

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
708 MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2026

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Wiecking called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, March 11, 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 – Lynn Gallagher, Tracy Wiecking, Gail Gabbert, Jan Kitazaki, Hollie Werner, Bill Hermann. Present: 6. Present electronically: 0. Absent – Joann Robinson. Absent: 1.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2025, 708 Mental Health Board meeting was made by Hollie Werner and seconded by Gail Gabbert. The motion carried by voice vote.

IV. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

V. Treasurer's Report

The January 2026 financial reports were presented for review.

VI. President's Report

None.

VII. Service Provider Reports

Midwest Medical Center: No report provided.

Riverview Center, Inc.: Sarah Petersen reported on current activities at Riverview Center, Inc. Staff are developing a comprehensive outreach and awareness plan to be implemented over the next four months. In April, Riverview Center will conduct community presentations focused on Sexual Assault Awareness Month and will set up informational displays in libraries throughout Jo Daviess County. These efforts are connected to a Healing Illinois grant supporting programming and the creation of safe spaces within the community. Staff will also travel to Springfield to participate in Domestic Violence Advocacy Day. Riverview Center is working with Midwest Medical Center to update their networking agreement. Additionally, following a coalition recommendation, advocates are now able to participate in law enforcement interviews with survivors to provide support. Their largest fundraiser, Evening of Light, will be held April 21, 2026, from 5:00–8:00 p.m. at Culbies in East Dubuque. The keynote speaker will be Jim Schmidt, stepfather of Gabby Petito and co-founder of the Gabby Petito Foundation, which advocates for domestic violence survivors and missing persons. Tickets are available online. Member Werner expressed interest in connecting with The Workshop regarding maintaining contact with volunteers and advocates who have completed their training programs.

The Workshop: Courtney Busch, Program Director at The Workshop, reported on quarterly activities. Funds supported 14 individuals, with 1,434 hours worked and total wages of \$18,142.41. As of March 1, 2026, all individuals are being paid minimum wage for all jobs worked. The Workshop no longer holds a 14(c) certificate, as the State of Illinois will eliminate these certificates beginning January 2027. Participants engaged in various activities offered through The Workshop, including educational classes, games, arts and crafts, and community outings. Planned summer activities include a boat cruise in Moline and trips to Rockford and Freeport to promote community inclusion. Member Werner asked whether the transition to minimum wage has affected individuals' work hours. Busch confirmed that individuals are continuing to receive the same number of hours they previously requested.

Tyler's Justice Center for Children: Jasmine Stoewer, Executive Director/Forensic Interviewer, reported on activities at Tyler's Justice Center. The center has experienced several recent changes, including the loss of its MDT Coordinator/Forensic Interviewer. Currently, two staff members are managing operations while efforts continue to fill the position. Although several applications have been received, the position has not yet been filled. Stoewer reported that work on National Children's Alliance (NCA) accreditation has been ongoing since she was hired last June, and the application has now been submitted. Monthly case reviews continue for the three counties served: Carroll, Jo Daviess, and Stephenson. Since December 3, 2025, the center has conducted 19 forensic interviews. For FY26 to date, services include 45 new clients, 37 forensic interviews, 22 families served, 8 medical exams, and 12 transportation assists. Staff attended the Champions for Children Conference in Schaumburg from March 2–5, 2026. All grant applications have been submitted, and recent site visits with DCFS and VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) resulted in positive feedback. Outreach presentations were also provided, including one at Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton in December and another for the Jo Daviess County Bar Association on January 30, 2026. Stoewer thanked the 708 Mental Health Board for its continued support of Tyler's Justice Center and welcomed recommendations for potential applicants for the open position.

Kreider Services: Alicia Fleege, Assistant Program Manager at Kreider Services, presented her quarterly report. She reported that much of last year's funding supported improvements to the West Street location, including completion of a new accessible bathroom to better support individuals served. Additional construction work is ongoing. Kreider Services continues to pursue funding opportunities and has submitted a grant to the Galena Foundation due to the building's historic designation. Additional grants were submitted to the Lions Club, and an Impact Grant was received from the Elks Lodge, though at a reduced amount compared to last year. Kreider Services plans to partner with the Elks Lodge to host four community meal nights this year, allowing individuals from ARC cooking classes to apply their skills while working alongside community members. Meals will be offered on a donation basis. Free art classes will also be offered at the Elks. Participants will also take part in the Bicentennial Corn Boil, and individuals assisted with preparing 3,000 Easter eggs for the Elks' Easter egg hunt. Fleege also noted ongoing staffing challenges due to state funding cuts and welcomed community input on new ideas or partnerships.

Sinnissippi Center: Annie Davis of Sinnissippi Center reported that since implementation of Illinois' SAFE-T Act, the jail census has decreased. As a result, services provided at the jail have been limited; one individual was seen 10 times over the past three months, totaling 16 hours of service. Davis noted that one individual has continued with counseling and medication services following release from jail. Sinnissippi Center provides services on an as-needed basis, including substance-use

treatment, mental health services, or a combination of both. In Carroll County, the center also assists individuals in connecting with mental health providers outside the jail. Similar guidance has been provided to individuals in Jo Daviess County when requested, although no formal program is currently established there.

Rosecrance: Kari Fager, Regional Director for Rosecrance, reported that the organization is pleased to be serving Jo Daviess County. Services currently include adult and adolescent behavioral health assessments, individual and family counseling, DUI evaluations, outpatient groups, and intensive outpatient programs (IOP) for substance use and continued care. On-site school counseling is currently provided in the Galena School District, with services beginning soon in the East Dubuque School District. Rosecrance's intensive outpatient programs are currently at full capacity, and an additional IOP group will begin April 7, 2026, allowing for both morning and evening sessions. A new clinician position will also be added to expand service capacity. Telepsychiatry services are available on-site. During the past quarter, Rosecrance served 140 clients, including 33 mental health outpatient clients, 14 youth served in the community, 40 substance-use outpatient clients, and 28 psychiatric service clients. A total of 18 assessments and 6 DUI evaluations were completed, with 523 services provided overall. Fager noted that Rosecrance accepts all insurance, including Medicaid, and currently has no waiting list.

VIII. Unfinished Business

None.

IX. New Business

A motion to approve and post the FY2026 Annual Plan was made by Lynn Gallagher and seconded by Gail Gabbert. The motion carried by voice vote.

Discussion and possible action regarding the Ad-Hoc Mental Health Committee Final Report: Lynn Gallagher provided an overview of the Ad-Hoc Mental Health Committee's final report. The assessment incorporated community input, available data, and the lived experiences of residents. Information was gathered through three surveys that included responses from the countywide public, law enforcement, and school administrators, faculty, and counselors. In addition, five in-person focus groups were held throughout the county. The findings indicate that mental health needs in Jo Daviess County are significant and increasing. Anxiety, depression, and substance abuse were identified as the top concerns across all age groups. A key finding is the gap between community needs and the availability of services. The full report has been approved by the County Board and was included in the packet for review. Next steps include developing a three-year plan to begin initiating and implementing the 43 specific recommendations identified by the Ad-Hoc Mental Health Committee. Collaboration between the 708 Mental Health Board, the Social and Environmental Committee, and the County Board will be necessary to prioritize one-year, three-year, and longer-term plans. Lynn Gallagher recommended that the 708 Mental Health Board first prioritize actions that can be addressed under the scope of the 708 Board, as its authority is limited by statute. Member Werner spoke about the JDCEA (Jo Daviess County Empowerment Alliance), which works in part to connect residents with information and resources. She expressed interest in collaborating, as did all of the service providers represented. Board members discussed a number of ideas. Lynn requested that a special meeting be scheduled to prioritize the recommendations.

Discussion and possible action regarding Service Provider application and reporting criteria: No

discussion or action was taken regarding Service Provider application and reporting criteria.

After a brief discussion, it was decided a special meeting should be scheduled to work on developing a new Three-Year Plan, as well as addressing Item IX. C. regarding Service Provider application and reporting criteria. **A motion to schedule a special meeting date for Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 5:30 PM was made by Lynn Gallagher and seconded by Jan Kitazaki. The motion carried by voice vote.**

X. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

XI. Board Member Concerns

Lynn Gallagher announced the Mental Health America-Dubuque chapter Annual Dinner will be held May 14, 2026, from 4:30–7:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Tickets are available online.

XII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:17 PM by Gail Gabbert and seconded by Jan Kitazaki. Motion carried by voice vote.

The next regular committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.