



Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 3rd, 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, Dr. Collene Taylor, 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.

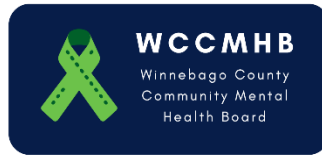
B) Roll Call

- Mary Ann Abate: Present
- Andrell Bragg-Shaw: Present
- Dr. K. Edward Copeland: Present
- Dr. Terry Giardini: Absent
- Dr. Bill Gorski: Present
- Richard Kunnert: Present
- Tim Nabors: Present
- Jeff Nielsen: Present
- Dr. Amanda Penney: Present
- Dr. Collene Taylor: Present
- Mohammad Yunus: Present
- Jason Holcomb: Present
- Guests:
 - **R1:** Chelsey Glatz, Raegan Hilbrant, Alex McCann, Patricia Moton, Amy Salamon, Abbie Barnhardt
 - **Zukowski, Rogers, Flood & McArdle Law (ZRFM Law):** Brandy S. Quance
 - **Winnebago County Juvenile Detention Center:** Debbie Jarvis, Julie McCray-Grotto, Taryn Marko
 - **Winnebago County Board:** Valerie Hanserd
 - **Rockford Fire:** Chief Rebecca Tyo, Jon Larson
 - **University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford (UICOMR):** Kathleen Monteleone
 - **Winnebago County Sheriff's Department:** Sana Siddiqui
 - **Regional Office of Education #4:** Marc Hooks
 - **Second First Church/Overnight Cafe:** Karen Hill
 - **Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling:** Marilyn Ramirez



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C) Public Comment – None

D) Presentations – None

E) Monthly Activity Report – May 2026

- 1) Jason Holcomb, WCCMHB Director, gave the May 2026 Activity Report.
 - The Building Bridges community event had all Funded Programs participating. There is a record registration and attendance, totaling 350 attendees. Thanks to the Board members for participating and for Ms. Glatz in coordinating the event with NAMI Northern Illinois.
 - All site visits have been conducted, except one program visit. The remaining visit is scheduled for next week.
 - Mr. Holcomb is participating in a national conference, sharing about our Regional Health Atlas through Metopio, which the Board partially funded. It is getting recognition through our national planning council association and may be recognized as a best practice.

F) Action Items

1) **May 2026 Meeting Minutes**

Motion: To approve the May 2026 Meeting Minutes.

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



2) Election of Officers

Mary Ann opened the floor for nominations.

- Mr. Kunnert nominated Mrs. Abate for **President**.
- Mr. Yunus and Dr. Gorski nominated Mr. Kunnert for **Vice President**.
- Mr. Kunnert nominated Dr. Gorski for **Secretary**.
- Mrs. Abate nominated Dr. Giardini for **Treasurer**.

There was no opposition or discussion regarding nominations. Mary Ann Abate entertained a vote on the full slate.

Motion: To approve the nominated officers for 2026-2027

- Discussion: None
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Member: Dr. Terry Giardini

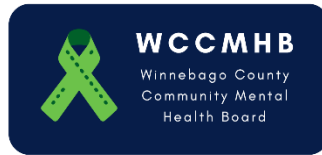
3) Resolution 2026-X: Resolution Authorizing Funded Programs' Budget Updates for Program Years 4 – 6

Juvenile Detention Center and Juvenile Resource Intervention Center Behavioral Health Continuation requested budget modifications.

Motion: To approve Resolution 2025-X Authorizing Funded Programs' Budget Updates for Program Years 4-6

- Raised by: Dr. Gorski
- Seconded by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
- Discussion: Mr. Nielsen asked a question about budget sources, answered by the Winnebago County representatives present.
 - Motion **approved** by a roll call vote.

• Andrell Bragg-Shaw:	Aye
• Dr. K. Edward Copeland:	Aye
• Dr. Terry Giardini:	Absent
• Dr. Bill Gorski:	Aye
• Richard Kunnert:	Aye
• Tim Nabors:	Aye
• Jeff Nielsen:	Aye
• Dr. Amanda Penney:	Aye
• Dr. Collene Taylor:	Aye
• Mohammad Yunus:	Aye
• Mary Ann Abate:	Aye

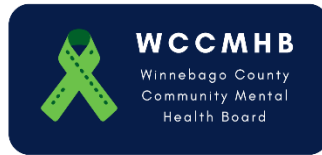


4) Resolution 2026-XX: Resolution Authorizing Accelerator Award Contract Extension

City of Rockford Family Peace Center has requested a contract expansion for their building expansion.

Motion: To approve Resolution 2025-XX Authorizing Accelerator Award Contract Extension

- Raised by: Mr. Nabors
- Seconded by: Mr. Nielsen
- Discussion: Dr. Gorski asked regarding the scope of the expansion and the trajectory of the project, answered by Mr. Holcomb. Jason responded that there are additional construction elements that were not anticipated.
- Motion **approved** by a roll call vote.
 - Andrell Bragg-Shaw: Aye
 - Dr. K. Edward Copeland: Aye
 - Dr. Terry Giardini: Absent
 - Dr. Bill Gorski: Aye
 - Richard Kunnert: Aye
 - Tim Nabors: Aye
 - Jeff Nielsen: Aye
 - Dr. Amanda Penney: Aye
 - Dr. Collene Taylor: Aye
 - Mohammad Yunus: Aye
 - Mary Ann Abate: Aye



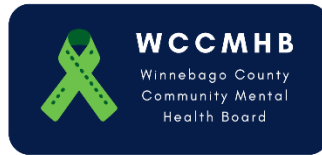
5) Grassroots Special Conditions

Three organizations have submitted evidence to show their special conditions have been met. Community Solutions had a special condition to develop a contract agreement with their clinical provider to ensure no duplicate billing to multiple funding sources.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society has special conditions regarding the development of an intake screening process to ensure services are being provided within the Board-defined target populations. Zion West State of the Mind Institute had a special condition to demonstrate that clinical oversight was being provided by a Licensed Clinician.

Motion: To approve that special conditions have been met by all agencies to release grassroots funding.

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Tim Nabors
- Discussion: Ms. Bragg-Shaw asked a question clarifying Calm Oasis Therapy and that they will be providing services for two programs. One is for direct service, one is for education.
 - Motion **approved** by a roll call vote.
 - Andrell Bragg-Shaw: Aye
 - Dr. K. Edward Copeland: Aye
 - Dr. Terry Giardini: Absent
 - Dr. Bill Gorski: Aye
 - Richard Kunnert: Aye
 - Tim Nabors: Aye
 - Jeff Nielsen: Aye
 - Dr. Amanda Penney: Aye
 - Dr. Collene Taylor: Aye
 - Mohammad Yunus: Aye
 - Mary Ann Abate: Aye



6) Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

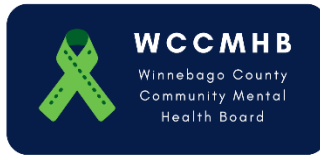
Mr. Holcomb gave an overview of the past year's budget and proposed the 2027 budget. FY 2026 is on track based on RI's payment processing records and the county budget report. Grant programs are using about 80% of their grant awards, and operational costs are approximately three and a half percent of total spending. The proposed budget for FY 2027 keeps the budget flat with no increases for FY 2027. Budget approval will also extend Region 1 Planning Council's services for an additional year.

The Direct Procurement line item includes costs for HIPAA-compliant rideshare, Health Atlas, and public engagement platform, Engage RI, funds for consultancy with Leifman Group/NPC group, who run the Miami Model workshops, and an evidence-based platform that agencies can use to access evidence-based practices.

Motion: To approve the proposed FY 2027 budget

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
- Discussion: Dr. Gorski asked a clarifying question about the proposed budget. Mr. Kunnert commented on the necessity of clarifying the quality of the studies being used to qualify as evidence-based. Mr. Holcomb clarified on the difference between evidence-based practices, best practices, and emerging practices and noted that many providers don't have access to this information after leaving graduate school. Ms. Bragg-Shaw asked about the feasibility of partnering with local universities to get access to their resources regarding evidence-based practices.
 - Motion **approved/failed** by a roll call vote.

• Andrell Bragg-Shaw:	Aye
• Dr. K. Edward Copeland:	Aye
• Dr. Terry Giardini:	Absent
• Dr. Bill Gorski:	Aye
• Richard Kunnert:	Aye
• Tim Nabors:	Aye
• Jeff Nielsen:	Aye
• Dr. Amanda Penney:	Aye
• Dr. Collene Taylor:	Aye
• Mohammad Yunus:	Aye
• Mary Ann Abate:	Aye



7) Fiscal Year 2027 Work Plan

The work plan guides RI's activities to be completed in the coming fiscal year. It is reviewed annually and compared with the previous year's plan and progress.

One change being proposed is to reduce Board meetings from 12 to 10 meetings per year, eliminating the January and July meetings. This includes canceling the July 2026 meeting. Mr. Holcomb believes that Board efficiency doesn't necessitate monthly meetings.

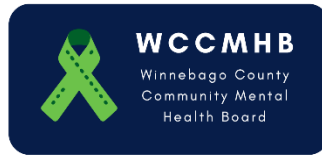
Motion: To approve the work plan for Fiscal Year 2027

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

G) Discussion Items

1) Three-Year Strategic Plan Update

- The first completed draft is available. Board members are encouraged to review and provide feedback by the end of the week. It will then go out for a 30-day public comment period, which will be communicated through a press release and community partner messaging.



H) Other Matters

1) Sangamon County

Mr. Kunnert shared that Sangamon County recently passed a sales tax for a mental health board and may contact the Board for assistance on putting this kind of system together.

I) Adjournment

1) **Motion:** For Adjournment was carried. Adjourned at 2:45 PM.

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