

**MINUTES OF THE
BI-STATE REGIONAL COMMISSION**

Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 3:30 p.m.
Rock Island County Office Building
1504 Third Avenue, Third Floor County Board Room
Rock Island, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Bark – Chair; David Adams; Mike Bartels; Ken Beck (for John Maxwell); Kippy Breeden; Maria Bribriescio; Kimberly Callaway-Thompson; Danny Chick; Michael Davis; Jean Dickson; Reggie Freeman; Robert Gallagher; Ashley Harris; Ralph Heninger; Michael Limberg; Marcy Mendenhall; Drue Mielke; Eileen Roethler; Rick Schloemer; Jeff Sorensen; William Stoermer; Rich Volkert; Brian Vynke (for Richard “Quijas” Brunk)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rick Dunn; Marshall Jones; Jerry Lack; Dan McNeil; Gary Moore; Randy Moore; Jazmin Newton; Dylan Parker; Sangeetha Rayapati

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Wrenn, Rock Island Arsenal; Joe Lilly, Director of Outpatient Services, Unity Point Health – Robert Young Center

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Ahern, Denise Bulat, Sarah Grabowski, Gena McCullough

Chair Bark called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

1. Approval of the August 27, 2025 Minutes. Mr. Beck motioned to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2025 meeting as presented. Ms. Mendenhall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mayor Volkert presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending August 31, 2025, noting an ending total bank book balance of \$783,263.55. Mayor Volkert moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Schloemer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mayor Limberg presented the bills totaling \$21,436.45, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Rock Island County Treasurer		5,372.88
10/2025	Rent	4,841.75
10/2025	Internet Access	88.00
08/2025	Postage	443.13
Blackhawk Bank & Trust VISA credit card expenses related to:		7,563.57
3 staff attending NADO 2025 Annual Training Conference		
2 staff attending IPTA Fall Conference 2025		
2 staff attending 2025 ILGISA Annual Conference		
2 staff attending Midwest CDI Conference		
1 staff attending AMPO Annual Conference		
1 staff attending Quad Cities Chamber 2025 Annual Meeting		

Managers and Administrators Meeting (costs to be reimbursed by participants)
Chief Elected and Administrators Meeting (costs to be reimbursed by participants)
Intuit QuickBooks Online, Adobe subscription

Addendum

IMPLAN, Annual Renewal Multi-County Plan 8,500.00

Mayor Limberg moved approval of the bills totaling \$21,436.45 as presented above. Mr. Stoermer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2025-26 Program Budget as of August 31, 2025. Mayor Limberg explained that on Program Budget Status Report, the Commission is 16.7% through the fiscal year with 12.4% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented one contract for consideration.
 - Contract with IMPLAN, an online tool for economic impact analysis. Contract is for \$42,500.00 for a period of five years beginning September 3, 2025.

Mayor Limberg moved approval of the contract as presented above. Ms. Mendenhall seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- 4. Community Mobilization Building Capacity and Resilience. Mr. Lilly provided an overview of the work the Quad Cities Behavioral Health Coalition’s Outcomes Team has done to collect and analyze key data points that help quantify the behavioral health services available across the Quad Cities region. Between 2019 and 2024, the team gathered data highlighting trends in hospital crisis presentations, outpatient service volumes, access to care, and behavioral health workforce capacity. The data collection effort supports a broader understanding of access to behavioral health services and aligns with the Quad Cities Community Health Assessment. The information gathered helps to inform initiatives intended to improve overall community health and wellness.

The major behavioral health service providers who contributed to the analysis were MercyOne Genesis, Vera French, Transitions, and UnityPoint Health – Robert Young Center. He emphasized the data reflects the contributions of the region’s largest providers, but it does not include the work carried out by many other agencies and support services throughout the community.

Hospital-based behavioral health crisis encounters declined during the review period, potentially due to expanded outpatient crisis services, such as mobile crisis teams, stabilization units, and the rollout of the national 988 crisis line. Local inpatient mental health facilities have largely met the demand, with less than 2% of crisis cases being transferred out of the metro area.

Nearly 40% of community members surveyed in the Quad Cities Community Health Assessment reported difficulty obtaining mental health services, and over 12% were unable to access care at all in the past year. While prescriber and therapist access has improved, especially for children, wait times often still exceed the target of 10 business days for non-emergent care. Solutions such as same-day access to clinics and use of practicum students helped reduce some delays.

Initial prescriber visits decreased, in part due to intensive programs like Assertive Community Treatment (ACT). Initial therapist visits because of expanded access options like telehealth. However, follow-up therapy visits declined, possibly due to growth in private practice options that are not represented in the analysis.

Staffing continued to be a key driver of access. Prescriber levels remained stable, but therapist staffing declined following the COVID pandemic. Therapist staffing began to rebound in 2023 and continued improving through 2024. Local universities are helping to meet workforce needs by training future clinicians and supplying practicum students to community mental health agencies.

5. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments.
6. Other Business. Ms. Bulat announced that Bi-State received an award from the National Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations for their part in the I-74 Corridor project, and she thanked the Commission for their leadership.
7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Maxwell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Maxwell
Secretary