

**NOTICE OF MEETING & AGENDA
ST. CHARLES 708 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
WEDNESDAY APRIL 23, 2025 5:30 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, DENS A & B
2 E. MAIN STREET, ST. CHARLES, IL**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. April 16, 2025**
- 4. Allocation of Funding - Discussion and votes**
- 5. Meeting Schedule for 2025-2026**
- 6. Determination of Chair and Vice-Chair roles for 2025-2026**
- 7. Adjourn**

ADA Compliance

Any individual with a disability requesting a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a public meeting should contact the ADA Coordinator, Jennifer McMahon, at least 48 hours in advance to the scheduled meeting. The ADA Coordinator can be reached in person at 2 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL, via telephone at (630) 377-4446 or 800 526 0844 (TDD), or via e-mail at jmcmahon@stcharlesil.gov. Every effort will be made to allow for meeting participation. Notices of this meeting were posted consistent with the requirements of 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq. (Open Meetings Act).

MEETING MINUTES
ST. CHARLES 708 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025
5:00 PM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2 E. MAIN STREET, St. CHARLES, IL

1. Call to Order

Chair Poremba called the meeting to order at 5:26 PM

2. Roll Call

Members present: Denz, Litchfield, Muenz, Poremba, Rivard, Rosenberg, Weddell
Others Present: Agency representatives as listed below by time for presentations

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes dated March 19, 2025

Motion to approve by Rivard second by Rosenberg

Voice Vote Aye: 7 No:0

Motion carries

4. Chair Report

Chair Poremba briefly discussed a presentation for this evening that will be voted on during an allocation meeting next week.

5. Organization Presentations

5:40PM Horse Power Therapeutic – Barbara O’Neil

Ms. O’Neil discussed that she would share information about real examples of how funding was supporting a student volunteer. Recently a multiple diagnosis student approached seeking support for additional lessons. Details of the story described the difference made for this teen girl. The waitlist for Horst Power Therapeutic is about 30 currently with approximately 1/3 of those being St. Charles residents.

5:50PM The Joshua Tree – Amy Whiting-Singer

Presenting for The Joshua Tree was a gentleman and son of the founder of the program, Reggie Whiting. Mr. Whiting discussed programs offered, volunteers that serve from the community and their core community served.

6:00 PM Easter Seals – Lisa Ewers

Ms. Ewers distributed a fact sheet with information about Easter Seals as well as a chart that outlines how funding from the St Charles 708 Board will help their programs support children regardless of type of insurance provider they have. Many would have no other resource for services.

6:10 PM Association for Individual Development – Christie Plotzke

Ms. Plotzke discussed the services AID has been offering since 1961. Approximately 500 St. Charles residents are served annually. AID is seeking funding for two priorities that are not otherwise billable services. It is anticipated 20 individuals will be served with this funding.

6:20 PM CASA Kane County – Amy Daeschler

At 6:02PM

Ms. Daeschler discussed services offered by CASA volunteers through a court process for children removed from their home. Last year 668 children from Kane County were served. Funding helps to provide for a suitcase program for transporting personal belongings to safe temporary care. Last year 29 kids from St. Charles were served.

CASA currently has 200 volunteers and are about 68 volunteers short. It takes approximately 6-12 hours per month of work to volunteer.

6:30 PM Community Crisis Center – Maureen Manning

At 5:57PM

Ms. Manning discussed they offer services that help clients with domestic and sexual violence as well as economic crisis. They also have shelter services. Offsite services include court advocacy and assistance filing police reports. Emergency services at local hospital emergency departments are also a service they offer. Currently they have agreements with the following hospitals: Sherman, S t. Joseph both in Elgin, and shared responsibility at Delnor with another local agency. They also offer rental assistance.

Board member Weddell inquired about a balance of funds from last years' St Charles 708 Board funding award. The organization runs a fiscal year that begins in July and reports out quarterly indicating funds used.

6:40 PM St. Charles Police Dept – Eric Majewski

At 6:24PM

Deputy Chief Majewski discussed the partnership with AID to help in the support of the rising mental health related calls answered by the St. Charles Police Department. The program has expanded to include a full time social worker employed by AID, this individual's office is located in the St. Charles Police Department building. Last year the social worker responded to 188 cases, serving 103 individuals. Each individual is approximately 5 hours of service. Individuals helped one time are not accounted for in these reported numbers; for example, a response to a motor vehicle accident, the social worker provided a ride home to Sugar Grove for an individual.

Board member Muenz asked how it's managed when there are multiple calls. DC Majewski discussed their collaborative work between responding officer referrals with the AID social workers.

Board member Rivard asked if anyone can walk into the police station and ask for help. The AID social worker states they are able to accommodate people coming to the police department for direct self-referral.

6:50 PM Fox Valley Special Recreation – Alexandra Engelhardt

At 6:54PM

Ms. Engelhardt discussed some slowed participation from clients since Covid. Work is being done to bring staff back in for summer. Despite slowed overall participation, registration for summer programs is already waitlisted. Cost for weekly camp is approximately \$600 per

week. Seven member agencies participate in FVSRA programs from South Elgin to Sugar Grove and some small parts of Will County.

BREAK

7:10 PM Ecker Center – Daphne Sandouka

Jennifer from Ecker Center presented on behalf of the organization and discussed funds requested from the St Charles 708 Mental Health Board are to help support crisis services and outpatient counseling services. They served 145 St. Charles residents last year, providing 1252 service hours.

Board member Denz asked her to describe PSR services. Jennifer described it includes support for life skills, and socialization skills. The group based program is led by a licensed social worker.

Board member Weddell asked if Renz continues to work with Ecker Center. Ecker merged with Renz and now all of those services are provided by Ecker.

7:20 PM NAMI KDK – Luisa Cicero

Ms. Cicero is a new Executive Director for NAMI KDK. 415 St. Charles residents were served in 2024. Some of the services offered by NAMI KDK are Funding for a Family to Family program as well as Peer to Peer classes. Most notable is a plan to expand youth programming through their Ending the Silence program. New programming for children was implemented last summer via a storytelling program.

Board member Muenz asked about county boundaries when referencing “Kane South. “ Ms. Cicero indicates that it’s from the City of Elgin and south.

7:30 PM NW Medicine Living Well – Candice Domke-Hochberg

at 6:40PM

Ms. Domke-Hochberg discussed the organization’s no cost counseling services for cancer patients. The request from the St Charles 708 Mental Health board is 5% of their total counseling budget. In 2024, 190 counseling visits were provided to St. Charles residents. Living Well, will begin working with local schools to bring awareness for services. Hours of service for the organization are 9am – 8pm. Living Well is listed as a service provider to healthcare organizations via EPIC healthcare electronic records system. Their networking and scheduling of counselors allows for a zero waitlist. Living Well’s services are 100% donor funded, nothing is billed. They receive many generous donations often from families of individuals they have served.

Board Member Litchfield asked if there were a non-cancer related request for services, how would that be handled. Ms. Domke-Hochberg discussed the many connections she has with other departments she will reach out to, seeking referral for support.

7:40 PM Lazarus House – Julie Purcell

At 7:18PM

Sue, a grant writer from Lazarus House presented. Lazarus House serves Central and Western Kane County. They provide emergency shelter, center for transitional living and a center for homeless prevention services. Lazarus House provided services for 164 St. Charles individuals this year. Most notable is the influx of clients in 55 and over aged populations seeking assistance, as well as whole families.

7:50 PM – TriCity Family Services – Laura Poss

At 7:27PM

Sara presented from TriCity Family Services. The shortage of the mental health workforce is currently being felt at TriCity Family Services. More than 47% of their current clientele are children and teens. They are starting to see a rise in an over 55 / senior population and are forecasting that group to continue to grow. 4202 individuals were served last year of those 1222 were St. Charles residents. A commitment remains to help serve the underinsured or those with no insurance. Funding from the 708 St. Charles Mental Health Board will continue to serve to fund programs in support of these individuals.

Chair Poremba asked what Sue felt might be a reason, retirees are on the rise as a population. Sara indicates isolation during Covid and related family struggles.

Board member Denz asked for clarification on numbers listed in the priority, as listed on the application, and was it measuring hours? It is a culmination of hours across programs, not indicating a number of individuals served.

8:00 PM Lighthouse Foundation – Marty Keifer

At 7:35PM

Nathan Lathrum presented for Lighthouse Foundation. This organization provides outpatient substance abuse in St. Charles as well as runs a program in tandem with the Kane County Jail. Lighthouse was founded with a mission to serve individuals with substance abuse regardless of what an insurance company may or may not provide for the individual. It is estimated that Lighthouse is providing services at 70-90% less than what is traditionally billed to insurance companies. What that amounts to is an ability to provide more services to more individuals for less money.

8:10 PM Fox Valley Hands of Hope – Jonathan Shively

At 7:41PM

Mr. Shively thanked the board for the years of support to Fox Valley Hands of Hope. Mr. Shively states it is a privilege to be a service provider that hopefully helps to either prevent need for services from some of the other amazing agencies doing wonderful work who have presented this evening; or perhaps, provide supplemental services for clients who may also seek services from those agencies. New programs include loss as a result of suicide, grief groups, and other types of grief outreach that perhaps do not require counseling. Book clubs are one example, as a service offered and a way to connect with grieving that do not include direct counseling but serve as a method for providing connection for the grieving. Fox Valley Hands of Hope also works with the Juvenile Detention Center. It's often learned that many

incarcerated youths have experienced loss on their path, to some of the spaces they're in today.

8:20 PM Tri City Health Partnership – Virginia Frank

At 7:50PM

Dani Ward presenting is a new Executive Director with Tri City Health Partnership. Tri City Health is the only free medical and dental clinic in Kane County. Last year 580 patients were served. 54% are St. Charles residents; this remains consistent for the past several years. Growth rate for need stands at just about +10% in a year over year measure, since 2020. Support that is being sought, is to support mental health screenings as a part of intake. Tri City Health Partnership also provides support in providing necessary medications. The funding they are seeking for that on this application is specifically for mental health medications.

8:30 PM Support Over Stigma – Zoeie Kreiner

At 8:19PM

Ms. Kreiner gave brief summary of her organization, born of a situation where her son while on deployment lost 3 close military friends to suicide in just 2 days. This organization works closely with local veterans and active duty military and their families. They have an office on Dukane Dr on the east side of St. Charles.

8:40 PM Suicide Prevention Services of America – Stephanie Weber

At 8:32PM

Ms. Nowinski presented on behalf of Suicide Prevention Services, discussing the history of the organization. SPS has expanded into counseling services offering sliding scale fees. SPS goes into schools to provide services as necessary. SPS is the only center in Kane County who answers for the 988 hotline.

8:50 PM Velan Solutions – Gita R

At 8:40PM

Vijay Harishna presented for Velan Solutions. The organization serves to merge technology with mental health services for first responders and their family, offering a networking platform of peer to peer support. Mr. Harishna described his company is *not* a non-profit organization. He is seeking to cover the \$30 per year annual access coverage per first responder which he estimates to be approximately 150 police, fire, EMS and dispatchers in St. Charles. Future plans include expansion into offering the service for healthcare workers and teachers. Mr. Harishna discussed the very real stigma with seeking mental health help as a first responder, to the extent it often causes concern for remaining employed in their fields and therefore they do not seek help.

Board member Muenz asked for the relationship with weneverwalkalone.org that was described on a pamphlet handout and Velan Solutions which is listed as an LLC. Velan Solutions provides the platform. Mr. Harishna described Velan Solutions is subsidizing the .org at about 70-80% for what their product might otherwise cost; in offering the annual fee for \$30 per first responder and their family.

9:05 PM IL Institute of Independent Colleges & Universities – Dr. Frank Houston

At 7:55PM

Dr. Houston is presenting alongside another organization called Teach Different. The IL Institute was tasked with providing a certification program that speaks to mental health training for teachers. Funding is being asked today to provide training for teachers in St. Charles. Steve is with Teach Different and opened the floor for questions about the program.

Board member Denz asked if school district 303 started the outreach. Steve stated that individual teachers reach out for the program. Becoming certified can sometimes result in a stipend position in school districts. The program was born of a student situation Steve experienced as a Chicago Public School teacher; the student experienced traumatic loss, and the manner expressed to Steve as his teacher, which was previously unknown; was expressed by the student in a sudden, slightly aggressive outburst. This program seeks to provide training for teachers to prepare them for mental health crisis related situations. The program offers a teacher 15 CEUs, or 1 graduate course credit from St. Francis. Steve described measurements for success of the program via surveys and reporting from teachers who use the learned program in their classrooms, reporting back a minimum of six times.

9:20 PM Prairie State Legal Services – Stephanie Regester

At 8:09PM

Ms. Regester discussed free or low cost legal services provided to those suffering mental health or domestic abuse crises that result in a legal component. Ms. Regester shared a story of a woman and her children who were able to get an order of protection in place with the help of Prairie State Legal Services.

9:35 PM THRIVE Parenting Project – Kate Bell

At 9:05PM

Ms. Bell and Jennifer Benjamin presented for THRIVE Parenting Project. Pamphlets about the organization were distributed to the board. Ms. Benjamin shared their story for how they met, and how their organization was formed. Ms. Bell discussed the direction they hope to continue to grow their work. Their organization seeks to focus on helping small groups of young people to make choices *other* than turning to substance abuse. The presenters discussed that despite the size of St. Charles being less than 1/3 that of Aurora or Elgin, substance abuse in Kane County is highest among school aged children in St. Charles.

Board member Denz asked for clarification on what the funding being sought is looking to cover. It was described as all the activities they plan for kids who join the group, as well as marketing for what they're trying to accomplish.

9:50 PM Elderday Center – Michael Cobb

At 9:35PM

Mr. Cobb discussed the history of Elderday, this year being their 35th year offering service. Mr. Cobb described the different types of therapeutic care they offer whether it's art, music, or a variety of other day program activities. Most of their clients have some type of cognitive diagnosis or a dementia diagnosis. The goal for these clients is to provide a way for them to "age at home."

6. Adjourn

Chair Poremba asked if there were any other items for discussion or a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn by Muenz second by Litchfield

Voice Vote: Aye: 7 No: 0

Meeting adjourned at 9:50PM

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