

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Courthouse and Administrative Complex
18 N. County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085-4351*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

8:30 AM

**Assembly Room, 10th Floor or register for remote attendance at:
<https://bit.ly/4gEfGa6>**

Health and Community Services Committee

Americans with Disabilities Act: Individuals with disabilities who require accommodations for participation in meetings must request accommodations at least 1 business day ahead of the scheduled meeting. Contact the ADA Coordinator at (847) 377-2250 or email at adacoordinator@lakecountyil.gov

1. Call to Order

Chair Parekh called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

2. Moment of Silence for Vice Chair Dr. Mary Ross Cunningham

Chair Parekh called a moment of silence for Vice Chair Dr. Mary Ross Cunningham.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Casbon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Roll Call of Members

Present 6 - Vice Chair Altenberg, Member Casbon, Member Danforth, Member Knizhnik,
Member Maine and Chair Parekh

Other Attendees:

In Person:

Sandy Hart, County Board Chair

Paul Frank, Board Member

Chris Anderson-Sell, Communications

Sam Johnson, Health Department

Michele Esser, Health Department

Penni Raphaelson, Community Development

Jennifer Serino, Workforce Development

Demar Harris, Workforce Development

Eric Rinehart, State's Attorney

Rachel Jacoby, State's Attorney's Office

Julia Alexander, State's Attorney's Office

Tierra Lemon, State's Attorney's Office

Patrice Sutton, County Administrator's Office

Matt Meyers, County Administrator's Office

RuthAnne Hall, County Administrator's Office

Lacey Simpson, County Administrator's Office

Electronically:

Gina Roberts, Board Member

Dominic Strezo, Planning, Building and Development

Kevin Quinn, Communications

Brea Barnes, Finance

Pamela Jeffries, Planning, Building and Development

Mick Zawislak, Daily Herald

Regina Tucak, Finance

Michael Wheeler, Finance

Melanie Nelson, State's Attorney's Office

5. Addenda to the Agenda

There were no additions or amendments to the agenda.

6. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

7. Chair's Remarks

Chair Parekh reflected on Vice Chair Dr. Mary Ross Cunningham.

8. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

9. New Business

CONSENT AGENDA (Item 9.1)

MINUTES

9.1 26-0836

Committee action approving the Health and Community Services Committee minutes from June 2, 2026.

Attachments: [HCS 6.2.26 Final Minutes.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Member Casbon, seconded by Vice Chair Altenberg, that these minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice Chair Altenberg, Member Casbon, Member Danforth, Member Knizhnik, Member Maine and Chair Parekh

REGULAR AGENDA

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

9.2 26-0816

Director's Report - Workforce Development

Jennifer Serino, Director, Workforce Development, and Demar Harris, Deputy Director, Workforce Development and EEO Officer, discussed the Legacy Foundation Relentless Hope Award. Discussion ensued.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

9.3 26-0819

Joint resolution approving an emergency appropriation of \$87,533 for fiscal year 2026, accepting additional funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services Suicide Prevention Call Center Enhancement Grant.

Attachments: [Emergency Appropriation Template for FY26 May 2026 Suicide Preventior](#)

Sam Johnson, Deputy Director Health Department and Michele Esser, Director of Behavioral Health, explained that this item is to approve the emergency appropriation for fiscal year 2026 and to accept additional funding from the Illinois Department of Human

Services Suicide Prevention Call Center Enhancement Grant. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Member Casbon, seconded by Member Knizhnik, that this resolution be approved and referred on to the Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following voice vote.

Aye: 6 - Vice Chair Altenberg, Member Casbon, Member Danforth, Member Knizhnik, Member Maine and Chair Parekh

9.4 [26-0821](#)

Joint resolution approving an emergency appropriation of \$20,000 for fiscal year 2026 accepting additional funding from the Illinois Department of Public Health Tobacco Free Communities grant.

Attachments: [Emergency Appropriation Template for FY26 June 2026 TFC](#)

Sam Johnson, Deputy Executive Director, Health Department, explained that this item is to approve an emergency appropriation for fiscal year 2026 accepting additional funding from the Illinois Department of Public Health Tobacco Free Communities grant. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Member Casbon, seconded by Member Knizhnik, that this resolution be approved and referred on to the Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following voice vote.

Aye: 6 - Vice Chair Altenberg, Member Casbon, Member Danforth, Member Knizhnik, Member Maine and Chair Parekh

9.5 [26-0825](#)

Joint resolution approving an emergency appropriation of \$12,880 for fiscal year 2026, accepting additional funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services Psychiatric Medications Grant.

Attachments: [Emergency Appropriation Template for FY26 June 2026 Psych Meds](#)

Michele Esser, Director of Behavioral Health, Health Department, and Sam Johnson, Deputy Executive Director, Health Department, explained that this item is to approve the an emergency appropriation for the fiscal year 2026, accepting additional funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services Psychiatric Medications Grant. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Altenberg, seconded by Member Knizhnik, that this resolution be approved and referred on to the Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following voice vote.

Aye: 6 - Vice Chair Altenberg, Member Casbon, Member Danforth, Member Knizhnik, Member Maine and Chair Parekh

9.6 [26-0826](#)

Joint resolution approving an emergency appropriation of \$745,850 for fiscal year 2026, accepting additional funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services Fixed Rate Substance Use Disorder and Gambling Disorder Grant.

Attachments: [Emergency Appropriation Template for FY26 June 2026 Fixed Rate SUD](#)

Michele Esser, Director of Behavioral Health, Health Department, and Sam Johnson, Deputy Executive Director, Health Department, explained that this item is to approve the emergency appropriation for fiscal year 2026, accepting additional funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services fixed Rate Substance Use Disorder and gambling Disorder Grant. Discussion ensued and clarification was made that all funds are for Substance Use Disorder.

A motion was made by Member Casbon, seconded by Member Maine, that this resolution be approved and referred on to the Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following voice vote.

Aye: 6 - Vice Chair Altenberg, Member Casbon, Member Danforth, Member Knizhnik, Member Maine and Chair Parekh

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

9.7 [26-0784](#)

Joint resolution approving the HOME Consortium Agreement for Federal Fiscal Years (FY) 2027-2029.

Attachments: [26-0784_HOME Consortium Agreement.pdf](#)

Penni Raphaelson, Grant Manager, Community Development, explained that this item is to approve the HOME Consortium Agreement for Federal Fiscal Years (FY) 2027-2029.

A motion was made by Member Casbon, seconded by Vice Chair Altenberg, that this resolution be approved and referred on to the Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Aye: 5 - Vice Chair Altenberg, Member Casbon, Member Danforth, Member Maine and Chair Parekh

Not Present: 1 - Member Knizhnik

9.8 [26-0785](#)

Joint resolution authorizing an intergovernmental agreement for the provision of grant administration and management services for North Chicago Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Attachments: [North Chicago Joint Agreement 2027-2029.v3.pdf](#)

Penni Raphaelson, Grant Manager, Community Development, explained that this item is to approve an intergovernmental agreement for the provision of grant administration and management services for North Chicago Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Member Knizhnik, seconded by Member Casbon, that this resolution be approved and referred on to the Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following voice vote.

Aye: 6 - Vice Chair Altenberg, Member Casbon, Member Danforth, Member Knizhnik, Member Maine and Chair Parekh

10. County Administrator's Report

10.1 [26-0827](#)

Presentation by State's Attorney's Office on Safe Gun Storage.

Eric Rinehart, State's Attorney, and Rachel Jacoby, Violence Prevention Council Coordinator, State's Attorney's Office, and Tierra Lemon, GVPI Director, State's Attorney's Office, provided a presentation on Safe gun Storage. Discussion ensued.

11. Executive Session

The Committee did not enter into Executive Session.

12. Member Remarks and Requests

There were no member remarks or requests.

13. Adjournment

Chair Parekh declared the meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Next Meeting: July 28, 2026

Meeting minutes prepared by Marci Johnson.