



Community Advisory Forum

Thursday, December 12, 2024, 3:30 PM
Region 1 Planning Council
127 N. Wyman St., Ste 100, Rockford, IL 61101

Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Martesha Brown, Chair, at 3:33 PM.

2. Roll Call

Members present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AGHL Law	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ogle County
<input type="checkbox"/>	Belvidere Chamber of Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parks Chamber
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boone County Conservation District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rock Valley College
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boone County Health Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Consulting & Brokerage, Inc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boone County Soil & Water Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Park District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Boys & Girls Club of Rockford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Public Library
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comprehensive Community Solutions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IL Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (3:54)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Severson Dells
<input type="checkbox"/>	DLM Manufacturing / SOAR Radio / Think Big	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sierra Club Northwest River Valleys Chapter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eliminate Racism 815	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stateline Mass Transit District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Workforce Connection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Highland Community College	<input type="checkbox"/>	U of I Extension
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ignite Change Solutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	UW Health SwedishAmerican
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wesley Willows
<input type="checkbox"/>	LULAC, Winnebago/Boone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Winnebago & Boone County Housing Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McHenry County (3:39)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Midland States Bank	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dyanna Rose Walker
<input type="checkbox"/>	Milestone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steph Gaspers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural Land Institute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Members of the public

3. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the forum.



4. **Action Items**

- a. *Approval of October 2024 Meeting Minutes*
- b. *Approval of 2025 Community Advisory Forum Regular Committee Meeting Schedule*

Motion by Rockford Consulting & Brokerage, seconded by Goodwill, to **approve** the Action Item. Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

5. **Discussion Items**

- a. Building Upward Mobility in Winnebago County – Bridges to Prosperity Northern Illinois
Mary Cacioppi, Founder/CEO of Bridges to Prosperity Northern Illinois presented on the work Bridges to Prosperity is doing to move people in the Rockford community out of poverty. The group convened groups of community experts to get feedback on (5 pillars) key aspects that affect upward mobility: rewarding work, high-quality education, opportunity-rich & inclusive neighborhoods, healthy environment and access to good health care, and responsive & just governance. Next steps for this group are to conduct community engagement and develop the Poverty Reduction Strategy. The plan should be complete by summer 2025.
- b. Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Data Dashboard
Seth Boswell, R1 Data Analyst, presented on the new WCCMHB data dashboard. The Mental Health Board wanted to put together an easily accessible way to communicate metrics and program evaluation. The dashboard will be available in January 2025 on the WCCMHB website.

R1 staff conducted an activity designed to gather feedback on the dashboard’s information and functionality.

6. **Agency Report**

- a. CEJA (Climate and Equitable Jobs Act) Update
Amy Salamon, R1 Technical Writer, explained the CEJA workforce development programs now available in the Rockford region. Organizations are now conducting outreach, and conducting bridge program (soft skills) training. The group is seeing the forum’s help in communicating the program details to generate interest and recruit participants.



7. **Other Business**

Clara Romeo, R1 Sustainability Principal, gave an update on the Housing Coordination Plan. There is a Housing Needs survey out now, help R1 further understand current and future housing needs in the region. There will also be a Housing 101 webinar next Wednesday, Dec 18, which will explain key housing terminology and scenarios.

8. **Next Meeting**

Thursday, February 27, 2025 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm

9. **Adjournment**

Motion by Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation, seconded by Boys and Girls Club to **adjourn**.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Opportunities for public comment. 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.