

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

## ***Meeting Minutes March 18, 2026***

***This meeting was held at the Scott M. Bennett Administrative Center  
102 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61801  
and with remote access.  
5:45 p.m.***

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

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

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jacinda Dariotis, UIUC; Marlon Mitchell, James Kilgore, First Followers; Claudia Lennhoff, Champaign County Healthcare Consumers (CCHCC); Cindy Crawford, Community Services Center of Northern Champaign County (CSCNCC); Jessie Heckenmueller, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC); Brenda Eakins, GROW in IL

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

CCMHB President McLay called the meeting to order at 5:47 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:**

Claudia Lennhoff from Champaign County Healthcare Consumers spoke regarding housing and homelessness in Champaign County. She also announced the agency now has an attorney on staff. James Kilgore from First Followers addressed the lack of affordable housing in the community.

## **OTHER BUSINESS-- CLOSED SESSION:**

**MOTION: McLay moved to enter into Closed Session at 6:00 p.m. for Semi-Annual Closed Session Minutes Review pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21). Mr. Nichols seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken. The motion passed, with Dr. Youakim abstaining. The following individuals joined this closed session: members of the Champaign County Mental Health Board (Youakim did not attend) and Executive Director Canfield.**

Open Session was re-established at 6:06 p.m. and a roll call vote was taken.

**MOTION: Ms. McLay moved to accept the February 19, 2020, February 26, 2020, July 21, 2021, March 20, 2024, September 18, 2024, February 19, 2025, and October 22, 2025 closed session minutes as presented; and to open the minutes to the public. Ms. Palencia seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

## **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

CCMHB Chair Molly McLay announced Sangamon County now has a referendum to start a mental health board.

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

Ms. Canfield briefly reviewed the agenda and introduced Dennise Arres as a new board member to the CCMHB. Ms. Canfield also recognized Associate Director, Leon Bryson for his five years of service to the CCMHB.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from the February 18, 2026 CCMHB regular meeting were included in the board packet for review.

**MOTION: Ms. Sprandel moved to approve the minutes of the CCMHB's meeting on February 18, 2026, with the edit of correcting spelling of an audience member's name. Mr. Nichols 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: Dr. Youakim moved to accept the Vendor Invoice Lists as presented in the Board packet. Mr. Nichols seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.**

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Requests for Program Year 2027 Funding:**

A list of Program Year 2027 funding requests as of March 6 was included. Three applications were submitted on the second Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Canfield provided information regarding the three applicants.

The application review process was reviewed by Chair McLay and Director Canfield. Funding requests are far more than available funds. Board members discussed community needs, contract requirements, and gaps in services.

### **Agency Audit/Review Updates:**

A decision memorandum offered an update on delayed Program Year 2025 audits and reviews. Director Canfield reviewed the status of agency audits/financial reviews. Marlon Mitchell from First Followers was available to answer Board questions regarding their late audit.

**MOTION: Mx. Arres moved to cancel the First Followers Program Year 2026 contracts as of March 31, 2026. McLay seconded the motion. After discussion Arres amended her motion to add "releasing January, February, and March Payments after the Program Year 2025 audit is submitted and any follow-up issues resolved." McLay seconded the amendment. The Board continued discussion. A voice vote was taken, and then, due to the ambiguity of the voice vote result, a roll call vote was taken to accept the amended motion. Patterson and Youakim voted nay. McLay, Gomez, Nichols, Palencia, Sprandel, and Arres voted aye. The amendment to the motion**

passed. Chair McLay restated the amended motion, which is to cancel the First Followers Program Year 2026 contracts as of March 31, 2026, releasing January, February, and March payments after the Program Year 2025 audit is submitted and any follow-up issues resolved. A roll call vote was taken. Arres and McLay voted aye. Gomez, Nichols, Palencia, Patterson, Sprandel, and Youakim voted nay. The motion failed.

**MOTION:** Dr. Youakim moved to continue the First Followers Program Year 2026 contracts, withholding payments until the Program Year 2025 audit is submitted and any follow-up issues resolved. Ms. Sprandel seconded the motion. After discussion, a roll call vote was taken. McLay voted nay. Arres, Gomez, Nichols, Palencia, Patterson, Sprandel, and Youakim voted aye. The motion passed.

**MOTION:** After discussion, Mx. Arres moved to defer consideration of any Program Year 2027 funding request not supported by a Program Year 2025 audit or financial review report or audited balance sheet until such time as the audit or financial review report or audited balance sheet has been filed and any follow-up issues resolved. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. After discussion, a roll call vote was taken. All members voted aye and the motion passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Program Year 2025 I/DD Service Activity Data:**

For information, a briefing memorandum presented full year I/DD claims data, with analysis of utilization per program and by selected individual cases.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Staff Reports:**

The packet included a report from the Executive Director on Legislative and Policy Conference activities. Other staff reports were deferred to allow for focus on the review of agency applications.

### **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:**

Notes from a recent Champaign County Community Health Plan Steering Committee meeting were included in the packet.

### **disAbility Resource Expo and AIR Updates:**

See also <https://disabilityresourceexpo.org> and <https://champaigncountyair.com/>

Director Canfield provided oral updates.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND AGENCY INPUT:**

Jessie Heckenmueller from Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) invited CCMHB members to participate in a community needs assessment in Champaign County and a survey on homelessness.

## **BOARD TO BOARD REPORTS:**

Ms. Palencia reported on Champaign County Community Coalition activities.

## **COUNTY BOARD INPUT:**

The Champaign County Board will meet next week.

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

None.

## **BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INPUT:**

Ms. Sprandel shared a personal story regarding finding housing and local services for an acquaintance in need.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: Stephanie Howard-Gallo, CCMHB/CCDDB Compliance and Operations Coordinator, and Lynn Canfield, CCMHB/CCDDB Executive Director.

*\*Minutes approved by the CCMHB on April 22, 2026.*