



DATE: Friday, June 17, 2026

TO: RAILS Board of Directors

FROM: Monica Harris, Executive Director

SUBJECT: New Member Application

RAILS Director of Communications Dan Bostrom will present the Elgin Mental Health Center's new member application for your approval at the July meeting. The applications are included in your packet.

As a reminder, it is stated in our [Bylaws](#) under Article 4 Membership in the System, subsection A Eligibility that:

*The statutes and administrative rules of the State of Illinois and the Membership Criteria of the System govern Membership in the System. Any Public, School, Academic or Special library, within the service area, is eligible to apply for Membership. Participating libraries will hereinafter be known as Members. **Acceptance is subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the System and the State Librarian and implies agreement by the applying library to applicable State statutes and rules and to the System's Bylaws, policies and Plan of Service.** Members agree to comply with policies, rules and regulations required for maintaining Membership.*

We look forward to sharing more information about this potential member at the July meeting.



Membership Background

Library Summary

Institution name: Elgin Mental Health Center

Library name: Various

Library type: Special - Hospital

City: Elgin

Primary library contact: Anjelica Rufus

Recommended board action: Full Membership

Library holdings:

OCLC member (yes or no): No

Online catalog (OPAC): Yes

eRead Illinois member (yes or no): No

Description:

Elgin Mental Health Center is a state hospital within the Illinois Department of Human Services. The center has been open since the late 1800s. They did have a library and library staff in the past, but the program had not been running for the past two years. They recently hired Anjelica Rufus, who presented on the Human Library at a RAILS Online Roundtable and was already familiar with RAILS membership. There are about 400 patients, and the library also serves the center's staff, about 150. They are all adult patients; some patients may have developmental or other disabilities. The librarian is interested in resources for patients, deals and discounts, and continuing education and training available for RAILS members. She is also planning to grow the graphic novel collection after surveying patients and developing programming for them.