WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2026

1. Call to Order

The Community Mental Health Board Meeting of Wheeling Township, for October 14, 2026, was held in the Paula Ulreich Meeting Room, in the Township of Wheeling, 1616 North Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

President Grainawi called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Board Members present: Bill Dixon, Teri Pacion, Jen Underwood (arrived at 6:06 PM), and President Lorri Grainawi.

Board Members Absent: John Lubbe, and Jack Vrett.

Also Present: Executive Director, Karin Frisk, and Attorney Sarah Kallas.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

President Grainawi led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Citizens to Be Heard

Dawn Frenzel of Arlington Heights thanked the Board for its service and expressed concern about anticipated Medicaid changes and their potential effects on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, families, and mental health service providers. Ms. Frenzel described the importance of Medicaid waiver services to her adult child, including community participation, therapies, and future residential support. She stated that benefit changes could cause coverage losses, greater demand for services, and longer wait times. Ms. Frenzel asked the Board to consider increasing the levy to provide additional funding for grants in anticipation of increased community need.

Tracey Shrva of Arlington Heights thanked the Board for its work and encouraged it to continue supporting and expanding community mental health services. She expressed concern about Medicaid cuts and described increasing demand for mental health assistance, including difficulty locating appropriate services. Ms. Sherva noted that Board-funded agencies provide helpful community resources and encouraged continued outreach and assessment of unmet needs.

Arlen Gould of Arlington Heights described increasing pressures on children and families and noted a school-district partnership with OMNI supporting children with mental health needs. Mr. Gould encouraged the Board to preserve available levy funding because future community needs and funding conditions remain uncertain. He also thanked the Board for its work.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting of September 9, 2026

Member Underwood moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Clark.

Voice Call Vote: All Ayes
Nays: None
Motion carried.

6. Reports

a. President's Report

President Grainawi reported that she and Member Clark attended the NAMI Walk for Mental Health. She also advised that the Board expects its first official revenue of $296,000 to be deposited this week. She reported a current cash balance of approximately $133,000, with upcoming bills exceeding that amount.

President Grainawi advised that Member Vrett submitted his resignation effective that day. She thanked him for his service dating back to the Board's inception.

President Grainawi reported that grant-request spreadsheets identified applications with scoring standard deviations greater than one and stated that those requests would be reviewed first. She advised that a preliminary levy range of 4%–7% was provided for discussion before making a recommendation to the Township Board.

b. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Frisk thanked Board Members for participating in site visits and stated that the visits provide opportunities to learn more about the funded providers and their services. She reported participating with President Grainawi in a virtual presentation recognizing Suicide Prevention Month and National Recovery Month, and that feedback was positive. Executive Director Frisk advised that she also gave a brief presentation at Luther Village, sharing the Board's resource list, which was well received. She also updated the Board that Gerry's Café has purchased the van and is working to get everything established relating to van utilization.

c. Site Visit Reports

Member Clark reported visiting the Jocelyn Center, commending its services, flexibility, partnerships, and use of limited resources.

Executive Director Frisk reported that she and Member Pacion visited Northwest Compass, where staff discussed serving individuals with serious mental illness, the time required to build trust, and increased demand at its food pantry.

Member Dixon reported that he was present at a mental-health concert featuring music and personal testimonials, and shared that it was well attended.

7. Business – for Discussion / For Action

a. List of Bills – Approval

Member Pacion read Member Lubbe's statement that he had audited the claims and expenditures for Batch #9/21/26, #9/22/26, #9/25/26, and #10/12/26 on October 12, 2026 against the Community Mental Health Board Fund and recommended approval of payment in the amount of $185,043.80.

Member Dixon moved to approve the payment of claims, seconded by Member Underwood.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clark, Dixon, Pacion, Underwood, and Grainawi
Nays: None
Motion carried.

b. 2027 Board Meeting Schedule – Discussion / Approval

The Board reviewed the proposed meeting dates for 2027, which generally retained meetings on the second Wednesday, with a Saturday strategic-planning meeting in February. The December meeting was scheduled earlier because of the Township Board schedule and Township meeting room needs in December.

Motion by Member Pacion, seconded by Member Clark to approve the meeting schedule for 2027.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clark, Dixon, Pacion, Underwood, and Grainawi
Nays: None
Motion carried.

c. FY2027-28 Preliminary Admin Budget – Discussion / Approval

The Board discussed the Preliminary Admin Budget details, including a proposal submitted by Member Lubbe to reduce the Administrative Budget to $250,000. Members discussed fixed expenses, Public-Information costs, and the proposed Needs Assessment allocation of $35,000.

Motion by Member Dixon to reduce the Needs Assessment allocation from $35,000 to $20,000. Discussion followed, with some Members expressing concerns about potentially allocating an amount lower than what a professional company might charge. The motion did not receive a second. No further action was taken.

Motion by Member Clark, seconded by Member Underwood to approve the Preliminary Admin Budget as proposed.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clark, Dixon, Pacion, Underwood, and Grainawi
Nays: None
Motion carried.

d. FY2027-28 Tentative Funding Allocations – Discussion / Approval

The Board reviewed the Score Tallies and Potential Funding Scenarios document prepared by staff in response to a Board Member's request for a preliminary framework to support funding discussions. The document was developed using application scores submitted by the Board Members, Board funding guidelines criteria, and potential levy request amounts. The Board also reviewed programs reflecting greater variances in scoring among Board Members and engaged in discussion regarding those differences to help inform funding considerations and the Board's deliberations. Prior to approving tentative funding allocations, the Board voted to amend the agenda.

Board action for this agenda item is shown below the Levy Request information.

Motion by Member Dixon to amend the agenda to move the Levy Request agenda item before the Tentative Funding Allocations agenda item, seconded by Member Clark.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clark, Dixon, Pacion, Underwood, and Grainawi
Nays: None
Motion carried.

e. 2026 Levy Request – Discussion / Approval

Motion by Member Clark, seconded by Member Underwood that the Wheeling Township Community Mental Health Board approve a Levy request in the amount of $1,605,000 for the Tax Year 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clark, Dixon, Pacion, Underwood, and Grainawi
Nays: None
Motion carried.

d. FY2027-28 Tentative Funding Allocations – Discussion / Approval

Motion by Member Underwood, seconded by Member Clark to approve the tentative funding allocations for FY2027-28 as presented, with the following modifications as discussed: reduce the allocation for NAMI of Cook County to $5000; increase the allocation for Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County - Mental Health Services by $350, bringing its total allocation to $7,000; and transfer the remaining funds, after accounting for the $81.50 shortfall in the presented figures, to the Other Projects line item, bringing its total to $278.068.50.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clark, Dixon, Pacion, Underwood, and Grainawi
Nays: None
Motion carried.

8. Board Member Comments

Members expressed appreciation for Executive Director Frisk's efforts in organizing the application review process.

9. Closed Session for Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes, Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)

Member Clark moved to convene Closed Session for the purpose of semi-annual review of Closed Session minutes at 8:15 PM, seconded by Member Underwood.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clark, Dixon, Pacion, Underwood, and Grainawi
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Member Dixon moved to return to Open Session at 8:26 PM, seconded by Member Underwood.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clark, Dixon, Pacion, Underwood, and Grainawi
Nays: None
Motion carried.

10. Other Business (Including Action on Matters from Closed Session)

No final action was taken in Closed Session.

Member Underwood moved to approve the minutes of the Closed Session held on November 12, 2025, and March 11, 2026, seconded by Member Pacion.

Voice Call Vote: All Ayes
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Member Underwood moved to release the written Closed Session minutes from November 12, 2025 for public inspection, finding that the need for confidentiality no longer exists for those minutes, and that the Closed Session minutes from March 11, 2026, September 10, 2025, July 16, 2025, and May 14, 2025 remain confidential as the need for confidentiality still exists, pursuant to Section 2.06(d) of the Open Meetings Act, seconded by Member Pacion.

Voice Call Vote: All Ayes
Nays: None
Motion carried.

11. Adjournment

Member Clark moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 PM, seconded by Member Pacion.

Voice Call Vote: All Ayes
Nays: None
Motion carried.

A Tentative Special Board Meeting of the Community Mental Health Board is planned for November 5, 2026, at 7:00 PM.

The next Regular Meeting of the Community Mental Health Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2026 at 7:00 PM.