

Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 6th, 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.

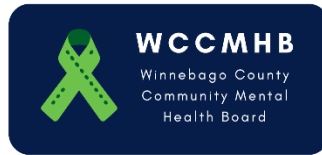
B) Roll Call

- Mary Ann Abate: Present
- Andrell Bragg-Shaw: Present
- Dr. K. Edward Copeland: Present
- Dr. Terry Giardini: Present
- Dr. Bill Gorski: Present
- Richard Kunnert: Absent
- Tim Nabors: Present
- Jeff Nielsen: Present
- Dr. Amanda Penney: Present
- Dr. Collene Taylor: Present
- Mohammad Yunus: Present
- Jason Holcomb: Present
- Guests:
 - **RI:** Chelsey Glatz, Raegan Hilbrant, Alex McCann, Patricia Moton, Amy Salamon
 - **City of Rockford:** Mary Trujillo
 - **Winnebago County Sheriff's Department:** Sana Siddiqui
 - **Rockford Fire:** Jon Larson
 - **Rosecrance:** Sadie Cobio
 - **UICOMR:** Joe Garry
 - **NAMI:** Danielle Angileri
 - **Tommy Corral Memorial Foundation:** Xavier Whitford
 - **Second First Church:** Karen Hill



r1planning.org/community-impact/wccmhb | infoemmentalhealth.wincoil.gov | bit.ly/m/WCCMHB





C) Public Comment - None

D) Presentations - None

New Board Member

Dr. Taylor introduced herself as the newest Board member.

E) Monthly Activity Report - April 2026

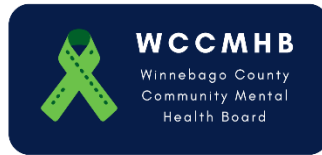
- 1) Jason Holcomb, WCCMHB Director, gave the April 2026 Activity Report.
 - Mr. Holcomb reported that site visits continue to be conducted, with 7-8 remaining. He encouraged Board members to contact Ms. McCann to attend the remaining site visits. The Board traveled to Miami to visit the Miami Model, with good feedback from stakeholders who participated. In coordination with Mrs. Abate, the director has reached out to the consultants who lead that workshop to see what type of facilitation they can provide to the WCCMHB with its priorities and potential implementation opportunities. He also invited the Board to attend Building Bridges next Thursday, as all of the mental health programs will be there with their booths.

F) Action Items

1) **April 2026 Meeting Minutes**

Motion: To approve the April 2026 Meeting Minutes.

- Raised by: Dr. Giardini
- Seconded by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
- Discussion: None
 - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
 - Absent Board Member: Richard Kunnert



2) Resolution 2026-X: Resolution Authorizing Funded Programs' Budget Updates for Program Years 4 & 5

The Rosecrance Access to Care program and Tommy Corral Memorial Foundation are requesting budget modifications.

Motion: To approve Resolution 2026-X

- 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: Aye
 - Dr. Bill Gorski: Aye
 - Richard Kunnert: Absent
 - Tim Nabors: Aye
 - Jeff Nielsen: Aye
 - Dr. Amanda Penney: Aye
 - Dr. Collene Taylor: Aye
 - Mohammad Yunus: Aye
 - Mary Ann Abate: Aye



3) Resolution 2026-XX: Resolution Authorizing Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Fund for Mental Health Workforce Student Support

ACHMAI advocated several legislative sessions for an update to Community Mental Health Act that allows the WCCMHB to fund tuition reimbursement and several other items. This has begun a program for social work pipeline with area educational institutions, with one cohort underway. Funding will follow students in this cohort through their education. Educational institutions have expressed that they do not have additional funding to support this program. Program where institutions can enroll for 1 academic program year (pilot) and apply for additional funding to support student tuition and wraparound services. It has already been reviewed by the Board’s legal counsel.

Motion: To approve Resolution 2026-XX

- Raised by: Ms. Bragg-Shaw
- Seconded by: Dr. Copeland
- Discussion: Board members expressed concern about retaining students who are in these program pathways. Funds will be split among participating educational institutions to ensure that it remains non-competitive.
 - 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: Absent
 - Tim Nabors: Aye
 - Jeff Nielsen: Aye
 - Dr. Amanda Penney: Aye
 - Dr. Collene Taylor: Aye
 - Mohammad Yunus: Aye
 - Mary Ann Abate: Aye



4) HIPAA Compliant Ride Share Administrative Policy

There are no changes from the policy as shared at the April meeting.

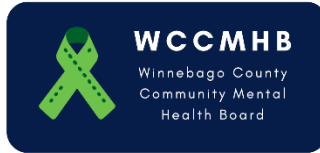
Motion: To approve the action item

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

G) Discussion Items

1) Strategic Plan 3.0, Public Participation Survey & Goal 3: Promotion and Awareness

- Mr. Holcomb presented details from the final section of the draft strategic plan. A full draft will be provided for Board review at the June meeting, after which the plan will go out for public comment.
- Lived experience: Public feedback represents a reliable representation (statistically) of Winnebago County residents. Highest percentage of services utilized was in receiving psychiatric help or counseling. Services needed but couldn't find: increase in inability to find information on available services. Increase in desire for services accessible in my area (close to home, neighborhood/community based services).
- Providers: finding information about services is easiest for clients to access, ease of access to crisis services significantly increased. What would increase access? More providers, accessible close to home, more payment options (this was a surprise even though more organizations are getting grant funds).
- Community members: Highest was to find information about services. Crisis service information has significantly improved.
- Almost 2/3 majority of respondents were aware of the WCCMHB. Reaching a good saturation point in the community. Fewer know about individual programs that are funded by the Board.
- Ms. Glatz explained the strategies and objectives for Goal 3.
- The Board was encouraged to ask questions and provide feedback. They were also advised to provide any additional feedback by May 8 to 11.



H) Other Matters - None

I) Adjournment

1) **Motion:** For Adjournment was carried. Adjourned at 3:10 PM.

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