

ST. CLAIR COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

ONE, THREE, and FIVE-YEAR
STRATEGIC PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2025



ST. CLAIR COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Mission Statement:

Through planning, funding, and collaboration, it is the mission of the St. Clair County Mental Health Board to promote the availability of and access to a range of behavioral health, intellectual/developmental disability and substance use disorder services which address the needs of individuals and families in our communities.

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Joe Jackson, MA, LPC, Associate Director

Terri Burroughs, Executive Assistant

St. Clair County Mental Health Board 2025 Strategic Planning Participants

Elaine Rogers Cueto, President

Ann Martz Barnum, Senior Vice President

Kristi A. Luetkemyer, Vice President

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Jodi Gardner, MSW, LCSW

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Executive Summary

This document represents the St. Clair County Mental Health Board's one-, three-, and five-year strategic plan for FY2026 through FY2030. While we choose to include a 5-year plan in order to keep an eye on trends and possibilities, we expect that objectives will change and evolve over time.

The Mental Health Board (MHB) is a governmental unit of St. Clair County, Illinois. Legal obligations are set forth in the Community Mental Health Act, Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 405, Act 20. In November 1968, St. Clair County residents voted in a county-wide referendum to levy a tax to fund some mental health, substance use disorder, and intellectual/developmental disability services. These funds are distributed by the St. Clair County Mental Health 708 Board, which also oversees the distribution of funds received by St. Clair County from the Opioid Settlement Fund. FY2026's funded agencies, programs, amounts and other details can be found in an addendum to this report.

The current Mental Health Board members and staff agree that our **core values** remain:

- **Access:** Everyone in St. Clair County deserves reasonable access to quality mental health care based on evidence-based interventions.
- **Collaboration:** This is needed at all levels of planning and service implementation throughout the service network and community. We strive to grow and promote a community-based system that willingly and increasingly networks together for the betterment of all individuals, providers, and agencies.
- **Community:** Our inclusive community, and the individuals that comprise it, are the reason that we exist, strive to collaborate, and improve mental health for all.
- **Stewardship:** It is the responsibility of the staff and board members to distribute funds responsibly and meaningfully in accordance with our mission.

During this strategic planning, staff researched and promoted the theme of “**Resilience**” to guide all planning. Resilience refers to the capacity to withstand or recover from difficulties.

- Individuals throughout the age ranges and of every population need resilience to face, overcome, and adapt to hardships.
- Workers in the field need resilience to model to their clients, do good work on hard days, and keep themselves healthy, personally and professionally.
- Agencies need resilience to withstand challenges in staffing, funding, and policy.
- Communities need resilience to support all those that encompass it.

- Resilience means that we expect difficult things will happen. However, ideally, when those difficult things do happen, individuals, workers, agencies, and our community will maintain healthy coping, habits, and survival, despite those hardships.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN, CMHNA OVERVIEW, AND RESPONSE

Please refer to the 2024 Community Mental Health Needs Assessment conducted from October 1 through December 31, 2024. 656 surveys were used in the compilation of data. The entire CMHNA document as well as a 2-page summary can be found at www.stc708.org.

At the Strategic Planning Meeting on September 3, 2025, held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, participants noted the importance of all recommendations from the 2024 CMHNA, and prioritized the following topics:

YOUTH AND FAMILY SUPPORT: Explore availability of accessible, integrated, and specialized mental health services for youth and families. Connect families with services that already exist. Create additional support services for youth who are neurodivergent and their caregivers.

ENHANCEMENT OF CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES: Explore availability and investigate creation of programs that promote the optimization of childhood mental health, prevention of trauma, and resilience for the lifespan.

CENTRAL RESOURCE GUIDE AND BETTER NETWORKING: Explore the creation of an electronic, integrated central resource guide where individuals can access mental health care, housing support, substance use treatment, and other services in one location. Explore whether agencies could use such a tool to refer and communicate. Encourage agencies and regions to integrate and communicate rather than operate in service silos.

MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS: Explore what is needed to enhance local providers' cultural competencies when serving various traditionally marginalized communities. Improve access of services for these community members to find the resources they need.

CRISIS SERVICES: Explore the progression and roadblocks in the evolution of the crisis service network. Participate and contribute to this ongoing project of crisis response planning with the goal of locally providing immediate support to individuals in distress that connect them to appropriate services.

FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

Please refer to the attached document entitled Funded Agency List for a full description of FY2026 funded agencies, their available programs, and funded dollar amounts and services.

ONE-YEAR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1:

The new staff of the Mental Health Board will be oriented and integrated into their roles and into the network of agencies and community organizations.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Staff will develop and utilize a timeline of weekly, monthly, and yearly obligations to ensure that all duties are covered, deadlines are met, and community meetings and events are attended as needed. This timeline is a work in progress and will be updated regularly.

OBJECTIVE 2:

Staff will mindfully tend to deadlines and will attend community meetings and events with the purpose of contributing to the overall success of the Mental Health Board's goals and reiterating the presence of the MHB in the community.

GOAL 2:

Community resource guides and materials will be developed and maintained to ensure that individuals and agency workers have accessible resource information and means to connect with appropriate services.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Staff will update and distribute crisis resource lists and will update the MHB website. Staff will utilize email and social media in accordance with county policy to distribute current event and service information.

OBJECTIVE 2:

Staff will continue to investigate the possibilities of an electronic resource guide that connects the regional network and public. Furthermore, staff will continue to investigate the possibilities of electronically connecting agencies, clients, and resources.

GOAL 3:

The staff and board will ensure that FY funding, CY funding, and one-time funding as available, continue on schedule, and that agencies are monitored for compliance as listed in their contracts.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Staff will keep aware of levy details and on top of schedules related to county budget and levy deadlines.

OBJECTIVE 2:

Staff will consider and present to the board for consideration current and new funding requests that reflect the values of the board, the theme of Resilience, and the targeted recommendations from the CMHNA.

OBJECTIVE 3:

Staff will conduct site visits, contract visits, ORS monitoring, finance committee updates, board updates, annual reporting, and all tasks needed throughout the year.

THREE-YEAR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1:

The staff and board will continue to ensure that FY funding, CY funding, and one-time funding as available continue on schedule, and that agencies are monitored for compliance as listed in their contracts. In addition, staff and board will seek to consistently and responsibly add at least one provider or innovative service per year if appropriate to do so.

OBJECTIVE 1:

For FY funding, the staff and board will actively seek ideas, plans, and requests from trusted agencies in the community that are providing or want to provide a new service that reflect the values of the board, the theme of Resilience, and the targeted recommendations from CMHNA.

OBJECTIVE 2:

The staff and board will monitor the income and balance of funds from the Opioid Settlement Fund. Efforts will be made to maintain a 2-year reserve balance.

OBJECTIVE 3:

The staff and board will actively seek ideas, plans, and requests from trusted agencies in the community that are providing or want to provide a new service that reflect the values of the board, the theme of Resilience, and the targeted recommendations from CMHNA, in accordance with the abatement strategies.

GOAL 2:

The staff will prepare for upcoming survey requirements, updates to the strategic plan, and changes in the network. Staff will assist other agencies in the network and community as requested that must also survey, plan, and adapt. Staff will adapt their schedules as necessary to respond to the needs of agencies and the network.

OBJECTIVE 1: Staff will take note of others' surveys for improvement ideas and assist in the promotion and distribution of other surveys. MHB-developed survey results will be made available to the public via the website. MHB survey materials and results will also be shared as requested to agencies for their use of materials and results with appropriate permission.

OBJECTIVE 2: Staff will participate and/or lead in network brainstorming in many area work groups as defined in the evolving timeline.

GOAL 3:

The staff and board will maintain a consistent and lawful routine of board meetings, duties, and membership, and board members will contribute their individual talents and enjoy their time while working toward the overall success of the board.

OBJECTIVE 1: The Executive Director and Board President will maintain contact with board members via board meetings, email, and however appropriate, to involve board members in committees as assigned and projects as they arise. Board members will contribute to discussions and projects based on their personal interests and expertise.

OBJECTIVE 2: The Board will add members in accordance with regulations when needed.

FIVE-YEAR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1:

The staff and board will monitor changes and trends in all levels of the community that may affect coping and an increased need for services or change of service direction.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Staff and board will continue to survey and study the community, agencies, and world events to predict changing needs as much as possible.

GOAL 2:

The staff and board will continue to closely monitor income and budgeting process details related to both tax levy funding and opioid abatement funding and implement these funds according to guidelines and toward successful projects.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Staff will keep contact with key county employees and advisors for accurate information and assistance. The staff and board will responsibly budget according to insights and guidelines.

CLOSING REMARKS

This Strategic Plan report is respectfully submitted on September 18, 2025, by

Jodi Gardner, MSW, LCSW, St. Clair County Mental Health Board Executive Director.