



ST. CLAIR COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Jodi Gardner, MSW, LCSW
Executive Director

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Joe Jackson, MA, LPC
Associate Director

REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

January 15, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Terri Burroughs
Executive Assistant

St. Clair County Annex Building

Belleville, Illinois

Board Members

Elaine Rogers Cueto
President

AGENDA

Ann Martz Barnum
Senior Vice President

I. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING AGENDA

Kristi A. Luetkemyer
Vice President

II. CALL TO ORDER

Robert Clipper, Ph.D
Secretary

III. ROLL CALL

John "Skip" Kernan
Curtis L. Schildknecht

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES NOVEMBER 20, 2025, BOARD MEETING

Ted Baugh, MSW

V. REPORTS

Robert Allen

a. Finance Committee – Ann Barnum

Deborah Jones

b. Program Services – Joe Jackson

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

IX. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

X. COMMENTS

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

XII. ADJOURNMENT

St. Clair County Mental Health Board Meeting Minutes- draft

The St. Clair County Mental Health Board held a regular monthly meeting on November 20, 2025, at 6pm.

PRESENT:

Board Members:

Elaine Cueto
Ann Barnum
Kristi Luetkemyer
Robert Clipper, PhD
John Kernan
Curt Schildknecht
Bobby Allen

Staff:

Jodi Gardner
Joe Jackson
Terri Burroughs

Excused: Deborah Jones and Ted Baugh.

- **Approval of Previous Minutes**
 - The minutes of the September 18, 2025, meeting were approved following a recommendation from Ms. Barnum and a second from Mr. Schildknecht.
- **Reports from Committees**
 - Finance Committee: Report approved following the recommendation by Ms. Barnum and a second by Dr. Clipper.
 - Associate Director's Report: Joe Jackson provided updates on substance use disorder services and community engagement efforts.
 - Executive Director's Report: Jodi Gardner shared strategic planning initiatives and emphasized a possible theme of resilience.

Associate Director's Report

- Completed site visits with opioid-funded agencies, gaining valuable insight into their operations.
- Continued efforts to improve coordination among community SUD meetings; some leaders are now planning to consolidate overlapping work groups.
- Participated in ACMHAI legislative work, focusing on 2026 priorities and recent federal funding updates.
- Attended the NACBHDD policy conference on national behavioral health and I/DD issues.
- Collaborated with the County Health Department on the mental health section of the community health plan, including a five-year suicide prevention strategy.
- Staff volunteered at a food drive supporting the local Air Force base during the government shutdown.

SCC Mental Health Board – November 2025 Executive Director Report Farewell and

Recognition: The Board acknowledges the long-standing service of Dr. Robert Clipper. He is likely retiring from the Board and his private practice at year's end. A proclamation from Chairman Kern honors his professional and personal contributions.

- **Funding Priorities for 2026:** The Finance Committee has proposed allocations for the Opioid Settlement funds — supporting ongoing agency work, expanding services, and beginning mental-health counseling at the SCC Detention Center (with Chestnut Health Systems). The Committee is also recommending several one-time funding grants for agencies to pilot programs before being considered for recurring funding.

Executive Director Report

- **Farewell and Recognition:** The Board acknowledges the long-standing service of Dr. Robert Clipper. He is likely retiring from the Board and his private practice at year's end. A proclamation from Chairman Kern honors his professional and personal contributions.
- **Funding Priorities for 2026:** The Finance Committee has proposed allocations for the Opioid Settlement funds — supporting ongoing agency work, expanding services, and beginning mental-health counseling at the SCC Detention Center (with Chestnut Health Systems). The Committee is also recommending several one-time funding grants for agencies to pilot programs before being considered for recurring funding.
- **Legislative and Policy Updates:** With the recent passage of Illinois House Bill 1085, mental-health practitioners will benefit from streamlined insurance billing and eligibility processes. Looking ahead, key priorities include: protecting Community Mental Health and IDD funding, supporting suicide prevention and SUD services, backing school-based mental health initiatives, and monitoring effective implementation of 988 crisis response.
- **Community Engagement & Agency Collaboration:** Throughout the year, Board staff participated actively in community events and trainings — including the AFSP Out of the Darkness Walk, Seizure First Aid training, Violence Prevention Center's outreach, a statewide juvenile-justice redeploy meeting, a coalition convening for youth mental health, and veteran-focused suicide prevention and food-drive efforts.
- **Commitment to the Community:** The leadership emphasizes its dedication to being a visible, supportive partner in the local mental-health network and looks forward to advancing initiatives in 2026.
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- **Commitment to the Community:** The leadership emphasizes its dedication to being a visible, supportive partner in the local mental-health network and looks forward to advancing initiatives in 2026.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Lara Duy-PSOP; Courtney Kampwerth-VPC; Kendra Copanas-ESA; Troy Matheny-ICA; Jodi Flesner-Heartlinks; Donna Brooks-EFGSWI; Alida Kistler-AMARE; Natasha Peterson-House of Mary; Jason Farley-NAMI.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Terri Burroughs



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FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT JANUARY 15, 2026, 6:00 PM ANN BARNUM

The Finance Committee met in the Conference Room of the St. Clair County 5th floor Conference Room on Tuesday, January 13, 2025 at noon.

Recommendation from the Finance Committee:

1. Approval of November and December Funds Flow Statements and Budget Performance Reports.
2. Approval of the December Funds Flow Statement for the Opioid Settlement Funds
3. Approval of Funding for 2026 Millstadt Autism Walk supporting the Without Limits Special Olympics Team.

I move these recommendations be approved.

SCC MENTAL HEALTH BOARD ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR REPORT
January 2026

- Since our last report, we have received signed copies of all CY26 opioid settlement contracts.
- January is substance use disorder treatment month. I continue to attend multiple community meetings focused on SUD based services in St. Clair County. I am glad to report (and I'm sure that this is not new news) that we have a strong network of SUD providers in St. Clair County who work diligently to stay in touch with our regional needs and current best practices. Our local SUD providers work collaboratively to evaluate and improve practices. Their person-centered approach continues to make stepping into recovery more effective and inviting for those seeking services.
- I continue to attend meetings held by ACMHAI including their legislative committee. December was a quiet legislative time. One notable federal initiative is the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP). Under this program Illinois will receive about \$193 million per year to "expand rural health services, modernize facilities, support the workforce, and bring care closer to home." It is important to note that this funding does not fully offset recent federal cuts that have strained rural health providers. While the investment strengthens rural care, officials acknowledge broader financial pressures remain.
- Recently, we had the opportunity to attend and participate in ACMHAI's December membership meeting in person. This meeting was a great opportunity to discuss best practices and emerging issues for 708 boards statewide.
- Closing out CY25, we were also able to meet with our finance committee and get a generous number of one-time funded projects approved. All funded agencies expressed gratitude along with two early updates about how these funds are already making an impact in the community. Two notable updates came from Natasha Patterson of House of Mary and Lisa Atkins of the St. Clair County ROE. House of Mary broke ground on a new location for their transitional housing facility in East St. Louis. I was able to attend the ground breaking and learn more about the plans for this location. This setting will provide safe, stable housing and trauma-informed supportive services to women returning citizens from the Illinois Department of Corrections. Lisa Atkins reports that funding for additional Community Action Poverty Simulation kits has afforded the opportunity to begin the new year with one additional poverty simulation on January 5th and will continue to expand the number of educational opportunities for this service.

Respectfully,

Joe Jackson MA, LPC
(He/Him)
Associate Director
St. Clair County Mental Health Board

SCC MENTAL HEALTH BOARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

JANUARY 2026

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

During this January meeting, we welcome Dana Rosensweig to his new role as a Mental Health Board member. After his many years as Executive Director, his historical and practical knowledge will benefit us into the future.

ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS TENDED TO:

-On behalf of St. Clair County Suicide Prevention Alliance, we have updated the **Community Health Plan on Preventing Suicide**. SCCSPA meets because of the coordinated effort of the SCC Health Department and Health Care Commission as one of 5 workgroups. On schedule, we have now updated the last plan from 2020. A copy of the new plan is included in this packet. Please note that SCCSPA participation has expanded, and several significant intervention developments between 2019 and 2025 are noted.

-The **2025 Annual Report** is being compiled and will be submitted to President Cueto later this month. It will then be available to you at the next meeting and posted on our website as required.

-The following entities/individuals are **contractors for services in 2026**. Their annual contracts were/are in the process of being developed or edited and finalized. We plan to update contracts annually going forward. After contracts are finalized, the Associate Director will as needed monitor the contractors and services.

- Chaz Franke/Light Source, LLC (for Reflective Supervision and educational presentations as requested)
- Ky A. Miller, MSW, LCSW (for the Align Series of monthly zoom presentations)
- Tanya Koelker/Kaleidoscope Heart Counseling, LLC (for the monthly Mindfulness Education Group at SWIC/PSOP)
- Diana Cuddeback (for QPR presentations as requested)
- Katie Wilson (for management and posts on the SCCSPA Facebook page, for management and posts on VetNet, and management of the rented billboard content)
- Wexford Health/St. Clair County Jail (for inhouse case management of mental health services)
- Jeremy Jewel, PhD (for psychological evaluation services)
- Dan Cuneo, PhD (for psychological evaluation services)
- EMK Consulting (for maintenance and assistance of the ORS)

RELEVANT REPORTS ON CY, FY, AND/OR OPIOID FUNDING AND SERVICES:

OPIOID: CY2026 opioid settlement funds contracts (6) have all been finalized. The Associate Director will closely monitor compliance items and services through personal contacts, site visits, quarterly reports, and community meetings.

END OF CY25 ONE-TIME FUNDING REQUESTS: All approved one-time funds were distributed, minus those that had changing or incomplete plans, for a total of \$67,670. Please note that the SCC Detention Center may renew their request for the Ameelio equipment once details are further confirmed. The Associate Director will monitor receipts and compliance of these distributed funds.

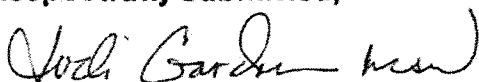
FY26: Generally, FY26 is going well, meaning that agencies and their professionals are working hard, tending to the worries of the times, and providing quality services in their realms. There are numerous innovative programs going on in our community, lead by our funded agencies. The Associate Director will continue to report on and monitor these funded programs.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

The CESSA/988 project has moved into the implementation phase, meaning: Calls are being accepted at 988 answering centers; some 911 responders are transferring appropriate calls to 988 answering centers; 988 attendants are resolving issues or transferring the case to a mobile crisis unit. The goal is to add 25 new answering centers per quarter but required trainings are extensive. The long-term goal is that all answering centers be running by June 30, 2027. Both the Associate Director and I are serving on planning committees toward this end.

As we begin 2026, please accept our thanks for your service on our Board, that supports a growing number of agencies and new programming in our county. Times are hard, but our network and our office staff are working to make meaningful differences in the lives of our county residents.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jodi Gardner, MSW, LCSW, Executive Director, SCC Mental Health Board

Community Health Plan # 2 – Suicide

<p>Health Problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Although the average number of suicides has decreased (average 26 for 2019-2024, compared to 32 for 2017-2019), we still consider it a necessary topic about which to observe, plan, and intervene. 	<p>Outcome Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -By the year 2031, the average number of suicide deaths will continue to decrease. -Specific populations will be targeted by specific programs and interventions tailored to them.
<p>Possible contributing factors to a suicide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A diagnosable mental illness -Substance use -A previous suicide of family member or friend -Availability of a firearm, substance, medication, or other means. -Relational, health, criminal, financial, social, educational, or other crisis -Bullying -Social media/AI -Perception of being a burden in caregiving -Loneliness and/or isolation 	<p>Interventions that occurred between 2019 and 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Consistent St. Clair County Suicide Prevention Alliance meetings held via zoom on the 2nd Monday of most months at 1pm, with growing attendance. Stakeholders listed separately. -The addition of a SCCSPA Veteran Subcommittee with several objectives met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Gun lock distribution campaign. -Request to agencies to prioritize population. -Vet Net development under way. - Consistent yearly events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -When Mental Illness Hits Home conference. -We Remember You Vigil and QPR event. -AFSP's Out of the Darkness Walk. -Implementation of AFSP's Talk Saves Lives locally with several facilitators and subgroups.
<p>Continued/new barriers to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Social stigma to education on the topic. -Negative use of social media and negative AI influence is rampant. -Current harshness of political and social climate. -Economic difficulty -Remaining negative consequences of COVID. -Lack of public knowledge of resources, especially when needed in crisis. 	<p>Community Stakeholders (bolded ones entered the Alliance or increased their participants since last report):</p> <p>AgeSmart Community Resources</p> <p>AFSP</p> <p>Align/Ky Miller</p> <p>Amare</p> <p>Blue Wall Institute</p> <p>BJC</p> <p>Centerstone</p> <p>Chestnut Health Systems</p> <p>Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center</p> <p>East St. Louis Police Department</p> <p>Gateway Foundation</p> <p>Gateway Regional Hospital</p> <p>Glow For Hope</p> <p>Heartlinks Grief Center</p> <p>Hoyleton Youth and Family Services</p> <p>HSHS</p> <p>IDPH</p> <p>Inclusive Insight</p> <p>NAMI of Southwestern IL</p>

	<p>Scott Air Force Base St. Clair County: Coroner's office Health Department Mental Health Board Office On Aging Regional Office of Education State's Attorney Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows Southern IL Healthcare Foundation SWIC/PSOP The Tenth Man Touchette Regional Hospital VA Various individuals with interest in topic</p>
<p>Evaluation plan: -SCCMHB will report at Health Care Commission meetings about current interventions, events, and initiatives. We will also report statistics when available. -SCCMHB staff will participate in annual review of this plan with HCC staff to ensure that strategies contribute effectively to the IPLAN. -SCCMHB staff will continually seek feedback and ideas from the HCC, the SCCSPA, and any interested party for evidence-based interventions and updates to strategies.</p>	<p>Intervention strategies for 2026-2031:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to conduct QPR and the newly integrated Talk Saves Lives programs, including their general presentation and those targeting specific populations (Youth, Elderly/caregiver, Veteran – being developed.) 2. Collaborate with stakeholders and community leaders of those groups who support specific populations to address their unique risks (LGBTQIA+, elderly/caregiver, Veteran, Youth, middle age, labor workers, others.) 3. Continue the SCCSPA and warm collaborations between stakeholders. 4. Continue to add SCCSPA attendees and stakeholders. 5. Continue established annual awareness events. 6. Consider, encourage, and/or fund new campaigns or education events regarding but not limited to AI and social media's negative impacts. 7. Compile list of new, and promote, programs in schools aimed at youth mental health and suicide awareness and prevention. 8. Promote existing resource guides and parent guides available.

	<p>9. Regarding 988 and CESSA/crisis response, continue to participate in regional planning and educate SCCSPA, agencies, and the public about progress and status of implementation. Promote 988 as a resource.</p>
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Updated 1/12/2026 by Jodi Gardner and Joe Jackson of the SCCMHB