

## **St. Clair County Mental Health Board Meeting Minutes- draft-ammended**

The St. Clair County Mental Health Board held a regular monthly meeting on June 18, 2026, at 6pm.

### **PRESENT:**

#### **Board Members:**

Elaine Cueto  
Ann Barnum  
Kristi Luetkemeyer  
John Kernan  
Ted Baugh  
Bobby Allen  
Deborah Jones  
Dana Rosenzweig

#### **Staff:**

Jodi Gardner  
Joe Jackson  
Terri Burroughs

**Excused:** Curt Schildknecht

- **Approval of Previous Minutes**
  - The minutes of the May 21, 2026, meeting were approved following a recommendation from Ms. Barnum and a second from Mr. Kernan.
- **Reports from Committees**
  - Finance Committee: Report approved following the recommendation by Ms. Barnum and a second by Mr. Kernan. Mr. Rosenzweig abstained from voting on CAC request.

### **Associate Director's Report-**

Associate Director Joe Jackson reported that FY26 agency site visits and FY27 contract discussions are ongoing, with recent visits to Hoyleton Youth and Family Services, SWIC PSOP, Eastside Aligned, and Epilepsy Foundation. He continues monitoring agency compliance and report submissions. Legislative updates from ACMHAI included additional Illinois budget funding for the FRESH program, increased funding for the Community Behavioral Health Professional Loan Repayment Program, and expanded Medicaid coverage for virtual IOP services. Substance use disorder updates included upcoming and ongoing coalition meetings, increased peer advisory participation through the St. Clair County ROSC, and planning for a fall drug take-back event. The report also noted attendance at the HOPE Coalition disaster preparedness meeting, an open house for Autism Care Therapy, and the planned Illinois Center for Autism picnic.

### **Executive Director Report**

Executive Director Jodi Gardner, LCSW, report provided an overview of the SCC Mental Health Board's activities and funding decisions for June 2026.

### **Funding Updates**

1. **Opioid Settlement Funds:** Agencies continue harm reduction, treatment, prevention, and leadership programs. Funding beyond CY2027 is uncertain due to unclear settlement payment schedules.
2. **FY2027 Budget:** Includes raises for agencies, new programs (e.g., NAMI's Mental Health Mentors), and new annualized agencies (Caritas, Metro East Every Survivor Counts).
3. **One-Time Funding Initiatives:** Due to excess TIF income, several agencies received one-time grants for targeted programs, such as:
  - Beautiful Konnections: Mental health storytelling in African American communities.
  - Chestnut Health Systems: Maternal mental health and reentry programming at SCC Jail.
  - Hoyleton Youth and Family Services: Mental Health Benefits Coordinator position.
  - Marshmallow's HOPE: Intensive Outpatient Program for youth.
  - New Opportunities: Day program staff for individuals with developmental disabilities.
  - Our Brother's Keeper: Anger and stress management education.
  - St. Clair County Children's Advocacy Center: Counselor salary support.
  - Suicide Prevention Alliance: Medication lock bags project.
  - The House of Mary: Family and life skills programming.
4. **Juvenile Redeploy Illinois:** FY2027 application accepted; funding restored after initial cuts, with future opportunities for contractors to apply for additional funds.

### **Community Leadership & Events**

1. **ACMHAI Involvement:** Participation in committee work, including bylaws and Medicaid committee, with leadership nomination anticipated.
2. **Crisis Response Coordination:** Ongoing collaboration to align 911, 988, and mobile crisis response services.
3. **Community Engagement:** Attendance at local events and participation in a podcast on senior mental health.

### **Administrative Activities**

- Planned updates to funding guidelines and policies, with recommendations from staff and the Finance Committee.

### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Kendra Copanas- ESA; Nicole Joyner-SAVE; Jennifer Pastorizc-Chestnut; Carrie Hilling-Chestnut; Doona Brooks-Epilepsy; Troy Metheny-ICA; Lara Duy-PSOP; Angie Anderson-Cerebral Palsy; Claire Breidenbach-VPC; Jason Farley-NAMI; Jodi Flesner-Heartlinks; Natasha Patterson-THOM.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm. Respectfully  
submitted, Terri Burroughs