

## OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: WCMH Legislative and Policy Committee			Attending: Committee members: Mary Neubauer, Crystal Hester, Lynette Studer, Jeanie Verschay, Amanda Anderson, Marc Herstand, Barbara Beckert, Kimberlee Coronado, Rick Immler, Kit Kertschensteiner, Hugh Davis, Alice Sykora  DHS Staff: Ryan Stachoviak, Teresa Steinmetz, Sarah Coyle, Joannette Robertson, Maddie Johnson  Guests: William Parke Sutherland (Kids Forward), Jolene Plautz (WAMFT), Linda Hall (Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health)
	Time Started: 12:30PM	Time Ended: 3:00PM	
Date: 4/8/2021			
Location: Zoom			Presiding Officer: Crystal Hester

### Minutes

#### 1. Call Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) Meeting to Order

The Committee introduced themselves.

*Review and approval of the minutes of March 11, 2021.*

**M. Herstand moved to approve the minutes.**

**A. Anderson seconded this motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously with no revisions.**

#### *Announcements*

A. Anderson announced WAMFT's upcoming [April Webinar](#). K. Coronado discussed the initiative to partner with youth during a crisis and that print disability guide was released yesterday. B. Beckert mentioned concern about voter suppression laws and there is an advocacy training on Tuesday which will share with the group and in the chat. L. Hall mentioned collaboration with the Department of Justice and Attorney General as well as partnering with youth experiencing crisis. L. Hall also mentioned a virtual art fair for youth that is happening soon and the listening session in the first week of May.

B. Beckert shared in the zoom chat: "Disability Rights & Voting: April 13th noon Advocacy Training on Legislative Proposals. Register at <https://disabilityvote.org/2021/disability-rights-voting-advocacy-training-on-legislative-proposals/>"

K. Coronado shared information in the zoom chat on the Office of Children's Mental Health partnership with DOJ to support youth in crisis, specifically highlighting the Mental Health Crisis Card to help youth in crisis. The information included this [press release](#) and this email address: [DOJCommunications@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:DOJCommunications@doj.state.wi.us). M. Herstand mentioned the upcoming advocacy day on Wednesday for NASW WI. M. Neubauer mentioned the Milwaukee Mental Health Taskforce has an upcoming meeting on Tuesday May 11<sup>th</sup> and Linda Hall will be speaking. C. Hester mentioned [NAMI's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Show](#), which will be at Daisy Café, is on display during the month of May for Mental Health Awareness month.

#### *WCMH updates*

R. Immler discussed the Access and Equity next steps. R. Immler stated that the WCMH decided not to partner with the SCAODA Workgroup. R. Immler mentioned that at the recent Workgroup meeting, the Workgroup discussed the Governor's Budget and Medicaid Expansion. R. Immler also stated that there will be an additional Workgroup meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. K. Coronado mentioned that there is a new second vice chair of the Council, Ana Winton.

C. Hester mentioned that there will be a member of the public (William Parke Sutherland – Kids Forward) presenting public testimony on BadgerCare Expansion at a later point in the meeting.

#### *Public Comment*

There were no members of the public who made public comment at this point in the meeting..

## **2. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action**

C. Hester shared the [public hearing information from the Joint Committee on Finance](#). C. Hester also mentioned that there are public listening sessions tonight for the Governor's Budget. A. Sykora mentioned in the zoom chat she plans on testifying tomorrow in Whitewater. T. Steinmetz mentioned there is a public comment site where members of the public can submit their own testimony.

M. Herstand discussed the Governor's Budget and how coalitions are working to pass budget priorities and other things outside of the budget. M. Herstand mentioned he met with John Nygren, the head of insurance companies and

M. Herstand – the budget is wonderful. – coalitions and group working to pass things in the budget and things outside the budget; raise the age coalition; working to require tele-mental health from health insurance companies; met with John Nygren – head of the insurance companies and Nygren is open to tele-mental health, but not telehealth overall. C. Hester stated that NAMI has been advocating for tele-mental health expansion and the expansion of broadband. C. Hester asked if there were specific points A. Sykora planned to speak about and A. Sykora stated she is just speaking in general about mental health for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf blind individuals.

K. Coronado shared in the zoom chat information on the [Print Disability Guide](#). L. Hall mentioned that she was invited to testify on improving children's mental health including topics such as the conversion therapy issue, stronger support for suicide prevention, and more peer support. C. Hester mentioned that she did submit written testimony and the hearing is archived if anyone wants to watch the hearing. C. Hester mentioned that only two bills have been heard in the Committee so far. K. Kertschensteiner mentioned that there is a change in emergency detention which excludes times when individual is unobservable. K. Kertschensteiner mentioned that this change is vague constitutionally fraught. C. Hester asked if Disability Rights is monitoring this change and K. Kertschensteiner said yet. The Committee continued to discuss this change and R. Immler mentioned that if an individual is on a ventilator, the emergency detention expires. K. Kertschensteiner mentioned that this suspends people's constitutional liberties.

William Parke Sutherland joined the meeting to provide public testimony on BadgerCare expansion including the benefits of Medicaid expansion for Wisconsin and why the WCMH should support Medicaid expansion. M. Herstand asked what kind of work Kids Forward is doing. W. Parke Sutherland stated that Kids Forward is educating folks on the benefits of expansion and working with other organizations like Mainstream Alliance as well as sharing information with representatives of both political parties. J. Verschay mentioned she believed the WCHM had sent a letter years ago and asked W. Parke Sutherland what key areas they should focus on.

W. Parke Sutherland stated that the WCMH should focus on the importance of increasing access to mental health care. K. Coronado shared in the zoom chat that [18 Attorney Generals have signed a letter in support of Keeping All Students Safe Act \(KASSA\)](#).

R. Immler agreed that BadgerCare Expansion should not be a bipartisan issue and mentioned that Tommy Thompson spoke in support of this expansion years ago. R. Immler also mentioned that the County Association supports Medicaid Expansion. W. Parke Sutherland mentioned that the federal government would pay 90% of expenses if Medicaid is fully expanded. R. Immler asked what funding would be helpful for the Bureau and T. Steinmetz mentioned crisis initiatives as well as the gaps analysis which highlights a lot of the issues addressed in the budget. W. Parke Sutherland mentioned there is lots of good items in the Governor's Budget so it is challenging to stay what is the most important. W. Parke Sutherland mentioned that this Governor's Budget has the largest targeted interest for prenatal care and targeting funds to black women organizations .

T. Steinmetz also mentioned opioid epidemic, residential substance use treatment room and board, and suicide prevention. W. Parke Sutherland shared [Kids Forward Budget Summary for Health Care](#) in the zoom chat. R. Immler mentioned considering this information in zoom meetings. R. Immler also stated there is a potential motion and then have the executive committee has a rapid response meeting to endorse a motion .

**M. Herstand made a motion that the WCMH supports Medicaid expansion and send these recommendations to Joint Finance Committee**

**J. Verschay seconded this motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

R. Immler mentioned he will work with M. Johnson to schedule the Executive Committee Rapid Response meeting. R. Immler stated he will also work on a letter for the Executive Committee to consider.

C. Hester moved onto state legislation on the agenda. M. Herstand mentioned that NASW is the lead on trying to ban conversion therapy. M. Herstand also mentioned tele-mental health and that he is part of the group opposing the transgender athlete bill. C. Hester mentioned in the zoom chat that NAMI WI can help with telehealth. C. Hester also stated that conversion therapy is not an evidence-based therapy and that the word therapy causes harm to LGBT youth. M. Herstand stated that if anyone is represented by Republicans, they should contact them. M. Herstand also mentioned it would be great if someone from the WCMH could meet with chairs. L. Hall asked in the zoom chat if M. Herstand had any data and talking points to share. M. Herstand mentioned he will share the statistics with M. Johnson so she can share this information with the group. R. Immler mentioned that the Council did author a letter on the conversion therapy ban.

B. Beckert shared on voting legislation and that the bills introduced are in reaction to the 2020 election and an increase in absentee voting. B. Beckert said there are provisions to restrict absentee voting to moving forward and that there is an opportunity to speak at the hearing.

### *DCTS updates*

T. Steinmetz – working through modifications to DHS 75 – currently with the legislatures for review; Additional funding from MH and SA Block Grant ; asked Ryan to discuss CAREs funding

R. Stachoviak – block grant COVID supplemental awards – March 15 2021- March 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 – different timeframe ; many unique needs to counties and tribes; 10% of grant to early serious mental illness; and 5% devoted to crisis systems – increase this amount to 3 million dollars; money devoted to evidence-based practices; Substance Abuse Grant – much of money is devoted to counties and tribes; more money to crisis and harm reduction; states were allowed to apply for various waivers – these were flexibilities would hopefully be extended to counties and tribes; increase access and services; provide assistance to for-profit services;

housing; PPE for clients and for staff; technology for tele-health – we will let you know what waivers if any we have received

#### **4. Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates**

T. Steinmetz mentioned that DCTS is receiving additional funding, but has not received the Notice of Award yet. T. Steinmetz mentioned that this funding will likely go through September 2025. T. Steinmetz also mentioned that harm reduction was not allowed through the SABG, but now Wisconsin can use federal funding for fentanyl testing strips. R. Immler asked if support for training around Evidence Based Practices and workforce development still applies to the training category and T. Steinmetz said yes, but that this item could also fall under workforce development/system change.

B. Beckert asked about the timeline for making decisions for the use of funding and T. Steinmetz discussed crisis development/enhancing crisis system, but not doing what is in the budget. K. Coronado shared her perspective as a parent and that there are no resources for parents since the pandemic has taken away support. K. Coronado also mentioned there are services, but no staff. K. Coronado mentioned that money needs to come from the school districts and asked how this funding will help parents. C. Hester thanked K. Coronado for her perspective and said she hoped K. Coronado would be at the Governor's meeting tonight. B. Beckert asked about IPS expansion and T. Steinmetz said this program generally can't be funded through the block grants, but this waiver was asked for (not specific to IPS, but employment support).

K. Coronado mentioned that in-home workers are paid \$8 an hour and this is not going to keep individuals in the position. K. Coronado stated that her children are not currently receiving service. L. Studer mentioned that students are looking for work, but cannot pay back their loans and take a job. L. Student said in-home work could be a way for students to receive their licensing hours. C. Hester suggested putting the topic of in-home worker pay on the agenda for next month's meeting.

R. Immler mentioned that the Governor's Budget increased Medicaid rates and the importance of talking to legislators. M. Herstand mentioned that the QTT training program expands the number of licensed practitioners. B. Beckert mentioned the training on Tuesday and the importance of contacting legislators. C. Hester thanked Kimberlee for her perspective in the zoom chat.

C. Hester and M. Johnson decided to save the MHBG Presentation for the May meeting.

#### **5. Agenda Items for the May 13, 2021 Committee Meeting**

C. Hester mentioned continuing the conversation on workforce issues at the next meeting.

#### **6. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00PM.