
**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
STUDY SESSION**

Minutes—August 20, 2025

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

5:45 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Molly McLay, Chris Miner, Elaine Palencia, Jane Sprandel, Jon Paul Youakim

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Tony Nichols, Kyle Patterson, Emily Rodriguez

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Joshua Gavel, Uniting Pride; Darya Shahgheibi, GCAP; Justin Michael Hendrix, HitNHomeBoy; Jaya Kolisetty, Cally Hines, RACES; Brenda Eakins, GROW; Cindy Crawford, Community Services Center of Northern Champaign County (CSCNCC); Ann Percy, Cunningham Children’s Home (CCH); Alejandro Gomez, Citizen; Nathan Alexander, Continuum of Care

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, with a revision to the order of presenters.

ACRONYMS and GLOSSARY:

A list of commonly used acronyms was included for information.

CITIZEN INPUT / PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Ms. McLay introduced herself and thanked everyone for attending. Alejandro Gomez was introduced as a pending new board member.

STUDY SESSION: “Resources and Concerns of LGBTQIA+ Community Members”

Bios of the presenters and information on services the agencies provide were included in the Board packet. Mr. Leon Bryson made introductions and provided background information. The following individuals presented:

Joshua Gavel, Uniting Pride
Justin Michael Hendrix, HitNHomeBoy
Darya Shahgheibi, GCAP
Jaya Kolisetty and Cally Hines, RACES

Board members were given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments following the presentations.

The packet also includes the following, to support discussion:

- Responses to Anonymous Survey (presented by Shandra Summerville)
- Additional Comments from Community Members
- 988 Option 3 Service Updates
- LGBTQ Equality by State

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND AGENCY INPUT:

Nathan Alexander from the LGBTQ Homeless Workgroup for the Continuum of Care commented on homelessness and undocumented immigrants.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INPUT:

Dr. Youakim was named as a recipient of the *News Gazette's* “40 Under 40” award this year.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully

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

**Minutes approved by the CCMHB on September 17, 2025.*