



Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Minutes

Date: Wednesday, November 5th, 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

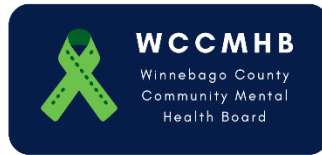
B) Roll Call

- 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: Present
- Jeff Nielsen: Present
- Dr. Amanda Penney: Absent at roll call. Arrived at 2:01 PM.
- Mohammad Yunus: Present
- Jason Holcomb: Present
- Guests:
 - **R1 Planning Council:** Chelsey Glatz, Alex McCann, Patricia Moton, Amy Salamon, Raegan Hilbrant
 - **NICNE:** Deanna Mershon
 - **UICOMR:** Kathleen Monteleone, Dr. Rhonda Verzal, Molly Perri, Joe Garry
 - **Rockford Fire:** Rebecca Tyo, Jon Larson
 - **City of Rockford:** Mary Trujillo
 - **Second First Church:** Karen Hill
 - **Brightpoint:** Jeannie Higdon
 - **Rosecrance:** Stephen Smith
 - **Live4Lali:** Octavine Horton, Ciceli McLin
 - **Winnebago County Sheriff's Department:** Sana Siddiani



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C) Public Comment

1) Dr. Rhonda Verzal, UICOMR

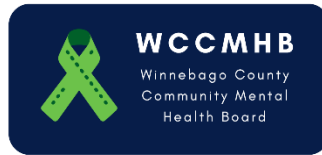
- Dr. Verzal, Director of UICOMR Family Medicine Residency Program, explained the multiplier effect on this program through the Board's funding. The program has enhanced skills taught in its 3-year residency program by adding care for patients with substance or opioid use disorder. The Family Medicine Resident Program has also received a Street Medicine grant that will provide a resident and faculty physician to provide care in the community for addiction and mental health services for the next five years. She also highlighted students and staff who have joined the team or pursued additional addiction medicine certifications. Impact will be significant grant to provide resident and faculty person in the community providing addiction, mental health, and substance use services for next 5 years.

D) Presentations – None

E) Monthly Activity Report – October 2025

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

- Mr. Holcomb mentioned the Health Atlas is currently in development. Data for the Health Atlas is provided by Metopio and curated with input from community organizations. There will be a presentation at a future meeting.
- Mr. Holcomb also gave an update on the Board's strategic planning process. Organizations providing mental health or substance use services that are currently not receiving funding from the Mental Health Board are being surveyed. The public participation survey will be distributed by the end of the month, with local data collection taking place through the end of 2025.
- Mr. Holcomb reported that key informant interviews will be used to explore the CCBHC hub and spoke model, as the WCCMHB considers adopting this conceptual framework. Specifically, these interviews will explore funding sources and gaps within this model and what collaboration looks like among multiple agencies.
- Mr. Holcomb promoted the Growing Up Strong data summit taking place in two weeks. Alignment Rockford will present their recent EDI results. Mr. Holcomb will also present on the Health Atlas and encouraged Board members to attend.



F) Action Items

1) October 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the October 2025 Meeting Minutes.

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

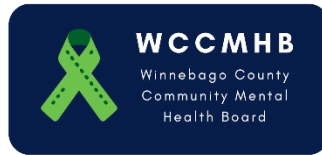
2) Resolution 2025-X: Resolution Authorizing Funded Programs' Budget Updates for Program Years 4 - 6

Approving expense changes for the following programs:

- NICNE - Rockford Area Case Management Training and Community of Practice
- Brightpoint - Doula program

Motion: To approve Resolution 2025-X

- Raised by: Dr. Gorski
- Seconded by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
- 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: Aye
 - Jeff Nielsen: Aye
 - Dr. Amanda Penney: Aye
 - Mohammad Yunus: Aye
 - Mary Ann Abate: Aye



3) Resolution 2025-XX: Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Letter of Interest Decisions for Grassroots Funding

The WCCMHB received 16 Letters of Interest for Grassroots funding. The Board's determinations were:

Submit Full Application as Proposed:

- Tommy Corral Memorial Foundation
- Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden
- St. Vincent de Paul Society Rockford Council
- State of the Mind Institute

Submit Full Application With Modifications:

- Saints Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Church
- KIKIFER'S Entrepreneurial Academy
- Second Congregational/First Presbyterian Church
- Rockford Area Arts Council
- Islamic Circle of North America Rockford
- Life Decisions
- Northwest Community Center
- Live4Lali
- Comprehensive Community Solutions

Not Willing to Receive Application:

- Rockford Area Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation
- Willow Creek Counseling, LLC
- Inclusive Public Service Communities

Motion: To approve Resolution 2025-XX

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Mr. Yunus
- Discussion: None
- Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
- Absent Board Member: Dr. K. Edward Copeland



4) Crisis Co-Responder Team Special Condition

Approval to meet special conditions through October Board meeting presentation.

Motion: To approve Crisis Co-Responder team special conditions.

- Raised by: Dr. Giardini
- Seconded by: Mr. Nielsen
- Discussion: None
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Member: Dr. K. Edward Copeland

G) Discussion Items

- 1) No Discussion Items

H) Other Matters

1) New Fire Chief

- Dr. Giardini wanted to recognize the new fire chief, Rebecca Tyo, who was in attendance.

2) Ride Along with MIH

- Mr. Kunnert gave a brief overview of his recent ride-along with the Fire Department with MIH Program and thanked the team for allowing him to participate.

C) Public Comment

1) Octavine Horton, Live4Lali

- Ms. Horton, Live4Lali Program Manager, expressed her thanks for WCCMHB funding. Live4Lali's outreach mobile van has provided services for 312 participants and was able to reach more individuals in the community through collaborations with other organizations, due to the Board's support.

I) Adjournment

1) **Motion:** For Adjournment was carried. Adjourned at 2:22 PM.

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Member: Dr. K. Edward Copeland