MINUTES OF THE VERNON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MEETING, HELD ON JANUARY 15, 2026, AT 6:30 PM, AT THE VERNON TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 3050 N MAIN STREET, BUFFALO GROVE, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 by President Noelle Moore.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Noelle Moore led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Member Crutchfield, Member Garfield, Treasurer Hirsch, President Moore, Vice-President Thoren

Present Remotely: None

Absent: Member Hossain, Secretary Lewis

Also Present: Township Supervisor Kobler, Staff Members Gedville, Monie, & Moody

A QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. OATH OF OFFICE – EMILY CRUTCHFIELD

Township Supervisor Tim Kobler administered the oath to new Member Emily Crutchfield.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 16, 2025, MEEETING

Treasurer Hirsh made a motion to approve the minutes. Vice-President Thoren seconded the motion.

No Discussion.

The minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

7. REPORTS

a. President's Report: President Moore acknowledged the passing of Former Vernon Township Supervisor Bill Peterson and reflected on the legacy he established at Vernon Township.

She also thanked Member Dorfman for his service and presented him with a card and his nameplate.

She highlighted Secretary Lewis who received the Bill Reid Community Service Award from the Village of Buffalo Grove.

Finally, she was contacted by an agency called "Personifier", a company that is creating a platform to assist those needing services with providers in the area. They are interested in sharing their mission with the board in the future.

b. Vice President's Report: None.

c. Secretary's Report: None.

d. Member Reports: None.

e. Attorney Report: None.

f. Staff Reports: Manager Gedville introduced Annika Moody who has joined the Township as the Administrative Coordinator and will be working with the Mental Health Board.

<u>8. PRIOR BUSINESS</u>

No prior business

<u>9. NEW BUSINESS</u>

a. Update on the Mental Health Minute Project and 2026 Outreach Plans

   Discussion: Vicarious Multimedia has wrapped up their trial period of the Mental Health Minute project. A proposal has been presented to continue that project throughout 2026. The total cost for all PR services, including the Mental Health Minute project, will be $2,500 per month.

b. Discuss and Approve Annual Report for FY2025

   Member Garfield moved to approve the Annual Report for FY25, seconded by Member Thoren.

   Discussion: The Board is required to present a statement of annual activities which was prepared by President Moore and Manager Gedville. Once approved, it will be posted on the website and in the newspaper. Manager Gedville did note that the financials presented are non-audited.

   Ayes: Member Crutchfield, Member Garfield, Treasurer Hirsh, President Moore, Vice-President Thoren
   Nays: None.
   Abstain: None.
   Absent: None.

c. Discuss and Approve FY2026 Budget

Member Hirsh moved to approve the FY26 Budget, seconded by Member Crutchfield.

Discussion: Manager Gedville presented the budget which contained minor changes from the previous year. It includes a small decrease in insurance costs and the added cost for public relations services from Vicarious Multimedia. It also contains an increase in social agency grants as requests continue to increase.

Ayes: Member Crutchfield, Member Garfield, Treasurer Hirsh, President Moore, Vice-President Thoren
Nays: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

d. Discuss Meeting Calendar for FY2026

Discussion: President Moore confirmed that board members are still available to meet on the third Thursday every other month. The calendar will be voted on at the February meeting.

e. Discussion and Approval of FY2026 2nd Round Grants

Member Garfield moved to approve the FY26 2nd Round Grants, seconded by Member Thoren.

Discussion:

Avenues to Independence (New Applicant) – Requested $20,000 – Member Hirsh noted their application mentions serving Northwest Chicago and north/northwest Cook County, but they mention serving Lake County throughout their application, it is most likely a typo. The Board tentatively approved $20,000.

Cancer Wellness Center – Requested $25,000 - They were awarded $25,000 in the summer. Member Hirsh suggested a reduced amount as there is a significantly smaller budget compared to the amounts requested. $10,000 was tentatively suggested; $15,000 was the final recommended award amount.

Center for Enriched Living - Requested $50,000 – 10% decrease in residents served. $10,000 tentatively suggested. After a review of all applications, $25,000 was the final recommended award amount.

Clearbrook – Requested $25,000 – $10,000 was recommended at this time.

GiGi's Playhouse Deerfield, LLC – Requested $43,000 - Member Hirsh feels the application is a capital improvement, which he has been hesitant to fund in the past. Given our limited budget, he would prefer the funds to go to direct services. It was decided due to the limited funds and the significant number of requests; capital requests could not be considered at this time.

Glenkirk – Requested $10,000 - $7,500 was recommended at this time.

Homegrown Therapy Dogs - $3,700 – Member Thoren expressed concern about tying their application to serving a definitive number of Township residents. Despite that reservation, Member Hirsh feels they are providing a service we have not funded before, and they discuss working in the Buffalo Grove area. The Board tentatively approved $3,700.

JCC Chicago – Requested $20,000 – Member Hirsh continues to find an issue that services are only available to residents that pay for their camp and would rather see funds go to services available to all residents. It was recommended that their application not be funded at this time.

Josselyn Center, NFP – Requested - $40,000 - $26,000 was recommended at this time.

KAN-WIN – Requested $3,500 – President Moore would like a future update from the agency on how they have been using funds.

Lambs Farm, Inc. - Requested $26,834 – This application cannot be considered at this time as it is a capital request.

Lauri Bauer Foundation for Sudden Loss – Requested $25,000 – Because their application was late, and the limited budget, the board came to the suggestion of $0. Member Thoren felt it was a poorly put together application.

NAMI CCNS – Requested $10,000 - $7,500 was recommended at this time.

Nicasa Behavior Health Services – Requested $3,000 – The board collectively felt that this was not a well put together application and did not properly put into words what they plan to do with their funds.

Partners in Aging (formerly Faith in Action) - Requested $26,000 - $26,000 was recommended at this time.

Riverside Foundation – Requested $75,000 – This application cannot be considered at this time as it is a capital request.

A Safe Place – Requested $15,000 – Questions about their residents served, listed 591 on this application, yet talked in another section about 2,683 receiving services with last year's funding. Despite the flaws in the application, the board emphasized the importance of the services they provide. $10,000 was recommended at this time.

Sanjeevani 4U – Requested $5,000 – Member Crutchfield would like further clarification on residents served. $5,000 was recommended at this time.

Second Nurture – Requested $5,000 - $5,000 was recommended at this time.

Shelter, Inc. - Requested $3,000 - $3,000 was recommended at this time.

SRACLC (Special Recreation Association of Lake County) - Requested $10,000 - $10,000 was recommended at this time.

Stand Strong Coalition – Requested $40,000 - This application continues to leave questions about how this organization plans to fund itself after Federal grant funds have expired. The residency numbers are unclear and do not align with previous applications. The detailed requests were unclear, and some did not include the amount of funding necessary. No funding was recommended at this time.

Youth & Family Counseling – Requested $50,000 - $35,000 was requested at this time.

Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center (New Applicant) – Requested $20,000 – This agency had been historically funded through Vernon Township before the Mental Health Boards inception. Member Thoren highlighted that this agency has lost historical funding from the Federal Government and the possibility they could lose more. The Board recommended $20,000.

Member Garfield amended his motion to approve his motion to approve $232,000 to 17 agencies.

Ayes: Member Crutchfield, Member Garfield, Treasurer Hirsh, President Moore, Vice-President Thoren
Nays: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Member Thoren moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Garfield seconded that motion.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.