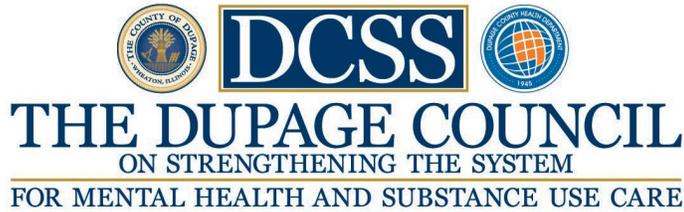


The following document has not been approved for accuracy and may be corrected, modified, or amended before final approval. Because it is being made available prior to final action, it should not be considered a true recording of the meeting. It is not the Official Minutes of the DCSS meeting and cannot be relied on or used as an official record of the proceedings. Although the DCSS makes every effort to see that proper notes are taken at a meeting, and although draft minutes are generally approved as submitted, changes and corrections are sometimes made before the final version is approved. The DCSS therefore makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the contents of this document. Once Official Minutes have been approved, a copy will be posted and is available upon request.



**MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Conroy called to order November 17, 2025, meeting of the DuPage Council on Strengthening the System for Mental Health and Substance Use Care (DCSS) at 10:09AM. Fifteen members were present. Quorum was met.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members Present:	Chair Conroy Director Forker Mr. Berlin Mr. Burton Ms. Charvat	Ms. Garcia Ms. Hess Dr. Holtsford Chief Krestan Ms. Micele	Chief Pederson Dr. Rose Ms. Siebert Mr. Schwarze Dr. Sullivan Mr. York
Council Members Absent:	Ms. Bates, Ms. Cahill, Ms. Costa Howard, Mr. Geiger, Ms. Kerger. Ms. Lukas, Judge Marchese, Mr Tornatore, Senator Villa		

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Conroy requested a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2025, meeting of the DCSS. Motioned by Ms. Garcia. Seconded by Mr. Schwarze.

By consensus of the members the minutes were approved.

The following document has not been approved for accuracy and may be corrected, modified, or amended before final approval. Because it is being made available prior to final action, it should not be considered a true recording of the meeting. It is not the Official Minutes of the DCSS meeting and cannot be relied on or used as an official record of the proceedings. Although the DCSS makes every effort to see that proper notes are taken at a meeting, and although draft minutes are generally approved as submitted, changes and corrections are sometimes made before the final version is approved. The DCSS therefore makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the contents of this document. Once Official Minutes have been approved, a copy will be posted and is available upon request.

5. CO-CHAIRS REMARKS

Chair Conroy welcomed everyone and shared that even with budgetary cuts, significant strides have been made with the opening of the DuPage County Crisis Recovery Center to serve those with mental health challenges.

- A major win was also achieved for mental health parity with the recent passage of HB1085.
- Looking forward, the committee is asked to share suggestions on what should be the focus for mental health in DuPage County.

Executive Director added that great progress has been made in DuPage County even with uncertainty.

Additionally, great progress has been made with local townships and their mental health 708 boards. Chair Conroy and Mr. Forker met with the 708 board and received commitments to meeting quarterly.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. DuPage Crisis Recovery Center: First Operational Report – Lori Carnahan

Deputy Director Carnahan shared updates on current activity at the DuPage Crisis Recovery Center since the September 2 opening date.

- 311 adults and 72 youth on-site assessments have been provided.
- 454 off-site assessments (mobile crisis response) have been provided.
- On October 14 the full onsite withdrawal services side opened.
- No significant increases have been observed in the use of 911.
- Ongoing work is happening in the creation of a public facing dashboard and fine tuning data collection, including a deeper dive on the first quarter data.

b. Springfield Legislative Update

Heather O'Donnell, Director of Behavioral Health Strategy and Partnership provided an update on current legislative action occurring in Springfield and shared the following:

- After several years of continuing efforts to achieve passage, HB1085 was passed in October with bipartisan support. HB1085 is a landmark mental health parity bill that strengthens insurance coverage for mental and behavioral healthcare. Effective in 2027, the next steps will include the need to pay attention to the implementation process.

c. Discussion of DCSS Priorities for 2026

Chair Conroy shared that after the County's successful first ever Mental Health Summit in 2024, the committee previously agreed to host a summit on an every other year basis. The 2026 summit will be held in May of 2026.

The following document has not been approved for accuracy and may be corrected, modified, or amended before final approval. Because it is being made available prior to final action, it should not be considered a true recording of the meeting. It is not the Official Minutes of the DCSS meeting and cannot be relied on or used as an official record of the proceedings. Although the DCSS makes every effort to see that proper notes are taken at a meeting, and although draft minutes are generally approved as submitted, changes and corrections are sometimes made before the final version is approved. The DCSS therefore makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the contents of this document. Once Official Minutes have been approved, a copy will be posted and is available upon request.

Consensus among the members is that the focus will be on youth mental health and may include the areas of discussion on:

- Impacts of social media
- Family focus and generational impacts; including focus on preventative measures vs. over pathologization of issues that youth experience.
- Vape shops and impacts on youth

Members are asked to reach out to Heather O'Donnell if interested in being part of the planning process.

Other areas members felt were of importance for the committee to address in 2026 include:

- Sober living homes
- Cooccurring situations
- Training for ER program providers and EMS on opioid use disorders
- Continued outreach/messaging throughout the County on the Crisis Recovery Center
- Certified recovery support specialist partnerships

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Opioid Settlement Update

- State Attorney Berlin shared that to date the County has received over six million dollars in opioid settlement dollars.
- A bankruptcy agreement with Perdue Pharmacy is expected tomorrow and will result in an additional allocation of funds to the County.
- Chair Conroy stated that the funds do have specific requirements regarding how they can be distributed.

b. Announcements

- Ms. Hess, shared that the Prevention Leadership Team has had 4 mass media campaigns with a focus on the prevention of substance use in youth and mental health, receiving over 9 million impressions.
- The Behavioral Health Collaborative will have their next meeting on December 11 and currently doing work on crisis transportation needs and youth mental health. Mr. Burton shared that a sober living video will be released in Jan. 2026.

8. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for January 26, 2026

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 A.M.

The following document has not been approved for accuracy and may be corrected, modified, or amended before final approval. Because it is being made available prior to final action, it should not be considered a true recording of the meeting. It is not the Official Minutes of the DCSS meeting and cannot be relied on or used as an official record of the proceedings. Although the DCSS makes every effort to see that proper notes are taken at a meeting, and although draft minutes are generally approved as submitted, changes and corrections are sometimes made before the final version is approved. The DCSS therefore makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the contents of this document. Once Official Minutes have been approved, a copy will be posted and is available upon request.

Respectfully Submitted,
Penny Chanez
Recording Secretary

DRAFT