



**708 GENEVA COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**  
**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

February 10, 2026, @ 7:00 p.m.  
Geneva City Hall  
22 S First Street, Geneva, IL 60134  
(Council Chamber Entrance 109 James Street)

**Meeting Minutes**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call  
Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM  
Present: Edmondson, Gaines, Hamilton, Kautz, Purcell, Ricchio  
Absent: Wagner
2. Amendments to the Agenda  
None
3. Omnibus Agenda (Omnibus Vote)  
All items listed with an asterisk ( \* ) are considered to be routine by the Mental Health Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a board member or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Omnibus ( Consent ) Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Regular Agenda.
4. Approval of Minutes:
  - A. Regular Meeting Minutes of November 11, 2025
  - B. Approval Payment to Recording Secretary for ServicesMotion to approve by Gaines second by Kautz  
Voice Vote Aye: 6 No: 0  
Motion carries
5. Guest: Mark Russo, Geneva Police Department at 7:14PM  
Sargent Russo joined the Geneva police department with a background in mental health work prior to becoming a police officer. Sargent Russo discussed the deescalation model of CIT training in the police department. All members of the Geneva Police Department are CIT trained. Also discussed was the AID contracted counselor who works with the Geneva Police Department. Chair Hamilton asked what Sargent Russo feels he would like the community to

know. Sargent Russo wants the community to know and feel comfortable in approaching the Geneva Police Department. They are here to help the community and to serve and protect. There are many resources available the Police Department may be able to offer connection in support of residents. Vice Chair Kautz discussed historically the approach of the Geneva Police department has been an approachable department with a goal of responding in support. Sargent Russo discussed the work the department does with the Special Olympics. Sargent Russo expressed his gratitude for the community and the trust they have in the Geneva Police Department. Officer Kamal joined the discussion at 7:42 PM, arriving from a call. Vice Chair Kautz asked what kinds of things are available to support the police officers. Sargent Russo cited strong family, strong faith, exercise help. Officer Kamal discussed access to resources such as *We Never Walk Alone*, a peer-to-peer resource available.

6. Chairperson's Report:

A. Article on 2025 grant funding

Chair Hamilton discussed contact with Brenda Schory regarding an annual article written for the Kane County Chronicle as it relates to grant funding awards.

B. Rising Lights Project contact

Chair Hamilton discussed a plan to visit this facility on 2/18/26 at 10AM. Board member Ricchio will attend with Chair Hamilton. Board member Gaines shared additional knowledge of this charity. Board Member Ricchio states the organization helps families of children with disabilities. Many board members citing need for what the organization provides.

7. ACMHAI report:

Vice Chair Kautz attended the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. A large topic of discussion was how many 708 Boards use grant management systems, essentially software through a third party. It was discussed during the ACMHAI meeting, some of the challenges with these software systems that these boards using them, are having. Generally, the 708 Boards using the software are also involved with providing services. SAMSA sent a letter to agencies indicating a sizable number of grants, totaling about \$1B, and was just as swiftly withdrawn stating the grants would not be revoked. Continued discussion about government cuts to mental health.

8. New Business:

A. Review Mission Statement, Goals, and Arc of the Year

Chair Hamilton provided a new contact list to board members, asking they verify the information is correct. Chair Hamilton brought forward a proposal to include an opportunity to meet in August in preparation for grant funding that begins in October. There would not be a January meeting. Board member Gaines feels this to be of benefit with the structure of the funding process and the boards work. The board will try it this year and include an August meeting.

Chair Hamilton discussed the mission statement and goals. Board member Purcell has some thoughts regarding the goals of the Geneva 708 Mental Health Board. Chair Hamilton and board member Purcell to formulate drafts for the board to review in March. Round table discussion regarding items in the funding application as they relate to goals. Chair Hamilton discussed changes to the Arc of the Year for new board members to take office in August based on the new meeting schedule. The mission

statement and goals will be reviewed in March based on drafts completed by sub-committees.

B. Review process for grant funding documents

Chair Hamilton discussed the revised cover letter that was circulated to board members. The cover letter has been streamlined and offers more direct language. Chair Hamilton has asked the board to divide and meet with either herself, or Vice Chair Kautz in the next month with any draft items for review and vote by the board.

Meeting with Chair Hamilton will be Jean Gaines, Julie Purcell and Connie Wagner  
Meeting with Vice Chair Kautz will be Merry Edmondson and Sarah Ricchio.

C. May is Mental Health Month

Chair Hamilton will begin work on outreach to the schools shortly regarding May Mental Health month as well as Kevin Starr with the City and the Library. Other board members are welcomed to bring ideas for other thoughts for May Mental Health Month activities. Historically the best collaborative work with the 708 Mental Health board has been with the school district and the library.

9. Other Business:

None

10. Public Comments, Mail:

A. Thank you emails from grant recipients

Mail was received from: HorsePower Therapeutics

Electronic mail was received from: all organizations thanking the board for grants funded

11. Adjournment:

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

Motion to adjourn by Purcell second by Gaines

Voice Vote Aye: 6 No: 0

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM

**All Scheduled Meetings for the 708 Geneva Community Mental Health Board to begin at 7:00 PM unless specifically noted**

*Any individual with a disability requesting reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a public meeting should contact Jeanne Fornari, Executive Assistant & Deputy City Clerk Office of the Mayor & City Administrator, City of Geneva, Illinois at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting. Jeanne Fornari can be reached in person at City Hall, 22 South First Street, Geneva, IL, by telephone at (630) 232-7494 or via email at [jfornari@geneva.il.us](mailto:jfornari@geneva.il.us) Every effort will be made to allow for meeting participation. Notice of this meeting was posted consistent with the requirements of 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq. (Open Meetings Act).*