



Augusta Local Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, October 22nd 2025 at 5:00 PM

To join by video, click link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8938611710>

To join by phone only (no computer needed), dial: 1-929-205-6099 Enter Meeting ID# when prompted: 893 861 1710

No password needed!

Welcome, Attendance & Review Meeting Guidelines:

Introductions:

Ice Breaker Idea:

1.

Attendance:

Review Meeting Guidelines:

Establish Quorum: ____ Yes ____ No

Forum Discussion (One Hour):

2.

A) Prevention alternatives before crisis is needed

B) *Upcoming Topics for reference*

November/December: Prevention alternatives before crisis is needed

Review & Adopt Meeting Agenda & Minutes: (Vote)

3.

A) Review & adopt the current meeting's agenda: October 22, 2025

a) Motion to adopt made by:

b) 2nd by:

c) Discussion:

d) Y____N____A____

B) Review & approve the last meeting's minutes: September 24, 2025

- Minutes will be completed and voted on at November 2025 Local Council meeting.



4.	<u>Ongoing Business:</u> A) How can we bring more attendees/increase interest for this meeting?
5.	<u>New Business:</u> A) Annual October Local Council Meeting Election a. Review open positions and applications b. Conduct vote for open positions B) 2026 Local Council Forum Topics have been chosen a. The below are rough titles that will be refined and shared next month in the 2026 month order. b. Topic 1: Crisis response services. Topic 2 : Aging/Seniors and mental health needs. Topic 3: The use of A.I. in mental health/social media impact. Topic 4: Mental health advance directives as a tool for self direction. Topic 5: Rural access to resources. Topic 6: Making a difference or connecting with our local communities.
6.	<u>Reports from SCC and Subcommittees:</u> SCC Report : A) Issue Statement Development Subcommittee: A) Meets second Wednesday of every month from 10a-12p via Zoom. B) Issue Statement updates Legislative Subcommittee: A) Meets first Wednesday of every month from 10am-12pm via Zoom. B) Legislative Subcommittee updates
7.	<u>Outreach, Annoucements, and Updates:</u> LC Outreach: In the Community: At the Office:
8.	<u>Future Agenda Items:</u>



9.	<u>Meeting Reflection</u> 1) What went well? 2) What could be improved upon?		
10.	Meeting Recap & Next Steps		
	Task	Who's Responsible	Due Date
	<i>Pre-read all meeting materials and attend next month's LC Meeting</i>	All	Monthly
	<i>Prepare Agenda and submit to Outreach Coordinator</i>		At least 10 days prior to next meeting date
	<i>Take meeting minutes then send to Outreach Coordinator</i>		At least 10 days prior to next meeting date
	<i>Send out all meeting documents to all Local Council Members</i>		At least 7 days prior to next meeting date



Augusta Local Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 5:00 PM

1. Welcome, Attendance & Review Meeting Guidelines:

Introductions: Yes

Ice Breaker Idea: Members briefly stated something they are excited about this coming winter.

Attendance: Vickie McCarty, Chair; Melissa Caswell, Co-Chair & Secretary; Carolyn Noble; Spencer, Tracie, Nolan Thompson

Review Meeting Guidelines: Yes

Establish Quorum: ☒ Yes ☐ No

2. Forum Discussion (One Hour):

Discussion Notes:

The central theme was identifying problems within the current mental health crisis system and proposing preventative solutions to help individuals before they reach a point of needing hospitalization or emergency intervention.

Issues

- System is Reactive, Not Preventative: People see the hospital as their only option due to a lack of accessible alternatives.
- Ineffective Crisis Response: Police are often untrained for mental health crises, and community resources like warm lines and peer respite centers are underfunded.
- Flawed Hospital Care: Patients are ignored, forced treatment is traumatic, and internal oversight is ineffective.
- Poor Discharge Planning: Patients are often released without adequate

support, leading to homelessness and re-crisis.

- Workforce Shortages: A lack of Certified Peer Support Professionals is worsened by barriers to transferring credentials from other states.

Solutions:

- Invest in Prevention: Fund mobile crisis teams, peer respite centers, and self-directed care programs (e.g., for gym memberships, therapy).
- Build the Peer Workforce: Recruit more Peer Support Professionals and create a national credentialing system to ease interstate transfers.
- Improve Oversight & Care: Establish an independent council to oversee hospitals and ensure discharge plans include housing and support.
- Public Education: Launch campaigns to educate the public on where to find help before a crisis.

3. Review & Adopt Meeting Agenda:

A) Review & adopt the current meeting's agenda: October 2025

- a. **Motion to adopt made by:** Melissa
- b. **2nd by:** Spencer
- c. **Discussion:** No discussion
- d. **Y__4__ N__0__ A__2__**

B) Review & approve the last meetings minutes: September 24, 2025:

Tabled until next meeting as minutes not completed. Will review September and October 2025 meeting minutes in November.

4. Ongoing Business:

How can we bring more attendees/ increase interest for this meeting?

- Distribute targeted flyers with a QR Code. Members to send a list to Sarah of where to distribute and she will get flyers to us.

5. New Business:

- **Annual October Local Council Meeting Elections:** Reviewed open positions and applications submitted. vote conducted with the following results- Vickie McCarty elected to Chairperson and Melissa Caswell elected as co-chair and secretary.
- 2026 Local Council Forum Topics: Sarah shared the rough draft titled of the 2026 forum topics picked by the SCC.

6. Reports from SCC and Subcommittee

SCC Report: Vickie gave a brief update of the SCC meeting in October. Main discussion was around office downsizing due to a reduction in CCSM funds and plans for next years annual meeting.

Issue Statement Development Subcommittee: Reviewed current issue statement drafts and members provided feedback.

Legislative Subcommittee: The committee is still waiting for the legislature to hold a special session to address the items on the appropriations table; this includes legislation put in by the CCSM.

7. Outreach, Announcements, and Updates:

LC Outreach:

- Rock & Talk events, Podcasts and Blog are all doing great.
- Discussed ways to increase membership and formulated goals to implement our outreach plans:
 - a. **LINC Center Community Meetings:** Vickie, Mel & Sarah will attend a community meeting in the coming months in order to get information/feedback from peers at the center. They will connect with one another to solidify a date they can attend and arrange this with Bobby Jo at LINC.
 - b. **Flyers:** Melissa talked about updating flyers currently in the community (i.e.: KBH, LINC, etc.) and will work with CCSM Staff to get more printed off to put out in the community. Spencer had ideas of places to distribute flyers and will get a list to Sarah. Digital flyers are also an option, and members

will share on social media.

- c. Community Newspapers & Websites: All Local council meetings are still being advertised in the local newspaper community calendars (completed by Brittany, CCSM staff). Members mentioned getting information on other non-profit websites. Sarah confirmed that CCSM information is on the DRM and MEJP websites already.
- d. Legislator Invites: It was suggested that we invite legislators to our meetings to attend forum discussions. We will discuss this in detail at future meetings.

In the Community: N/A

At the Office: N/A

8. Future Agenda Items:

- None given at this time.

9. Meeting Reflection & Next Meeting:

- **What went well?** Good discussion, similar to previous meetings
- **What could be improved upon?** Nothing at this time.

Next Meeting is: November 19, 2026 @ 5pm