



## Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Time:** 2:00 PM CST

**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, Margie Lindmark, 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: Present
- Dr. Bill Gorski: Present
- Richard Kunnert: Present
- Margie Lindmark: Present
- Tim Nabors: Absent
- Jeff Nielsen: Present
- Dr. Amanda Penney: Present
- Mohammad Yunus: Present
- Jason Holcomb: Present



[rplanning.org/wccmhb](http://rplanning.org/wccmhb) | [info.mentalhealth.wincoil.gov](http://info.mentalhealth.wincoil.gov) | [bit.ly/WCCMHBFundedPrograms](http://bit.ly/WCCMHBFundedPrograms)





- Guests:
  - Region 1 Planning Council: Chelsey Glatz, Alex McCann, Emily Kate
  - Zukowski, Rogers, Flood & McArdle Law (ZRFM Law): Brandy S. Quance
  - CCRT: Chad Palaus, Kristine Fabiani, Ashley Kengott
  - Kikifer's Entrepreneurial Academy: James Patrick Yance, Keishonda Williamson
  - Youth Services Network: Ericka Potter, Susan Rader
  - Sounds of Good News: Dr. Carl Cole
  - Live4Lali: Laura Fry, Will Crandall, John Ping
  - University of Illinois at Chicago: Joe Barry
  - Marshmallow's Hope: Laura Kane
  - City of Rockford CCRT/MIH: Mary Trujillo
  - NICNE: Pam Clark Reidenbach

## C) Public Comment

### 1) James Patrick Yance: Kikifer's Entrepreneurial Academy

- Notes: Yance noted his status as a justice-impacted individual, explaining that Kikifer's Entrepreneurial Academy mentorship model significantly benefited his life.

### Statement

Mary Ann Abate Read a statement: Two organizations whose applications for funding were denied through the Accelerator Award funding opportunity have filed written requests for reconsideration and appeal, respectively. The board's funding policy dictates that all funding decisions are final decision. The board has not adopted an appeal process on funding decisions because it would be impractical for a competitive funding process that has limited funding available. As such, these requests have been turned over to the board's legal counsel to provide the appropriate response according to any relevant statutes and board policies.



**D) Presentations**

**1) Accelerator Award: Youth Services Network – Transportation Insecurity**

- Presenters: Susan Rader and Ericka Potter
- Notes: Susan Rader and Ericka Potter presented the Transportation Insecurity proposal.
- Board Members asked questions that the presenter answered.

**2) Accelerator Award: Live4Lali, Inc – Mobile Harm Reduction Outreach Program and Recovery Services**

- Presenter: Laura Fry
- Notes: Laura Fry presented on the Mobile Harm Reduction Outreach Program and Recovery Services portal, later supported by Will Crandall. Scott Meno later communicated with Will Crandal via telephone during the presentation.
- Board Members asked questions that the presenter answered.

**E) Monthly Activity Report - December 2024**

**1) Jason Holcomb, WCCMHB Director, gave the December 2024 Activity Report.**

- Notes: Mr. Holcomb stated the site visits for PY4 Renewals have been completed. He also noted that updates on the WCCMHB data dashboard would be distributed within the following weeks.



**F) Action Items**

**1) December 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the December 2024 Meeting Minutes.

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Dr. Copeland
- Discussion: Mr. Nielsen stated that he abstained due to his absence from the December Board Meeting.
  - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
  - Absent Board Members: Tim Nabors
  - Abstained Board Member: Jeff Nielsen

**2) Resolution 2025-X(1): Resolution Authorizing Audit Waiver for Program Year 4**

Mr. Holcomb explained that WCCMHB policy requires programs to administer professional audits. The Northern Illinois Center for Nonprofit Excellence has requested that this requirement be waived, in favor of a Professional Financial Review.

**Motion:** To approve Resolution 2025-X(1) Resolution Authorizing Audit Waiver for Program Year 4

- Raised by: Dr. Gorski
- Seconded by: Mr. Nielsen
- Discussion: none
  - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
  - Absent Board Members: Tim Nabors



**3) Resolution 2025-X(2): Resolution Authorizing Emergency Funding for Program Year 4**

Mr. Holcomb explained that Marshmallow’s Hope requested emergency funding for their FY4-6 program, which would be allotted to developing a new security system.

**Motion:** To approve Resolution 2025-X(2): Resolution Authorizing Emergency Funding for Program Year 4

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Dr. Copeland
- Discussion: Mr. Nielsen believes that other organizations may expect security systems funding if Resolution 2025-X(2) is passed, setting a precedent for additional requests. Dr. Gorski and Dr. Penney support Mr. Nielsen’s opinion.
  - Motion **approved** by a roll call vote.
    - Andrell Bragg-Shaw: No
    - Dr. K. Edward Copeland: Aye
    - Dr. Terry Giardini: Aye
    - Dr. Bill Gorski: Aye
    - Richard Kunnert: Aye
    - Margie Lindmark: Aye
    - Tim Nabors: Absent
    - Jeff Nielsen: Aye
    - Dr. Amanda Penney: No
    - Mohammad Yunus: Aye
    - Mary Ann Abate: Aye



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

President Mary Ann Abate stated that the WCCMHB would fund Crusader Community Health’s Dedicated Behavioral Health Clinic Space proposal.

President Mary Ann Abate stated that the WCCMHB would not fund Sounds of Good News’ “SPEAK IT! SING IT!” Video Project proposal.

**Motion:** To approve Resolution 2025-X(3) Resolution Authorizing the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Funding and Allocation of Special Project Funds for Accelerator Awards Applications

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



**5) Resolution 2025-X(4): Resolution Authorizing the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Accelerator Awards Preliminary Review Determinations for Applications Received**

President Mary Ann Abate stated that the following programs will be evaluated and scored: Winnebago County's Juvenile Detention Center Counseling Center, ConnectionsTherapyCenter's Community-based Mental Health Medication & Therapy for Indigent Children, Adults, & Seniors, SwedishAmerican Health Foundation's Trauma Informed Care Initiative at UWHealth in Nothern Illinois, and NAMI Northern Illinois' Foundations for Change: Creating Our First Accessible Office for Community Support.

President Mary Ann Abate stated that the following programs will not be reviewed due to reasons causing ineligibility for funding: Family Counseling Services of Northern Illinois' Social & Emotional Learning Program, Northwest Community Center's Thriving in Winnebago County, Alignment Rockford's Strong Families, Strong Schools: Strength-Based School-Family Partnerships, Zion West Enterprise's Resilient Minds: Community Education and Healing, Jackson Charter School's Mindfulness Campus Restoration Project, and the City of Rockford Health & Human Services Department's The HEART (Helping Early Learners through Advocacy, Recreation, & Therapy) Initiative.

**Motion:** To approve Resolution 2025-X(4): Resolution Authorizing the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Accelerator Awards Preliminary Review Determinations for Applications Received

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Dr. Giardini
- Discussion: none
  - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
  - Absent Board Members: Tim Nabors
  - Abstained Board Member: Dr. K. Edward Copeland



**6) Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Core Program Funding Renewal for Program Years 5-6 (PY5-6) Non-Competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity**

President Mary Ann Abate talked about the Non-Competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity.

**Motion:** To approve Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Core Program Funding Renewal for Program Years 5-6 (PY5-6) Non-Competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity

- Raised by: Mrs. Bragg-Shaw
- Seconded by: Mr. Yunus
- Discussion: Dr. Gorski asked a question about program years, which was answered.
  - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
  - Absent Board Members: Tim Nabors

**G) Discussion Items**

**1) Accelerator Award Application Feedback**

- Notes: Jeff Nielsen suggested requiring programs to submit concise summaries of their project in tandem with a traditional application. Region 1 Planning Council staff took note of Mr. Nielsen's feedback.

**H) Other Matters**

- 1) No Other Matters**

**I) Adjournment**

- 1) Motion:** For Adjournment was carried. Adjourned at 3:15PM

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