

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2025

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Lynn Gallagher called the meeting to order at 6:30 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, Jacob Ambrosia, Peggy Bastian, Joseph Heitkamp, Robert Heuerman, LaDon Trost, Lynn Gallagher. Present: 7. Present electronically: 0. Absent: 0.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve minutes of the October 16, 2025, 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: Reviewed by committee. Updated each goal with current activity phase:

1. Develop initiative focused on aging in-place services- *Reviewing*
2. Examine the need for additional county mental health services- *Active*
3. Evaluate the current emergency medical services (EMS)- *Pending*

VI. New Business

A motion to approve the FY2026 Social & Environmental Committee Meeting Schedule was made by Peggy Bastian and seconded by Jacob Ambrosia. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion to focus on the goal of senior services was made by Jacob Ambrosia and seconded by Dianne Allendorf. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion to defer the EMS discussion until later in the year was made by Joseph Heitkamp and seconded by Peggy Bastian. The motion carried by voice vote.

A presentation by All Our Kids Early Childhood Network of Northwest Illinois was given by Pam Williams.

A motion to recommend contract changes between West Galena Township and Jo Daviess County Transit, pending State's Attorney review; reducing the contract amount from \$4,000.00 to \$2,000.00 and the term from June 2025-June 2026 to June 2025-December 2025, was made by Peggy Bastian and seconded by Jacob Ambrosia. The motion carried by voice vote.

VII. Reports

Public Health: Sandra Schleicher, Public Health Administrator updated the committee on recent activities.

Mental Health Board: Lynn Gallagher reported the FY2026 Service Provider contracts have been approved and signed.

Jo Daviess County Transit/PCOM: Nicole Hermsen, Transit Director/PCOM updated the committee on recent activities and concerns. Hermsen has not received a signed contract from the Senior Resource Center (SRC) for the upcoming year and was notified on December 12, 2025, by the SRC that the funding Jo Daviess County would receive from them for senior transportation would only be \$6,072.00 for 2026, which will not cover five months of rides for the seniors they currently transport. Hermsen estimates a shortfall of \$8,643.00 for the year. As an example, they have four individuals that rely solely on the SRC to provide funding for their dialysis transport, which can be anywhere from three to five days a week, so this reduction is going to be a critical issue for them. Committee members expressed their concern and would like more information from the SRC. It was suggested that, although the item is not on the agenda, the County Chairperson could choose to add an agenda item to the next full board meeting requesting approval to send a letter to gather information.

VIII. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

IX. Committee Member Concerns

None.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:48 PM by Jacob Ambrosia and seconded by Joseph Heitkamp. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next committee meeting is Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 6:30 PM.