2026 Activity Report.

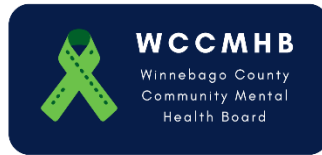
- Notes: There were eight site visits. A few scheduled events are scheduled for April, and there is a need for additional Board members to attend the RIC/JRIC site visits. Grassroots awardee onboarding is complete as of March 31.

**F) Action Items**

1) **March 2026 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the March 2026 Meeting Minutes.

- Raised by: Mr. Yunus
- Seconded by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
- Discussion: None
  - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
  - Absent Board Members: Dr. Bill Gorski, Dr. Terry Giardini, Tim Nabors



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

Winnebago County Health Department and Shelter Care Ministries requested expense changes.

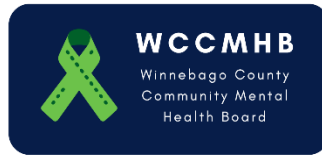
**Motion:** To approve Resolution 2026-X

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Mr. Yunus
- Discussion: Mr. Nielsen asked a clarification question regarding several miscellaneous expenses.
  - Motion **approved** by a roll call vote.
    - Andrell Bragg-Shaw: Aye
    - Dr. K. Edward Copeland: Aye
    - Dr. Terry Giardini: Absent
    - Dr. Bill Gorski: Absent
    - Richard Kunnert: Aye
    - Tim Nabors: Absent
    - Jeff Nielsen: Aye
    - Dr. Amanda Penney: Aye
    - Mohammad Yunus: Aye
    - Mary Ann Abate: Aye

**G) Discussion Items**

**1) Budget Update**

- Mr. Holcomb provided an update for Q1 FY26. All revenue and expenses are estimates based on the PY5 budget. The Board is doing well on spending vs. budget.
- Mr. Holcomb reported that he also did an analysis of Funded program spending for PY4 and found that programs in aggregate spent 82% of their awarded budgets and “contractual” was the biggest line item that was underspent in aggregate.



## 2) HIPAA Compliant Ride Share Administrative Policy

- Mr. Holcomb reported that in the first year of this service, feedback and usage have been positive overall. It will not be over budget for the fiscal year and he does not anticipate significant changes for the second year.
- Policy changes to be incorporated in Year 2 programming:
  - Include prescription pickup as an allowable use of the service
  - Clarify what 'last resort' means. Generally, if a client is unlikely to attend a mental health appointment/service without this transportation, that is considered 'last resort'.
  - Clarify that organizations will not be charged if the ride destination is outside Winnebago County, but rather the ride will be canceled automatically by the vendor.
- Board members are encouraged to provide feedback to Mr. Holcomb before the next meeting. Ms. Hilbrant will prepare an updated map at the end of the program year with ride locations to see if gaps exist or there is overlap with public transit corresponding to zip code or neighborhoods.

## 3) Mental Health Workforce Student Support

- Due to the success of this pilot program, Mr. Holcomb suggested that the Board consider ways that it can continue supporting mental health workforce pathways.
- Mr. Holcomb proposed following the HIPAA compliance rideshare structure. He has begun examining models from other mental health board programs.
- Ms. Bragg-Shaw proposed offering an alternate program for non-degree mental health professional positions. Mr. Kunnert described the quality of NICNE's case manager training (non-degree position) and thought the Board could get recommendations from them on how to fill gaps in our system.
- Board members expressed support for the development of a criterion-based mental health workforce student support funding program.



**4) Strategic Plan 3.0, Key Informant Interview & Goal 2: Systems Coordination**

- Mr. Holcomb presented the drafted strategies and performance measures for Strategic Plan Goal 2: Systems Coordination.
- Ms. Hilbrant discussed five main themes that were uncovered during the key informant interview feedback. A detailed explanation of each will be included in the final strategic plan. The five main feedback themes regarding the proposed CCBHC model were:
  - Client access to services
  - Collaboration and defined roles
  - Funding, capacity, and resources
  - Information and data sharing
  - Organizational reputation and trust in systems
- A detailed explanation of each will be available in the final strategic plan.
- The updated objectives, strategies, and performance measures were reviewed in detail.
- The Board was encouraged to provide their feedback to Mr. Holcomb and Ms. Hilbrant in the coming several weeks.
- Strategic Plan timeline: Goal #3 objectives will be presented at the May Board meeting. A draft strategic plan will be presented to the Board for approval at its August meeting.
- Mr. Holcomb presented a revised visualization of the CCBHC model due to negative feedback from Key Informants regarding the original hub and spoke visualization from Guidehouse. The Board was encouraged to provide feedback.
- Discussion followed.

**H) Other Matters – None**

**I) Adjournment**

- 1) **Motion:** For Adjournment was carried. Adjourned at 3:24 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. Terry Giardini, Tim Nabors