

Clay County 708

Mental Health Board Minutes

Date: August 13, 2025 Clay Co Health Department

Members present in person: Jonathon Akers, Chris Boyd, Brandi Young, Nancy Hinton, Lara Casolari, Kelly Colclasure, and Samantha Weidner

Members absent: NA

Guests: Ann Oswald, IL Birth to 5

-The meeting began at 12:03pm

- Ann Oswald, with IL Birth to 5, Region 12-covering counties of Clay, Crawford, Jasper, Lawrence, and Richland. Ann did a presentation about what the program is and how it is helping families. She provided the group with an action plan progress that describes the plan to increase awareness of Early Childhood resources and to increase early childhood-related training opportunities. She also provided a flyer about joining the region's action council. Ann also gave a copy of needs assessment where there is a focus on mental and behavioral health to the group. There was some discussion with Ann concerning this program.

-Read and reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. Samantha motioned that we accept the minutes from May 6, 2025 and Chris seconded. Everyone agreed and motion carried. Nancy shared the letter that was written in July to the County CPA. She did request in the letter for \$4,000.00 this year and that would raise the amount the 708 Board can allot to \$40,000.00 There was some discussion about whether or not we should get an accounting of how the funds we have allocated have been spent. In the letters that will be sent to those who received funds last year, will be asked for an overview of the spending of the last year's funds and also how many people have been helped. This information will help in writing the CPA request letter next year. We need to show due diligence on how we are allocating the funds in case there is an accounting request in the future.

-There was some discussion in regard to the Community Emergency Services and Support Act and the meetings that Jennifer, the 911 coordinator has held since our last meeting. It has been difficult for them because the Lawrence County Mental Health who handle the crisis in Clay Co hasn't made it to the meetings at this point. There is also Partners for Progress group where they have been discussing "Deflection" and these two groups sound very similar. Mental health issues usually lead to a situation that have a potential to escalate very quickly. The 988-hotline number for mental health issues was discussed some as well as struggles using it as a resource. There was also some discussion about the SURE (Substance Use Resource and Education) Symposium that was held last week. A few 708 Board members attended it and

thought it was very informational and well attended. It is unclear what the role of the 708 board members should be on these groups but information is always helpful to have.

-The 708 Board then discussed that we would invite the same people who got funding allocated last year. In the invitation letter, we will ask if they have any data to share on how they had spent the funding this year. If they are allotted money this coming year we will ask that they save data to help in our asking for more funds from the county CPA. We will also invite Keith Powell, with Safe Families, to the next meeting as he has expressed that he would like to attend.

-Due to a conflict with the health department on October 21st, the next meeting will be on October 7th and we will start it at 11:30am in case the meeting runs over an hour.

-Meeting was adjourned by a motion by Lara, seconded by Jonathon and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hinton

Clay Co 708, Mental Health Board Chairperson