



## Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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: Present
- Tim Nabors: Present
- Jeff Nielsen: Present
- Dr. Amanda Penney: Present
- Dr. Collene Taylor: Present
- Mohammad Yunus: Present
- Jason Holcomb: Present
- Guests:
  - **Zukowski, Rogers, Flood & McArdle Law (ZRFM Law):** Brandy S. Quance
  - **RI:** Chelsey Glatz, Alex McCann, Patricia Moton, Amy Salamon, Crystal Zarra
  - **City of Rockford CCRT:** Ed King
  - **City of Rockford IMPACT:** Joseph Sculcu
  - **Rockford Fire:** Jon Larson
  - **UIC-Winnebago County Jail:** Tricia Corrigan
  - **UIC MERIT:** Elizabeth Kroening
  - **University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford (UICOMR):** Carol Schuster, Kathleen Monteleone
  - **Rosecrance:** Robert Jones
  - **Live4Lali:** Octavine Horton, Tara Pina, Reem Haddad



[r1planning.org/community-impact/wccmhbb](http://r1planning.org/community-impact/wccmhbb) | [infoemmentalhealth.wincoil.gov](http://infoemmentalhealth.wincoil.gov) | [bit.ly/m/WCCMHB](https://bit.ly/m/WCCMHB)





**C) Public Comment**

- 1) Octavine Horton, Live4Lali
  - Notes: Ms. Horton was not present at the time.
- 2) Karen Hill, Overnight Cafe
  - Notes: Ms. Hill extended an invitation to Second First Church's Overnight Café Experience benefit on October 15, 2026, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. She also expressed her belief that guests are being dropped off by a bus from another community.

**D) Monthly Activity Report – August 2026**

- 1) Jason Holcomb gave the August 2026 Activity Report.
  - Notes: The Learning Network Collaborative (LNC) group, made up of funded organizations, met in August 2026 to hear Rosecrance speak about their CCBHC – Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic designation and to explore opportunities for care coordination partnerships.
  - National Co-Responder Week is the week of September 13, 2026. The City of Rockford will make a proclamation at the City Council meeting occurring on September 14 at 5:30 PM. Board Members are encouraged to attend the meeting in support of the Co-Responder program.
  - Mr. Holcomb reported that November 17 will be the main day for planning activities while the “Miami Model” consultants are in town, concluding with an evening film screening.

**E) Action Items**

**1) August 2026 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the August 2026 Meeting Minutes.

- Raised by: Mr. Yunus
- Seconded by: Dr. Taylor
- Discussion: None
  - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.



## 2) Resolution 2026-X: Resolution Authorizing Funded Programs' Budget Updates for Grassroots Funding

Zion West Enterprise State of the Mind Institute: Project Mentality Unchanged requested expense changes.

**Motion:** To approve Resolution 2026-X

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- 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: Aye
    - Tim Nabors: Aye
    - Jeff Nielsen: Aye
    - Dr. Amanda Penney: Aye
    - Dr. Collene Taylor: Aye
    - Mohammad Yunus: Aye
    - Mary Ann Abate: Aye

## 3) 2026 Meeting Calendar Change

The Board requested a special meeting on October 28 at 6 PM. This will be the first annual presentation update for appointing bodies on WCCMHB operations. The Board also requested a cancellation of the November regular board meeting.

**Motion:** To approve changes to the 2026 meeting calendar

- Raised by: Mr. Yunus
- Seconded by: Mr. Nabors
- Discussion: Dr. Gorski asked about the planned format for the special meeting. Mr. Holcomb responded that it will primarily be a presentation followed by Q&A, with updates on grant programming, the strategic plan, and the budget. Mr. Yunus confirmed that this meeting will take place at the Region 1 Planning Council office.
  - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.



#### 4) Confirmation of Mental Health Diversion Advisory Committee Appointments

This advisory committee is primarily composed of participants who attended the Miami Model conference last April 2026. All conference participants have been invited to this advisory committee and have shown strong interest, with the majority accepting. A list of all invitees had previously been emailed to Board Members.

**Motion:** To approve Mental Health Diversion Advisory Committee Appointments

- Raised by: Dr. Giardini
- Seconded by: Mr. Kunnert
- Discussion: Dr. Gorski asked about the advisory committee's authority. Mr. Holcomb explained that the advisory committee will make recommendations to the Board, but their decisions are not binding. This is also laid out in the committee rules and responsibilities.
  - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.

#### 5) Appointment of Mental Health Diversion Advisory Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Abate recommended Janet Holmgren as Chair and Dr. Joe Garry as Vice-Chair.

**Motion:** To approve the appointment of Mental Health Diversion Advisory Committee Chair and Vice-Chair.

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



## **F) Discussion Items**

### **1) FY26 Budget Report Update**

- Mr. Holcomb presented the Q3 fiscal results. Most of the operational expenses are actual results, whereas grant funds are estimates because they take longer to process. Revenue continues to be up, projected at around 5% over last year. Budget utilization is at 70%, and operational expenses remain low at 3.5% of total expenditures.
- Mr. Holcomb recommended to increase spending in the next grant cycle including grants for one-time capital projects in order to reduce the number of months of expenditures in the reserve fund.
- Mr. Yunus asked what was included in operational expenses. Mr. Holcomb explained that it includes services that support the Board's operations, as well as all expenses apart from grant funds. This encompasses costs for administration, legal, technology, association memberships, insurance, travel, and other expenses.
- Mr. Kunnert asked if there are ongoing impediments for agencies to use all the money granted to them, since the Board is using 50% of the anticipated funds. Mr. Holcomb explained that organizations tend to spend 80% of the award in aggregate, with the greatest underspending occurring in the "contractual" line item. The expenditures under "direct procurement" include the HIPAA-compliant rideshare, the cost share for the public engagement platform, and the "Miami Model" diversion project consultancy.
- Mr. Kunnert also asked clarifying questions regarding specific expenses on several line items. Mr. Holcomb answered that "grant management platform" was the main "technology" line item expense and that the "public engagement" line item has been underutilized due to the ability to promote efforts and events through existing partnerships and community collaborations.

### **2) PY7-9 Core Program Grants**

- Notes: Mr. Holcomb sent a Dropbox link to the Board prior to the meeting so they could begin reviewing drafted documents for the next round of core program grant applications. The next round will include three kinds of applications: renewal proposals, new abstracts, and, if accepted, abstracts that will go on to new applications with three different evaluation rubrics and review processes. There is also a timeline of events that is included in the materials to be reviewed. Mr. Holcomb requested Board feedback by September 22, 2026, with all materials to be approved by the Board at the October meeting.

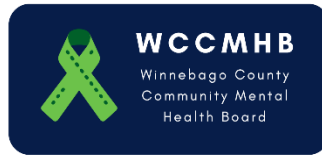


**G) Other Matters**

- 1) **Executive Session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(21), Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06**

**Motion:** To enter into executive session

- Raised by: Mr. Kunnert
- Seconded by: Mr. Nabors
  - 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
    - Tim Nabors: Aye
    - Jeff Nielsen: Aye
    - Dr. Amanda Penney: Aye
    - Dr. Collene Taylor: Aye
    - Mohammad Yunus: Aye
    - Mary Ann Abate: Aye
- The Board entered into executive session at 2:28 PM.
- Open session reconvened 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
  - Tim Nabors: Aye
  - Jeff Nielsen: Aye
  - Dr. Amanda Penney: Aye
  - Dr. Collene Taylor: Aye
  - Mohammad Yunus: Aye
  - Mary Ann Abate: Aye
- The Board reconvened in open session at 2:39 PM.



## H) Other Action Items

### 1) Approval of Executive Session Meeting Minutes (April and July 2025)

**Motion:** To approve the executive session meeting minutes

- Raised by: Mr. Nabors
- Seconded by: Mr. Nielsen
- Discussion: None
  - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.

## I) Adjournment

1) **Motion:** For Adjournment was carried. Adjourned at 2:40 PM.

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