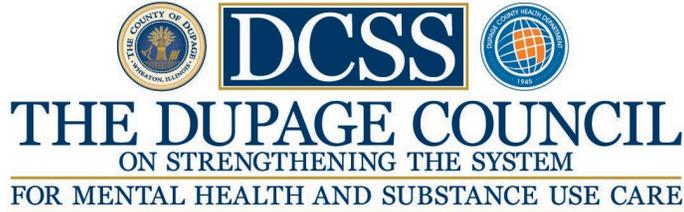


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MEETING MINUTES

DuPage County Administration Building (421 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton, IL)

March 16, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Conroy called to order the January 26, 2026 meeting of the DuPage Council on Strengthening the System for Mental Health and Substance Use Care (DCSS) at 10:06AM. Fifteen members were present. Quorum was met.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members Present:	Chair Conroy Director Forker Mr. Berlin Ms. Bates Mr. Burton Ms. Charvat	Mr. Geiger Ms. Hess Dr. Holtsford Ms. Kerger Chief Krestan Chief Pederson	Mr. Schwarze Dr. Sullivan Mr. Ruback for Mr. York
Council Members Absent:	Ms. Cahill, Judge Costa Howard, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Lukas, Judge Marchese, Ms. Micele, Dr. Rose, 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 January 26, 2026, meeting of the DCSS. Motioned by Mr Burton. Second, by Dr. Holtsford.

By consensus of the members the minutes were approved.

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5. CO-CHAIRS REMARKS

Chair Conroy welcomed everyone and shared her gratitude for the successful and ongoing work occurring at the Crisis Recovery Center (CRC), the development of the events to occur at the upcoming Mental Health Summit in May, and the successful Bowl Over Stigma event which occurred on Friday.

Director Forker highlighted the strong efforts of the women leading the DuPage County's mental health efforts in recognition of March as Women's History Month, Director Forker also highlighted the inaugural CRC report which will be produced quarterly and will include highlights occurring at the CRC and key data points.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Transportation Options for the CRC – Kathy Carey, Director for Crisis Services at the CRC

Ms. Carey provided members with an update on how staff and DCHD funds are supporting clients in addressing transportation barriers to accessing the services at the CRC and other methods being utilized for client transport to the CRC. These include several options.

- Mobile Crisis Response Team: Crisis evaluations can be completed at the location of a crisis within DuPage County when requested by individuals in crisis, family members of those experiencing a crisis, law enforcement, community agencies, or schools. Call takers at Crisis will offer mobile crisis as needed. If further evaluation/services are needed following mobile crisis response, transport is facilitated.
- Kaizen Health Transportation, which serves as a logistics hub for both provider and patient to provide transport via ride share option, charged to DCHD
- American Taxi is the most utilized method of transportation by staff to transport clients who are experiencing barriers to getting to and from the CRC for services charged to DCHD.
- While not specific for transportation obstacles, public safety officers including police and Emergency Medical Service have supported through drop-off
- Family member drop-offs

b. Stigma Reduction – Heather O'Donnell – Director of Behavioral Health Strategy and Partnership, DCHD

Ms. O'Donnell provided an update on the efforts to build a Stigma Reduction campaign to occur in May to coincide with Mental Health Awareness Month. A strategy of replicating the successes of the CRC awareness campaign will be used, with emphasis on social media platforms and other media outlets.

c. Mental Health Summit – Heather O'Donnell

Ms. O'Donnell provided members with the following updates:

- The event is scheduled for May 9, 2026, between the hours of 9:00AM – 2:00PM

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- The event will focus on youth mental health.
 - The keynote speaker is Mr. Ross Szabo, award-winning mental health speaker, writer, trainer, and Returned Peace Corps Volunteer.
 - The day's events will include youth impact tours at the Court, a visit to the LAK Community Center where families can learn more about the services offered to address youth mental health and a panel discussion with therapists and other experts.
- d. Member Updates and/or Events
- Mr. Burton shared The [DuPage Recovery Oriented Systems of Care \(ROSC\)](#) utilizes a mobile outreach van, often operated in partnership with Serenity House and other community partners, to provide harm reduction, mental health, and substance use services directly to unhoused individuals and those in need. The initiative focuses on outreach, distributing supplies, and breaking stigma. Currently operating in Kane County 3x a week a new van has been purchased that will provide services in DuPage County.
 - Mr. Burton also shared that the Behavioral Health Coalition continues to run its stigma reduction campaign and includes videos of interviews conducted with individuals with lived experiences.
 - Dr. Holtsford shared that Opioid Fatality Review Team, and the work of DuPage County Health staff member Scott Kaufmann have successfully implemented Naloxone dispensers in area hospital emergency departments. Mr. Geiger shared that these are being utilized.
 - Chair Conroy reiterated that the Bowl over Stigma was fun event and the energy in the room was great

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Opioid Settlement Update – no report

8. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for May 18, 2026

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Penny Chanez
Recording Secretary