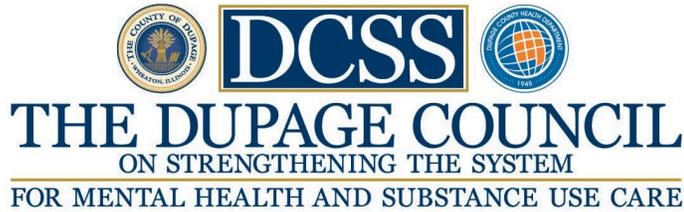


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**MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Conroy called to order May 19, 2025, meeting of the DuPage Council on Strengthening the System for Mental Health and Substance Use Care (DCSS) at 10:09AM. Twenty members were present. Quorum was met.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members Present:	Ms. Bates Ms. Cahill Chair Conroy Director Forker Mr. Berlin Mr. Burton Ms. Charvat	Ms. Garcia Mr. Geiger Ms. Hess Dr. Holtsford Ms. Kerger Chief Krestan Ms. Lukas Judge Marchese	Ms. Micele Chief Pederson Dr. Rose Mr. Schwarze Dr. Sullivan
Council Members Absent:	Representative Costa Howard, Ms. Siebert, 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 March 17, 2025, meeting of the DCSS. Motioned by Ms. Garcia. Seconded by Mr. Schwarze.

By consensus of the members the minutes were approved.

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5. CO-CHAIRS REMARKS

Chair Conroy provided welcoming remarks and recognized May as National Mental Health Awareness month. Chair Conroy shared that the County Board recognized the month with a proclamation and the Board will continue to advance mental health throughout the County.

Director Forker shared that a strong foundation has been built from the Council's first year of work and shared that DCSS is working on the first distribution of grants to support local efforts in mental health.

Director Forker also shared that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported a 27% reduction in overdose deaths in the United States. The reduction can be attributed to a multitude of interventions including treatment options and increased availability of Naloxone as well as public/private partnerships and policy changes at the local, state and national level. Chair Conroy added that this encouraging news is reflective of work done in communities and is a great talking point to promote the work that will occur at the Crisis Recovery Center.

- Director Forker also shared that several members attended NAMI's Gala on Saturday celebrating their 40th year.
- The Crisis Recovery Center is still on target for the projected opening date.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Member Updates:

- There were no updates.

b. Springfield Legislative Update:

Director Forker shared that SB1480/SB1085 are now combined into one bill Senate Bill 708 .

- Senate Bill 708 was a shell bill that has become a mental health bill that includes insurance coverage for crisis services, including (1) Crisis Intervention, (2) Mobile Crisis Response.(3) Crisis Stabilization.
- The legislation also makes improvements on in and out of network rules for insurance companies and eliminates prior authorization for emergency crisis services.
- Senate Bill 708 adopted most of the language of SB1480 but didn't include a vital part of that bill. Almost all providers, including the DuPage County Health Department, use various levels of professionals to provide crisis services. SB 1480 had the following language, that we would like included in SB 708:
- For the purposes of credentialing and reimbursement of crisis services, the network status of the psychiatrist or licensed clinical leader of the crisis team shall

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qualify all members of the crisis team to be credentialed with the insurer, including members who are mental health professionals, as defined in 59 Ill. Adm. Code Part 132, and other medical professionals who are providing crisis services.

Chair Conroy encouraged members to contact legislators in support that this additional language be added.

c. DuPage Health Matters (DHM)

- Director Forker shared that DuPage Health Matters (501C3) is the Health Department's philanthropic arm and will focus on long term sustainability for the CRC. DHM will be hosting its first fundraising event on Wed. June 11, 2025. Chair Conroy will be the guest speaker. Members will receive an invitation to attend.

d. Mental Health Month

Updates were provided on events focused on Mental Health Awareness Month.

- 2 Glenbard Parent Series events were well received. Over 100 community members attended Dr. Singer's presentation on suicide.
- As part of DuPage County Health Department promotional efforts of the CRC staff have created a social media campaign featuring community conversation videos,
- Chair Conroy and Lori Carnahan, DCHD's Deputy of Behavioral Health, recently participated in a podcast focused on the CRC.
- Mr. Burton shared that an ad campaign has been launched by DuPage ROSC on co-occurring mental health/addiction. Mr. Burton also shared that Serenity House is having great success with its drama therapy program.
- Member Garica shared that The Behavioral Health Coalition is working on the issue of loneliness in the senior population and sharing important resources that are available with seniors.
- Judge Marchese shared that the DuPage Bar Assoc. has launch a full-time mental health committee and is the third association in the country to create a committee focused on mental health.
- Member Hess shared that the DuPage County Juvenile Justice Council has a community resource site that contains valuable information and resources available to parents <https://dupagejhc.org/>
- Member Kerger shared that NAMI will be hosting an open house on May 30, 2025, and is also hosting podcasts 2x a month that focus on mental health and addiction. <https://namidupage.org/mham/>
- Member Schwarze shared that as part of County Board Chair Conroy's member initiative which focuses on dollars being allocated within board member districts – many County Board members chose efforts in their communities that focus on mental health.

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7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Ooid Settlement Update

- State Attorney Berling shared that to date, \$5,551,431,69 has been received from numerous opioid settlements. This figure is exclusive of interest earnings, \$ 850,000 has been allocated to the Health Dept. for the CRC which meets the settlement criteria of how funds can be allocated.
- A settlement in the Perdue Pharma case is getting closer. A significant amount is anticipated from this settlement, but there are no details on how the dollars will need to be distributed. The current approach is to address how settlement money can best be of benefit to everyone.

b. DCSS Grant Update

- Mr. Blumenthal stated that of the 24 applications received, 4 projects have been selected to receive the DCSS grant funding. Organizations will be notified, and more information will be shared at the next meeting.

C. Next Meeting is September 15, 2025

- The July meeting is canceled.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for May 19, 2025.

Future meetings are scheduled for:

- July 21 – canceled
- September 15
- November 17

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Penny Chanez
Recording Secretary