

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 21, 2026

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Lynn Gallagher called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM on Thursday, May 21, 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, Lynn Gallagher, Joseph Heitkamp. Present: 3. Present electronically – Jacob Ambrosia, Peggy Bastian, LaDon Trost. Present electronically: 3. Absent – Robert Heuerman. Absent: 1.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 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.

Continuation of discussion regarding the 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: Chairperson Gallagher presented a list of “bare minimum” senior services, which included information access, nutrition, in-home support, transportation, health and safety, caregiver support, social connection, and housing stability, based on her research. Members discussed gaps in current service delivery, the history of the Senior Resource Center’s presence in the county, available state and federal funding, and the need to identify a qualified provider for the 2027 grant cycle. The committee also discussed potential roles for the Health Department, local contractors, and regional organizations, as well as the importance of establishing a single point of contact for seniors seeking assistance.

VI. New Business

A motion to recommend an Intergovernmental Agreement between Jo Daviess County Transit and The City of Galena was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by Joseph Heitkamp. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion to recommend a contract between The Galena Foundation and Jo Daviess County Transit was made by Joseph Heitkamp and seconded by Peggy Bastian. The motion carried by voice vote.

VII. Reports

Public Health: No report.

Mental Health Board: Tracy Wiecking, Board President was present to give report, summarizing newly adopted priority items for the upcoming year and three-year plan, including development of a centralized resource directory, hiring a mental health coordinator, stigma-reduction initiatives, crisis team coordination, and expanded community support efforts.

Jo Daviess County Transit/PCOM: A written report was provided and Nicole Hermesen, Transit Director/PCOM was present to answer questions; she covered ridership trends, financial status, reimbursement delays, CARES funding adjustments, promotional fare programs, community outreach, and veteran transportation support. She noted that despite reimbursement delays, year-to-date operations are in the positive and ridership promotions have been successful.

County Cemeteries: A written report was provided, which included cleanup progress at the Poor Farm Cemetery, preparation for potential ground-penetrating radar work, and maintenance needs at the Minor Cemetery, which is now being mowed in-house due to insurance requirements for contractors.

VIII. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

IX. Committee Member Concerns

Committee members expressed appreciation for staff work, discussed potential budget considerations for senior and transit services, and noted increased advertising from the Senior Resource Center since the committee began its review.

X. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:43 PM by Joseph Heitkamp and seconded by Dianne Allendorf. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next committee meeting is Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.