

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
AD-HOC MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2025

I. Call to Order

Ad-Hoc Mental Health Committee Chairperson Lynn Gallagher called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM on Thursday, December 18, 2025 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, Steve Endress, John Schultz, LaDon Trost, Lynn Gallagher. Present: 5. Present electronically - Sandra Schleicher. Present electronically: 1. Absent – Tracy Bauer, Stephanie Cocagne, Kevin Stewart. Absent: 3.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2025, Ad-Hoc Mental Health Committee meeting was made by John Schultz and seconded by Steve Endress. The motion carried by voice vote. A motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025, Ad-Hoc Mental Health Committee meeting was made by John Schultz and seconded by Dianne Allendorf. The motion carried by voice vote.

IV. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

V. Unfinished Business

None.

VI. New Business

Chairperson Lynn Gallagher spoke about the mission of the Ad-Hoc Mental Health Committee and noted that this meeting marked the final meeting of the committee. She explained that she will be preparing the Final Report, which will highlight all action items the committee set out to accomplish over the past year.

The committee's action items included:

1. Assess demographic and socioeconomic data
2. Survey community mental health needs
3. Analyze existing mental health groups and providers
4. Assess service gaps
5. Interview key stakeholders
6. Review local, state, and national mental health funding policies
7. Examine mental health crisis resources
8. Assess stigma and community perceptions
9. Analyze data on mental health outcomes
10. Identify community partnerships for mental health improvement

11. Summarize findings and recommend actions

Chairperson Lynn Gallagher reported that 125 mental health surveys were received through the county website. She also discussed targeted outreach efforts, including outreach to veterans' groups, to increase survey participation.

Chairperson Lynn Gallagher expressed her sincere appreciation to LaDon Trost for his leadership and assistance in forming the Ad-Hoc Mental Health Committee. She also thanked all committee members for dedicating a year of their time and effort to addressing this important issue affecting not only Jo Daviess County, but communities across the country.

Chairperson Gallagher further advised the committee that there are multiple state grant opportunities currently available to support mental health initiatives. She stated that she would be willing to assist with grant writing or collaborate with others on grant applications to help Jo Daviess County secure additional mental health funding. All board members echoed this sentiment and appreciation.

LaDon Trost stated that he would like to explore the possibility of increasing the levy to secure \$200,000.00 designated exclusively for mental health needs within the county.

Sandra Schleicher commented that, moving forward, the county should further explore and utilize the online mental health program available through the Health Department.

The committee expressed a shared desire to strengthen Jo Daviess County's mental health and social services infrastructure in order to attract families and young people to live and work in the county.

Chairperson Gallagher advised the committee that she will be drafting the Final Report and will present a rough draft for committee members to review. She requested that members notify her of any items or recommendations they would like included.

The goal is to present the final report to the Social and Environmental Committee at its January or February meeting. Upon approval and adoption, the report will be forwarded to the 708 Mental Health Board to assist with application development and funding decisions for the next funding cycle scheduled for May/June 2026.

It is hoped that the Ad-Hoc Mental Health Committee's recommendations will help guide informed and effective mental health funding decisions.

VII. Reports

None.

VIII. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

IX. Committee Member Concerns

There were no Committee Member concerns.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 2:48 PM by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by Steve Endress.
Motion carried by voice vote.