

**JO DAVIESS COUNTY
SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 16, 2026**

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Lynn Gallagher called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM on Thursday, July 16, 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, Peggy Bastian, Lynn Gallagher, Joseph Heitkamp, LaDon Trost. Present: 5. Present electronically: 0. Absent – Jacob Ambrosia. Absent: 1.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 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

Staff explained the contract originated from transportation needs for an upcoming “Soul of the Soil” conference and has expanded into broader service use. **A motion to recommend approval of a contract between Fields of Sinsinawa and Jo Daviess County Transit was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by Joseph Heitkamp. The motion carried by voice vote.**

A motion to recommend approval of a contract between St. Dominic Villa and Jo Daviess County Transit was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by Peggy Bastian. The motion carried by voice vote.

Staff noted JDCF pays for the student field trip transportation as part of its education programming. **A motion to recommend approval of a contract between Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation and Jo Daviess County Transit was made by Peggy Bastian and seconded by Joseph Heitkamp. The motion carried by voice vote.**

A motion to recommend approval of a contract between East Galena Township and Jo Daviess County Transit was made by Joseph Heitkamp and seconded by Dianne Allendorf. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion to recommend approval of a contract between The Galena Rotary Club and Jo Daviess County Transit was made by LaDon Trost and seconded by Peggy Bastian. The motion carried by

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voice vote.

Staff noted the passenger fare remains 50 cents per ride, with the Mop Shop covering the 35% deficit each month. **A motion to recommend approval of a contract between The Mop Shop and Jo Daviess County Transit was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by Joseph Heitkamp. The motion carried by voice vote.**

Staff explained the addition of \$4 medical trips to and from Dubuque, along with continued support for in-county rides. **A motion to recommend approval of a contract between St. Vincent de Paul and Jo Daviess County Transit was made by Joseph Heitkamp and seconded by Peggy Bastian. The motion carried by voice vote.**

The Committee discussed printing costs, distribution locations, and online access. Staff confirmed printing could be handled internally and surveys could be collected at libraries, churches, transit buses, and the county's night depository. **A motion to approve a survey to distribute to Jo Daviess County residents regarding Senior Services in Jo Daviess County was made by LaDon Trost and seconded by Dianne Allendorf. The motion carried by voice vote.**

Members discussed preferred daytime scheduling, transit support for transportation, and potential host locations including Prairie Ridge, East Dubuque City Hall, and Calvary Church in Stockton. Attendance limits were noted to avoid committee quorum issues. **A motion to schedule three (3) community forums in Stockton, Galena, and East Dubuque to discuss Senior Services in Jo Daviess County was made by LaDon Trost and seconded by Joseph Heitkamp. The motion carried by voice vote.**

Nicole Hermsen, Transit Director/PCOM described the need for the policy due to HIPAA concerns, inappropriate radio disclosures, fare-related conversations, and long non-operational transmissions. All transit employees have completed applicable training. **A motion to recommend approving a Radio Etiquette Policy for Jo Daviess County Transit Employees was made by Peggy Bastian and seconded by Dianne Allendorf. The motion carried by voice vote.**

VII. Reports

Public Health: A written report was provided and Sandra Schleicher, Public Health Administrator was present to answer questions. She reported on bat exposure cases in Airbnb homes, rabies testing procedures, tick-borne disease monitoring, Ebola preparedness, and the statewide cyclospora outbreak. Environmental Health noted increased food truck inspections and one license suspension at Freedom Fest. The department is also seeking new board members to meet statutory requirements.

708 Mental Health Board: Tracy Wiecking, Chairperson, reported progress on two initiatives recommended by the County Board's ad hoc committee, upcoming provider application reviews, and potential board membership changes.

Jo Daviess County Transit/PCOM: A written report was provided and Nicole Hermsen, Transit Director/PCOM was present to answer questions. She reported FY26 ridership totals of 66,391 rides, averaging 5,532 rides per month. Staff reviewed revenue, expenses, fuel costs, grant reimbursements, and ongoing Medicaid revalidation issues. Additional updates included cybersecurity planning, cooling-center transportation, Freedom Fest shuttle operations, Bicentennial

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corn boil participation, survey distribution support, and staffing needs.

VIII. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

IX. Committee Member Concerns

Chairperson Gallagher reminded members of the upcoming corn boil and shucking contest on August 29, 2026.

X. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:21 PM by Joseph Heitkamp and seconded by Dianne Allendorf. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next committee meeting: Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.