JO DAVIESS COUNTY

708 MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 13, 2026

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Wiecking called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, May 13, 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 – Gail Gabbert, Lynn Gallagher, Jan Kitazaki, Joann Robinson, Tracy Wiecking. Present: 5. Present electronically: 0. Absent – Bill Hermann, Hollie Werner. Absent: 2.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2026, 708 Mental Health Board meeting was made by Lynn Gallagher and seconded by Gail Gabbert. The motion carried by voice vote.

IV. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

V. Unfinished Business

Discussion and possible action to develop a new Three-Year Plan: The Board engaged in an extended workshop-style discussion to begin structuring a new three-year plan. Members reviewed the Ad Hoc Mental Health Committee's white paper and the five-phase framework previously developed. The Chair emphasized honoring the community-driven recommendations while determining what is feasible for the Board to implement. A substantial portion of discussion focused on:

- Clarifying the Board's authority under the Community Mental Health Act
- Understanding levy limits, appropriation sequencing, and the Truth-in-Taxation process
- Distinguishing 708 Board funds from county general funds.
- The Board's ability to appropriate up to the statutory maximum rate of 0.15, with current levy just under 0.03.
- The need to plan one year ahead due to the tax cycle lag.

The Board also reviewed new community input from the May 6 public forum, including strong support for:

- An interactive, real-time online mental health resource directory.
- A single referral/resource point.
- A countywide mental health coordinator role.
- Expanded telehealth access, with recognition of broadband limitations.
- Partnerships with churches for confidential space.
- Crisis response collaboration between providers and law enforcement.

Members discussed whether individuals, nonprofits, for-profits, or governmental entities could apply to build the directory or serve as coordinator. The Board agreed that applications should be open to a broad range of qualified applicants, pending legal and statutory review.
A motion to prioritize for year one (2027-28) the creation of an interactive online mental health directory and a mental health coordinator for the County was made by Lynn Gallagher and seconded by Jan Kitazaki. The motion carried by voice vote.
A motion to prioritize for year two (2028-29) to provide funding to raise community awareness and stigma eradication and asking local providers working with law enforcement agencies and EMS to create crisis teams was made by Lynn Gallagher and seconded by Gail Gabbert. The motion carried by voice vote.
A motion to prioritize for year three (2029-30) to establish community support teams and to support not-for-profits and faith-based organizations collaborations to provide support services was made by Lynn Gallagher and seconded by Gail Gabbert. The motion carried by voice vote.

Discussion and possible action to revise the Service Provider annual funding application: The Board discussed the need for a standardized application, noting that providers currently use inconsistent formats. Members reviewed examples from past submissions and agreed to draft a unified application for consideration at the June meeting.

Discussion and possible action to revise the Service Provider quarterly reporting process/criteria: The Board agreed to develop a consistent reporting template to ensure comparable data across providers. A draft will be prepared for June, based on current reporting practices and Board expectations for measurable service outcomes.

VI. New Business

None.

VII. Citizens' Comments

Corel Smart, Dubuque, representing Riverview Center addressed the Board, asking whether the new priorities implied that current providers were not meeting community needs. The Board clarified that providers are delivering high-quality services, and the new priorities reflect additional needs identified through the countywide assessment, not deficiencies in existing programs. The speaker also emphasized Riverview's 24-hour crisis response role for domestic and sexual violence cases and encouraged continued coordination with law enforcement.

Connie Davis, representing Sinnissippi, clarified the role of the jail's contracted physician in maintaining psychotropic prescriptions for detainees, noting that this medical service is separate from Sinnissippi's counseling services.

VIII. Board Member Concerns

Members discussed clarification regarding a recent county line-item transfer related to inmate medical services. The transfer was for an annual contract for medical services that include the ability to prescribe medications related to mental health services.

The Board also noted the upcoming need to elect officers at the June meeting, per bylaws.

IX. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:29 PM by Lynn Gallagher and seconded by Jan Kitazaki. Motion carried by voice vote.

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