

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD  
(CCMHB) MEETING**

*Minutes February 18, 2026*

*This meeting was held at the Scott Bennett Administrative Center  
102 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802  
and with remote access.*

*5:45 p.m.*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Alejandro Gomez, Molly McLay, Tony Nichols, Elaine Palencia, Kyle Patterson, Emily Rodriguez, Jane Sprandel, Jon Paul Youakim

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jacinda and Zeus Dariotis, UIUC; Cindy Crawford, Community Services Center of Northern Champaign County (CSCNCC); Jessie Heckenmueller, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC); Jessica Smith, DSC; Josh Gavel, Uniting Pride; Haley Wright, Clifton Larsen Allen (CLA); Andi France, Matthew Fletcher, Katie Harmon, Courage Connection; Elisa Ransom, YAC/CCRPC; Danielle Matthews, DSC; Jim Hamilton, Promise Healthcare; Angie Pierce, Cunningham Children's Home

**CALL TO ORDER:**

CCMHB President McLay called the meeting to order at 5:52 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was approved.

**CCDDB and CCMHB SCHEDULES:**

Updated copies of CCDDB and CCMHB meeting schedules and CCMHB allocation timeline were included in the packet.

## **ACRONYMS and GLOSSARY:**

A list of commonly used acronyms was included for information.

## **CITIZEN INPUT / PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Haley Wright from CLA spoke regarding Courage Connection's late application. Matthew Fletcher from Courage Connection spoke of steps that are being taken to ensure a late application does not happen again. Katie Harmon was introduced as the new executive director for Courage Connection effective March 23, 2026.

## **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

CCMHB Chair Molly McLay reviewed agenda items. She spoke regarding the applications for funding and the amount requested is much higher than what we have.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

Ms. Canfield briefly spoke about the review of applications.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from the January 21, 2026 CCMHB regular meeting and January 28, 2026 CCMHB study session were included in the board packet for review.

**MOTION: Ms. McLay moved to approve the minutes of the CCMHB's meetings on January 21st and January 28th, 2026, with the edit of adding Alejandro Gomez as absent from the 1/21/2026 meeting. Dr. Youakim seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **APPROVAL OF VENDOR INVOICE LISTS:**

The Vendor Invoice List was included in the packet.

**MOTION: Mr. Patterson moved to accept the Vendor Invoice Lists as presented in the Board packet. Ms. Sprandel seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.**

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Delayed Audits and Reviews:**

Josh Gavel from Uniting Pride was present via zoom to announce their audit was finished and would be submitted soon. Ms. Canfield reported that GCAP's audit should be submitted by the end of the week.

**Agency Request for Special Considerations:**

Courage Connection is requesting special consideration for accepting a late application from them. A decision memorandum presented context for a request to reopen the application system. Courage Connection's request was included in the packet. Board members discussed the request at great length. Courage Connection representatives were present to answer Board questions.

**MOTION: Ms. Sprandel moved to approve the request from Courage Connection for additional time to complete a PY2027 funding request, by authorizing CCMHB staff to publish a second PY2027 Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) at least 21 days in advance of another open application period. Ms. Rodriguez seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. McLay voted nay. All other board members voted aye. The motion passed.**

**MOTION: Ms. McLay moved to allow CCMHB staff additional time to review any PY2027 funding requests submitted during this second open period and to develop related summaries and allocation scenarios, with both activities along a timeline different from that posted in allocation process documents. Ms. Palencia seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS:****Review of Applications for PY2027 Funding:**

The packet included a briefing memorandum describing the review process. An updated list of requests was added as addendum.

**REPORTS:****Staff Reports:**

Staff reports from Kim Bowdry, Leon Bryson, and Stephanie Howard-Gallo were included in the packet.

**Evaluation Capacity Building Project Update:**

An oral update from Jacinda Dariotis was provided. See resources developed by the team at <https://www.familyresiliency.illinois.edu/resources/microlearning-videos>

**Community Behavioral Health Needs Assessment Activities:**

Ms. Canfield provided an oral update.

**disAbility Resource Expo and AIR Updates:**

See also <https://disabilityresourceexpo.org> and <https://champaigncountyair.com/>  
Director Canfield provided oral updates.

**PY2025 Utilization and Outcome Results:**

For information, a summary of PY25 utilization and outcome results was included in the packet.

**PY2026 Second Quarter Program Activity Reports:**

For information, service activity reports from funded programs were included in the packet.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND AGENCY INPUT:**

Citizen Kerrie Hacker spoke in support of Courage Connection and the services they offer. Jessie Heckenmueller introduced Elisa Ransom, the new director of the Youth Assessment Center. Matthew Fletcher from Courage Connection thanked the CCMHB for approving the second application period. Katie Harmon announced RPC is currently in a strategic planning process regarding homelessness.

**BOARD TO BOARD REPORTS:**

None.

**COUNTY BOARD INPUT:**

This will be County Board member Emily Rodriguez's last meeting. A new County Board liaison will be appointed.

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES BOARD (CCDDB) INPUT:**

None.

**BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INPUT:**

Chris Miner has resigned from the CCMHB due to employment and personal obligations.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Stephanie Howard-Gallo

CCMHB/CCDDB Compliance and Operations Coordinator

*\*Minutes approved by the CCMHB on March 18, 2026.*