



# MID-ILLINOIS MEDICAL DISTRICT

Mid-Illinois Medical District Commission  
4:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 13, 2025

## MINUTES

### **Present:**

Erica Austin\*, Commissioner  
Ryan Croke, President  
Tessica Dooley\*, Commissioner  
Joe Hurwitz, Secretary

Jack Mazzotti, Commissioner  
Brian McFadden, Commissioner  
Nicole Florence\*, Commissioner  
John Stremsterfer, Commissioner

**Staff Support:** Abby Powell

**Absent:** Aaron Gurnsey, Brian Zilm, Ramona Metzger

**Other Guests:** Miriam Wallace (UIS) Faith Ritchie (DCEO); Robert Ellison (Memorial Health); Dilpreet Raju (Illinois Times); (DCEO); Jerry Kruse (SIU Med)

\*denotes attendance by zoom

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### **1. Call to order and roll call**

President CROKE called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm after noting a quorum was present. Attendance as indicated above.

### **2. Minutes of the April 10, 2025 Commission meeting**

On a motion by MCFADDEN seconded by STREMSSTERFER commission members unanimously approved the minutes of the April 10, 2025 meeting.

### **3. Financial Report**

The Commission unanimously voted to approve financial reports for September 2024, February 2025, March 2025, and April 2025 on a motion by MCFADDEND and a second from HURWITZ.

### **4. Stakeholder Updates:**

- Dr. Jerry Kruse welcomed the medical students, residents, and fellows at SIU Medical School, noting that there are 750 learners in the community each year. He shared that SIU continues to grow and has outgrown its current facility. The school is seeking opportunities and funding for expansion.
- Robert Ellison shared that Senators Durbin and Duckworth, along with leaders from all medical institutions in Springfield, met this week to discuss the impacts of the recent One Big Beautiful Bill Act.



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## 5. Public Comment:

(none)

## 6. Old Business

- 708 Referendum Update: Brian McFadden shared that the 9-member commission continues to meet monthly regarding the referendum. They anticipate an additional \$7-8M in tax revenue if the referendum passes. The question will be on the ballot in March 2026. 70 other counties in Illinois already have 708 Boards in place.

## 7. New business

- Medicaid Updates: CROKE noted the concern at the state government level and among healthcare providers about coming changes in Medicaid policies. The conversation will continue in future meetings.
- Local Health Impacts of One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA):  
Dr. Kruse shared the current and increasing negative impacts in the community of OBBBA. Impacts will be felt among patients (anticipated 15-25% of current Medicaid patients will lose coverage; insurance premiums under the Affordable Care Act marketplace will increase up to 65%), learners (limits on student loan borrowing will make medical degrees unattainable for lower socio-economic status and rural students), research institutions (potential decreases to indirect cost reimbursement rates), and the economy as a whole.

CROKE shared that many in the Governor's office and Department of Health and Human Services are working to anticipate and mitigate the negative impacts.

DOOLEY noted that Dr. Ty Dooley at UIS working on a study to forecast the financial impacts of the OBBBA.

FLORENCE added details about the gaps in care her patients are experiencing because of OBBBA.

## 8. Adjourn

On a motion from MAZZOTTI and a 2<sup>ND</sup> from FLORENCE, the meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Submitted by:

Joe Hurwitz, MIMD Commission Secretary