JO DAVIESS COUNTY

708 MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2026

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Wiecking called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, April 8, 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, Joann Robinson, Tracy Wiecking, Gail Gabbert, Jan Kitazaki, Bill Hermann. Present: 6. Present electronically: 0. Absent – Hollie Werner. Absent: 1.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2026, 708 Mental Health Board meeting was made by Jan Kitazaki and seconded by Gail Gabbert. The motion carried by voice vote.

IV. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

V. Unfinished Business

None.

VI. New Business

Discussion and possible action to develop a new Three-Year Plan: The Board held an extensive discussion on the structure and purpose of the one-year and three-year plans. Members clarified that the one-year plan traditionally functions as a financial report, while the three-year plan outlines programmatic goals and anticipated growth. Using the Ad-Hoc Mental Health Committee's white paper, the Board reviewed Phase 1 priorities, including improving access, reducing crisis pressure, expanding tele-mental health, addressing geographic disparities, and strengthening collaborations and training across agencies. Members acknowledged that some priorities could be incorporated into the upcoming grant cycle even if full implementation will take longer. The Board also discussed funding mechanisms, noting that the white paper's cost estimates assume a mix of 708 funds, provider resources, and external grants rather than county-funded implementation. Members reviewed the limits of 708 funding, particularly the reimbursement-based model and statutory restrictions that prevent funding county staff positions. They emphasized the need for provider education, public outreach, and clear communication about priorities, especially since many organizations are unaware of available funding. The Board also discussed the process for increasing the mental health levy, noting that it requires County Board approval but not a referendum. Following discussion, the Board agreed that Phase 1 recommendations would guide the first year of the new Three-Year Plan. **A motion to table Item VI.A to a special meeting on May 13, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. was made by Lynn Gallagher and seconded by Joann Robinson. The motion carried by voice vote.**

Discussion and possible action to revise the Service Provider annual funding application: The Board discussed the need to revise the annual funding application so it reflects the new planning approach and provides clearer expectations for providers. Members emphasized that the application must communicate the Board's priorities and include structured criteria, effectively a rubric, that distinguishes between different "buckets" of funding tied to specific services. They noted that applicants must understand that unfilled priority areas should not automatically shift funds into other categories, and that the Board will need to define how priorities are weighted and how proposals will be evaluated under the new model. The discussion also highlighted the need for provider education and technical assistance, as many organizations are unaware of 708 funding or how the reimbursement-based model affects program design. Members agreed that the revised application and rubric should guide providers in proposing services aligned with identified needs while still allowing room for innovative ideas not explicitly listed among the Board's priorities. **A motion to approve the Service Provider annual funding application rubric was made by Gail Gabbert and seconded by Jan Kitazaki. The motion carried by voice vote.**

Discussion and possible action to revise the Service Provider quarterly reporting process/ criteria: Discussion relevant to quarterly reporting focused on the Board's reimbursement-based funding model and the need for clearer expectations and guidance for providers. Members noted that quarterly reimbursements can make it difficult for agencies to launch new services without upfront resources, and that reporting requirements must reflect this reality while still ensuring accountability. The Board emphasized that providers will need education on the new planning structure, priority areas, and the distinction between different "buckets" of funding, as misunderstandings in past years led to assumptions that unspent funds could simply be redistributed. Members also discussed the importance of defining eligibility and compliance expectations, particularly for organizations unfamiliar with 708 funding, and ensuring that quarterly reports accurately document service delivery, alignment with priorities, and progress toward identified needs. The Board agreed that the revised reporting criteria must support transparency, prevent misconceptions about carryover funds, and reinforce the shift from distributing the levy to implementing a structured, priority-driven plan. **A motion to table Item VI.C to the next meeting was made by Lynn Gallagher and seconded by Joann Robinson. The motion carried by voice vote.**

VII. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

VIII. Board Member Concerns

Member Lynn Gallagher reminded everyone that a community forum will be held on May 6, 2026, at the Galena ARC, beginning at either 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. and that Mental Health America of Dubuque will hold its annual fundraising dinner on May 14 at the former Old Westminster Church in Dubuque. Tickets are $20, and members may obtain them in advance or attend at the door.

IX. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:09 PM by Jan Kitazaki and seconded by Bill Hermann. Motion carried by voice vote.

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