
**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD and
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES BOARD
JOINT STUDY SESSION**

Minutes—October 29, 2025

*This meeting was held
at the Scott M. Bennett Administrative Center, Urbana, IL and remotely.*

5:45 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Molly McLay, Alejandro Gomez, Chris Miner (remote), Elaine Palencia, Vicki Niswander (remote), Anne Robin, Jane Sprandel, Jon Paul Youakim, Emily Rodriguez, Susan Fowler (remote), Kim Fisher (remote)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Neil Sharma, Tony Nichols, Kyle Patterson

STAFF PRESENT: Kim Bowdry, Leon Bryson, Lynn Canfield, Stephanie Howard-Gallo, Shandra Summerville

OTHERS PRESENT: Jessica Smith DSC; Angela Yost, Jessie Huckenmueller, CCRPC; Maria Jimenez, Immigrant Services of Champaign-Urbana; Awad Awad, UIUC Salaam Cultural Center; Lisa Wilson, The Refugee Center; Sanford Hess, Resident; Michael Palencia-Roth, Resident; Brenda Eakins, GROW

CALL TO ORDER:

CCMHB President McLay called the meeting to order at 5:53 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved.

ACRONYMS and GLOSSARY:

A list of commonly used acronyms was included for information.

CITIZEN INPUT / PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS:

Ms. Niswander and Ms. McLay welcomed everyone.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS:

Associate Director Bryson introduced the speakers and topic.

STUDY SESSION: “Resources and Needs of Immigrants and Refugees”

Dr. Youakim introduced the study session and shared his experiences being a child of refugees and growing up in Urbana-Champaign as well as his experiences as a pediatrician serving refugee families.

Presenter bios and information regarding their organization were included in the packet.

Presenters were:

Maria Jimenez, Executive Director, Immigrant Services of Champaign-Urbana

Awad Awad, Director of the UIUC Salaam Cultural Center

Lisa Wilson, Executive Director, The Refugee Center

There was board discussion and an opportunity for board member questions following the presentations.

The packet also includes the following additional information:

- Results of Survey on Immigrant and Refugee Resources and Needs
- Champaign County Immigrant Needs Data 2024

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND AGENCY INPUT:

None.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INPUT:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully

Submitted by: Stephanie Howard-Gallo
CCMHB/CCDDB Operations and Compliance Coordinator

**Minutes approved on November 19, 2025.*