



Augusta Local Council Meeting Agenda Wednesday, September 24th 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*

October: Prevention alternatives before crisis is needed

Review & Adopt Meeting Agenda & Minutes: (Vote)

3.

A) Review & adopt the current meeting's agenda: September 24, 2025

a. Motion to adopt made by:

b. 2nd by:

c. Discussion:

d. Y____N____A____

B) Review & approve the last meeting's minutes: August 27, 2025

e. Motion to adopt made by:

f. 2nd by:



	g. Discussion: h. Y____N____A____
4.	<u>Ongoing Business:</u> A) How can we bring more attendees/increase interest for this meeting?
5.	<u>New Business:</u> A)
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: Peer Artwork Wall Calendar, 2026 fundrasier occurring and in need or more applications. DEADLINE APPROACHING, 9/30! 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
	Pre-read all meeting materials and attend next month's LC Meeting	All	Monthly
	Prepare Agenda and submit to Outreach Coordinator		At least 10 days prior to next meeting date
	Take meeting minutes then send to Outreach Coordinator		At least 10 days prior to next meeting date
	Send out all meeting documents to all Local Council Members		At least 7 days prior to next meeting date



Augusta Local Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 5:00 PM

1. Welcome, Attendance & Review Meeting Guidelines:

Introductions: Yes

Ice Breaker Idea: Yes

Attendance: Vickie McCarty, Chair; Melissa Caswell, Secretary; Spencer Roberti; Nolan Thompson, Sarah Savage-Bellavance (CCSM Staff)

Review Meeting Guidelines:

Establish Quorum: ☒ Yes ☐ No

2. Forum Discussion (One Hour):

Discussion Notes

1. Problems with the Crisis System:

- Hospitals prioritize rapid discharge over adequate follow-up, leading to unsafe releases and homelessness.
- Police are limited in their ability to intervene in mental health crises, sometimes with tragic results.
- There is a lack of independent oversight in psychiatric facilities, leading to forced treatment and ignored patient concerns.

2. Key Preventative Solutions Proposed:

- **Expand Peer Support:** Critical need for more certified peer specialists; credential transfer from other states is a major barrier.
- **Create Alternatives to Hospitalization:** Fund peer-run respite centers and self-directed care programs for wellness activities.
- **Improve Crisis Response:** Increase funding for mobile crisis teams (with peers) and warm lines to handle call volume.

3. Systemic & Policy Issues:

- **Decriminalize Homelessness:** Advocate for humane municipal policies that provide basic amenities and avoid punitive enforcement when shelters are full.
- **Support Employment for Peers:** Provide more benefit counselors to help peers navigate work requirements without losing healthcare.

3. Review & Adopt Meeting Agenda:

A) Review & adopt the current meeting's agenda: September 24, 2025

- a. **Motion to adopt made by:** Melissa
- b. **2nd by:** Nolan
- c. **Discussion:** None
- d. **Passed**

B) Review & adopt the current meeting's minutes:

Tabled until October meeting as minutes not completed at this time

4. Ongoing Business: N/A

5. New Business: N/A

6. Reports from SCC and Subcommittee

SCC Report:

Issue Statement Development Subcommittee: Reviewed current issue statement drafts and gave 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: The council uses multiple methods to gather feedback: meetings, paper forms, online anonymous forms, one-on-one conversations, and attending peer center community meetings. Often there is difficulty in raising awareness of the council's role and in recruiting members. Peer centers are a key channel to getting information but getting them to disseminate information is a challenge.

In the Community:

- **Peer Artwork Wall Calendar Fundraiser:** More artwork is needed, and the deadline is fast approaching (9/30/25). All information needed to make submissions is located on the CCSM website, or you can contact CCSM Staff.
- **At the Office:** No current updates.

8. Future Agenda Items:

- **Forum Discussion:** Continuation of the topic "Prevention Alternatives Before Crisis is Needed."

9. Meeting Reflection & Next Meeting:

- **What went well?** Had robust discussion on topics at hand
- **What could be improved upon?** N/A

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Next Meeting is: October 22, 2025 @ 5pm