

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2026

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Lynn Gallagher called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM on Thursday, February 19, 2026, in the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Courthouse in Galena, Illinois.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was answered as follows: Present – Dianne Allendorf, Jacob Ambrosia (arrived 6:38 PM), Lynn Gallagher, Joseph Heitkamp, LaDon Trost. Present: 5. Present electronically - Peggy Bastian. Present electronically: 1. Absent- Robert Heuerman. Absent: 1.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve minutes of the January 15, 2026, Social & Environmental Committee meeting, was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by Joseph Heitkamp. The motion carried by voice vote.

IV. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

V. Unfinished Business

FY2025/FY2027 Strategic Goals were reviewed.

VI. New Business

Final Report Presentation of the Ad-Hoc Mental Health Committee - Lynn Gallagher, Chairperson. Lynn Gallagher reviewed some of the Key Recommendations and Potential Funding steps in the Phased Implementation Plan (2026-2030) that includes PHASE 1: Stabilize & Expand Access (Year 1: 2026); PHASE 2: Build Crisis & Youth Systems (Years 2-3: 2027-2028); PHASE 3: Workforce & Service Expansion (Years 3-5: 2028-2030); PHASE 4: Prevention, Wellness & Sustainability (Years 4-5)

A motion to recommend the approval of the Final Report of the Ad-Hoc Mental Health Committee was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by Joseph Heitkamp. The motion carried by voice vote.

Discussion was held among the committee members regarding the most recent communications with the Senior Resource Center (SRC). Initial concerns began with transit. Nicole Hermsen was asked to report on any ongoing concerns and noted continued issues with service delivery to Jo Daviess County seniors, including difficulty receiving return phone calls, issues with transportation payments, and reports of denied rides. Additionally, limited reporting has been provided by SRC to the committee regarding specific services provided and the allocation of state and federal funding for the County. Senior services in Jo Daviess County have declined since the closure of the Hanover office in April 2022. The committee discussed the range of services expected to be available to seniors, including transportation, information and assistance, care coordination, financial and legal support, tax filing assistance, Medicare Part D guidance, and family caregiver support. Currently, SRC

provides satellite services in four locations within the County on Wednesdays by appointment only, with no walk-in availability. Concerns were also raised regarding a lack of communication about cancellations and the absence of regular newsletters or updates for seniors. The committee recommended that Jo Daviess County explore the process of reestablishing senior services locally as a certified provider. This would include obtaining necessary certifications, pursuing funding opportunities, and establishing a local office to house and deliver these services.

A motion to recommend authorizing the Social & Environmental Committee to investigate the feasibility, requirements, and responsibilities of becoming a certified provider of senior services in Jo Daviess County, either by making application or supporting an application by another agency was made by Joseph Heitkamp and seconded by Dianne Allendorf. The motion carried by voice vote.

VII. Reports

Public Health: No report was provided.

Mental Health Board: No report was provided.

Jo Daviess County Transit/PCOM: Nicole Hermesen, Transit Director/PCOM updated the committee on recent activities and concerns. Nicole Hermesen reported that the Blue Ticket Program has been reinstated in partnership with West Galena Township. Nicole reviewed the advertising budget and noted that design work is nearing completion. She also stated that Transit services have been contacted regarding the possibility of donating rides to residents, which led the Transit Department to implement gift certificates. These gift certificates, along with the related promotional campaign, have been well received by the community. Finally, Nicole reviewed recent legislation affecting the appropriation of matching grant funds and expressed appreciation that the county's required match has been reduced from 35% to 20%, which will provide significant financial relief.

VIII. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

IX. Committee Member Concerns

LaDon Trost took a moment to thank Lynn Gallagher on her tremendous work on the Ad-Hoc Mental Health committee this past year. Lynn Gallagher also thanked the entire committee for their time and dedication to such an important cause.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:52 PM by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by Jacob Ambrosia. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next committee meeting is Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.