

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 18, 2026

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Lynn Gallagher called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM on Thursday, June 18, 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 – Peggy Bastian, Lynn Gallagher, Joseph Heitkamp. Present: 3. Present electronically – Jacob Ambrosia, LaDon Trost. Present electronically: 2. Absent – Dianne Allendorf, Robert Heuerman. Absent: 2.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2026, Social & Environmental Committee meeting was made by Joseph Heitkamp and seconded by Peggy Bastian. 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

The Committee discussed the annual Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Galena and Jo Daviess County Transit. Transit staff explained that the agreement funds micro-transit service within city limits from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with a dedicated vehicle remaining inside the city. The annual amount of \$9,996 has remained unchanged, and the service is currently operating on the positive side financially due to fare adjustments. **A motion to recommend an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Galena and Jo Daviess County Transit was made by Joseph Heitkamp and seconded by Peggy Bastian. The motion carried by voice vote.**

The Committee reviewed the annual contract between Rosecrance and Jo Daviess County Transit. Transit staff noted that the \$4 fare each way covers local appointments and reduces costly long-distance trips to Rockford or Freeport. **A motion to recommend a contract between Rosecrance and Jo Daviess County Transit was made by Joseph Heitkamp and seconded by Peggy Bastian. The motion carried by voice vote.**

The Committee then discussed the contract between The Workshop and Jo Daviess County Transit. Transit staff reported that concerns raised during the prior year primarily related to insurance coverage and that communication with The Workshop has improved. Members asked about transportation affordability for individuals with disabilities who work in the community but are not Workshop participants. Transit staff explained that a separate rate structure already exists for individuals in outside employment programs and that efforts are underway to expand support for

others through donor-supported subsidies. **A motion to recommend a contract between The Workshop and Jo Daviess County Transit was made by Peggy Bastian and seconded by Joseph Heitkamp. The motion carried by voice vote.**

VII. Reports

Public Health: A written report was provided.

Mental Health Board: Tracy Wiecking, 708 Mental Health Board President was present and available for questions. He summarized ongoing work with seven service providers and the development and public posting of a new three-year plan. Phase 1 focuses on stabilizing and expanding access, including a centralized mental health resource directory and hotline and contracting for a mental health coordinator. Phase 2 emphasizes awareness and crisis system development, and Phase 3 focuses on collaborative community support systems.

Jo Daviess County Transit/PCOM: A written report was provided and Nicole Hermesen, Transit Director/PCOM was present and provided a detailed report on ridership, revenues, reimbursements, and operational challenges. April revenues were strong, with \$25,000 in local revenue and \$132,000 in reimbursements against \$136,000 in expenses. Transit is awaiting nearly \$500,000 in delayed state reimbursements due to grant processing issues. Staff also reported receiving a small settlement from a former contracted facility, securing grant funding for AEDs, and receiving a significant increase in federal Section 5311 funding to \$281,175. Staffing challenges continue, particularly in hiring a dispatcher, as all safety-sensitive positions require drug testing. Committee members commended Transit staff for their work.

VIII. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

IX. Committee Member Concerns

Members discussed next steps for the Senior Services strategic goal. Chairperson Lynn Gallagher requested that members submit suggested survey questions or topics for a county-wide senior services survey, which she plans to present at the next meeting. She also proposed scheduling community forums in Stockton, East Dubuque, and Elizabeth, potentially during regular meeting times or daytime sessions to increase participation.

X. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:00 PM by Jacob Ambrosia and seconded by Joseph Heitkamp. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next committee meeting: Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.