



## Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

**Time:** 2:00 PM CST

**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:** Richard Kunnert: *Vice President*

**Members:** Mary Ann Abate: President, Dr. Bill Gorski: *Secretary*, Dr. Terry Giardini: *Treasurer*, Andrell Bragg-Shaw, Rev. Dr. K. Edward Copeland, Margie Lindmark, Tim Nabors, Jeff Nielsen, Dr. Amanda Penney, Mohammad Yunus

**Director:** Jason Holcomb, Region 1 Planning Council

### Agenda:

**A) Call to Order:** Vice President Richard Kunnert called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM

### B) Roll Call

- Mary Ann Abate: Absent
- Andrell Bragg-Shaw: Present
- Dr. K. Edward Copeland: Absent at Roll Call arrived at 2:01
- Dr. Terry Giardini: Present (Away 3:15-3:17) Left at 3:28
- Dr. Bill Gorski: Absent
- Richard Kunnert: Present
- Margie Lindmark: Absent
- Tim Nabors: Present
- Jeff Nielsen: Present
- Dr. Amanda Penney: Present
- Mohammad Yunus: Present Left at 3:28
- Jason Holcomb: Present



[r1planning.org/wccmhbm](http://r1planning.org/wccmhbm) | [info@mentalhealth.wincoil.gov](mailto:info@mentalhealth.wincoil.gov) | [bit.ly/WCCMHBFundedPrograms](https://bit.ly/WCCMHBFundedPrograms)





- Guests:
  - **R1 Planning:** Chelsey Glatz, Alex McCann, Emily Kate, Amy Salamon, Patricia Moton
  - **Zukowski, Rogers, Flood & McArdle Law (ZRFM Law):** Brandy Quance, Jennifer Gibson
  - **Winnebago County JDC:** Julie McCray-Grotto, Debbie Jarvis (Video)
  - **Winnebago County Sheriff's Department:** Sana Siddiani
  - **City of Rockford CCRT/MIH:** Mary Trujillo
  - **Rockford Fire Department:** Jon Larson
  - **UICOMR:** Joe Garry, Kathleen Monteleone
  - **Rockford Park District:** Jessica Steinberg
  - **Lifescape:** Joy Drysdale, Gabrielle Sallis
  - **Shelter Care:** Sarah Parker-Scanlon
  - **Rosecrance:** Sadie Cobio
  - **Live4Lali:** Will Crandall
  - **Marshmallow's Hope:** Todd Hooks (Video)

### C) Public Comment

- 1) No Public Comment

### D) Presentations

- 1) **Accelerator Award:** Winnebago County — Juvenile Detention Counseling Center
  - Presenters: Julie McCray-Grotto, Debbie Jarvis (via Zoom)
  - Notes: Ms. McCray-Grotto gave an update on a recently conducted space need study. Ms. Jarvis was in attendance and provided additional information in response to questions asked about additional sources of funding.
  - Board Members asked questions that the presenters answered.



**E) Monthly Activity Report - March 2025**

- 1) Jason Holcomb, WCCMHB Director, gave the March 2025 Activity Report.
  - Notes: Mr. Holcomb highlighted the RACMI conference that Mr. Kunnert attended and where Ms. Abate hosted a panel discussion. Mr. Kunnert mentioned he was pleased to see how the board pushes the agencies to continuously improve the quality of their services and how it is exemplified by the MIH team.
  - Stepping Stones: Groundbreaking for group home that Board funded will be held on April 8.
  - Crusader: Groundbreaking for Linden Rd facility will occur on Thursday, April 10.
  - May Resource Event will be held on May 21 at Cliffbreakers. This year's theme is Building Bridges to Hope.

**F) Action Items**

1) **March 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Approve March 2025 Meeting Minutes.

- Raised by: Mr. Nabors
- Seconded by: Mrs. Bragg-Shaw
- Discussion: None
  - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
  - Absent Board Members: Mary Ann Abate, Dr. Bill Gorski, Margie Lindmark



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

Mr. Kunnert read the text of Resolution 2025-X.

Changes to budgets are outlined in the resolution. A representative from Marshmallow's Hope (Todd Hooks, via Zoom) answered questions presented by the Board. It was questioned whether a furnace replacement was allowable. Mr. Holcomb responded that some capital allowances are approved expenses, based on Board discretion.

**Motion:** To approve Resolution 2025-X

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



**3) Resolution 2025-XX: Resolution Authorizing the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board Funding and Allocation of Special Project Funds for Accelerator Award Applications**

Mr. Kunnert read the text of Resolution 2025-XX regarding funding for the County Juvenile Center. Recommends a lesser amount than requested, due to fund exhaustion.

**Motion:** To approve Resolution 2025-XX

- Raised by: Dr. Giardini
- Seconded by: Mr. Nabors
- Discussion: Dr. Copeland mentioned that this vote should be tabled due to prior discussion requesting a revised proposal based on a reduction in available funding. Mr. Nabors pointed out that if the Board does not approve their funding, the County Board may only approve the remainder of the proposal, minus the amount proposed for the mental health facility. In that case, the mental health facility would be in danger of receiving no funding at all. If the Board expands the amount available to fully cover the facility, then they would have to open a new funding notice.
- The Board agreed to have JRIC back in one month with a scenario plan from the architect to see what can be covered with a \$1 million grant if no additional funding is allocated to the project.

**Motion:** To table the motion to approve Resolution 2025-XX

- Raised by: Mr. Nielsen
- Seconded by: Dr. Copeland
- Discussion: None
  - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
  - Absent Board Members: Mary Ann Abate, Dr. Bill Gorski, Margie Lindmark



**4) Resolution 2025-XXX: Resolution Authorizing Contract Extensions for PY5-6 Renewals**

Mr. Kunnert read the text of Resolution 2025-XXX, which extends the contracts of 13 programs that had a one year contract for PY4 to extend two more year for PY5-6.

**Motion:** To approve Resolution 2025-XXX

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



**G) Discussion Items**

**1) Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Update**

- Notes: Mr. Holcomb provided the Q1 fiscal update. Revenue is just over projections and expenses is under. Will need to keep an eye on expenses with increased activity, but 1<sup>st</sup> quarter overall activity is positive.
- Mr. Holcomb also mentioned he had an intern who researched KPI categories and targets, which have been added to the budget.

**2) Strategic Plan 2.0 - Board Feedback and Recommendations**

- Notes: Mr. Holcomb mentioned that based on feedback received from the Board and other stakeholders, no update will be made to the Strategic Plan 2.0. There will be a brief annual review next year, and a new planning process the following year, which will include a full community needs assessment.



### 3) Grassroots Funding

- Notes: Mr. Holcomb presented on grassroots funding and a framework for small grants. It can fund community needs, specifically for small population subsets and small organizations that are not funded through core program grants. Mr. Holcomb gave best practices examples from St. Louis County Children's Service Fund.
- This structure would provide small grants to support small community-based organizations addressing mental health needs. Distributing \$2 million over 2 years is a good target amount, with no more than 10 awards (up to \$100,000 per organization per year). This will allow for one staff member or contracting out services. Mr. Holcomb suggested capping awards, acknowledging that this method is not the most efficient way to distribute funds.
- Mr. Holcomb discussed the kinds of programs/services that would be funded. Preference will be given to organizations with operating budgets of \$1 million or less, Gold star rating, already established organizations (not start-ups), physically in the target recipient area and lived experience within the service area.
- All applicants must be aligned with Board Strategic Plan and serve at least one target population.
- Mr. Nabors wondered if based on organization status (silver), mentorship could be a requirement, rather than a preference.
- Proposed cycles to start at the beginning of PY5 (July 2025) for two years, then alternating with core programs.
- Board discussion followed. Mr. Nielsen proposed reviewing separately and having a larger discussion at next month's Board Meeting. Mr. Kunnert asked if there are requests that we are not responding to. Mr. Holcomb replied that there are some, but also some that are funded under the Core Program and might be a better fit for this model. Ms. Bragg-Shaw asked if the board could put size restrictions to avoid larger programs applying. Mr. Holcomb replied that the operating budget would do this. Mr. Nabors was concerned that the community would not see it as increasing their access to mental health funds. Ms. Bragg-Shaw responded that it could also be perceived as being swayed by particular interests and not staying true to the Board's mission.

Dr. Copeland mentioned there is a way where we can help smaller organizations that are willing to do the work the Board wants to fund. It is important for the Board to hold the line on their mission and not be swayed by public opinion or politics. Education should be continual and focus on both the mission but also what the need actually is.
- The Board decided to continue discussion on this topic at the next meeting.





## H) Other Matters

### 1) Resignation

- Notes: Mr. Kunnert announced Margie Lindmark has submitted her resignation from the Board and the Board needs to initiate the process of filling a vacant Board seat.

### 2) Executive Session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11), litigation

**Motion:** Enter executive session. Board went into executive session at 3:27 PM.

- Raised by: Dr. Copeland
- Seconded by: Mr. Nielsen
- Discussion: none
  - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
  - Absent Board Members: Mary Ann Abate, Dr. Bill Gorski, Margie Lindmark

**Motion:** Return to open session

- Raised by: Mr. Nielsen
- Seconded by: Dr. Copeland
- Discussion: None
  - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
  - Absent Board Members: Mary Ann Abate, Dr. Terry Giardini, Dr. Bill Gorski, Margie Lindmark, Mohammad Yunus

## I) Adjournment

1) **Motion:** For Adjournment was carried. Adjourned at 3:48 PM.

- Raised by: Mr. Nielsen
- Seconded by: Mr. Copeland
  - Motion **approved** by a unanimous vote of all Board Members present.
  - Absent Board Members: Mary Ann Abate, Dr. Terry Giardini, Dr. Bill Gorski, Margie Lindmark, Mohammad Yunus