

## OPEN MEETING MINUTES

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| Name of Governmental Body: Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) - Criminal Justice Committee ( |                       | Attending: Members Present: Tamra Oman, Karen Breit, Mary Delaney, Tara Wilhelmi, Mike Soukup, Heather Watson, Dennis Hanson, Brian Michel, Matt McLean               |
| Date: 4/14/2021   | Time Started: 10:00am | Time Ended: 12:12p  |
| Location: zoom  |                       | Guests: William Parke-Sutherland, Rebecca Main, Suzanne Williams, Brad Munger, Mai Zong Vue, Michelle Larson, Kevin Kallas, Michael Leppin<br>Staff: Jamie McCarville |
|   |                       | Presiding Officer: Karen Breit, Tamra Oman  |

### Minutes

#### Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) - Criminal Justice Committee (CJC) Meeting

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:00am by co-chairs Tamra Oman and Karen Breit. a. Welcome and introductions were shared by members and the meeting guidelines were shared.

#### 2. Criminal Justice Committee Business

a. State Budget presentation on: Expanding BadgerCare a Win-Win for Wisconsin was shared by William Parke-Sutherland, Health Policy Advisor, Kids Forward a slide presentation was shared. Wisconsin is one of 12 states that hasn't expanded access to health insurance. Uninsured rate increased this year with 309,000 Wisconsinites are uninsured. Wisconsin's stark racial disparities in access to health insurance continue with Latinx and Native Americans being the highest groups without insurance. If the Indian Health Service (INS) is the only form of insurance that is considered uninsured. Badgercare expansion would cover more people and cost less. This saves more than \$300 million per year in general purpose revenue (GPR). It expands coverage to 91,000 Wisconsinites, about half of the uninsured.

The Governor's budget uses savings to invest in: expanding access to behavioral health, dental care, increases funding for hospitals & providers, address maternal and infant mortality, and raises rates for caregivers. The expansion will assist counties and improve access to mental health and substance use services, and will ease strain on county budgets. Counties can use the saving to improve services or meet other needs.

Members shared you can contact your state legislators and express your opinion. Encourage others, write a letter to the editor supporting Badgercare expansion. Attend listening sessions on the budget. More information can be found at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/budget/index.htm> and Joint Finance Committee meetings April 21-22, 2021 <https://committeeschedule.legis.wisconsin.gov/> Members discussed reasons for opposition including: 1. Ideological: government healthcare bad— people shouldn't rely on government assistance. 2. Federal money could go away. We also have federal money for roads, schools and national defense. 3. Politics some people don't want to give Governor Evers a win.

Members shared even with the expansion there will still be inadequate healthcare. Health insurance is just the floor and we have a long way to go. Members also raised the issues of provider shortages.

Rick Immler shared that the Legislation and Policy (L&P) committee of the Mental Health Council has passed a motion to support Badgercare, and the Executive Council would vote on Friday. Tamara Oman made a motion to support the Badgercare expansion, a second by Matt Mac Lean and the motion carried. Matt MacLean volunteered to work with Mike Soukup to draft the motions for the executive committee meeting Friday April 16, 2021.

b. Legislative Update was shared by Brian Michael and Rick Immler. In addition to support Badgercare TAD (Treatment Alternatives and Diversion) in the Governor's budget is supported. Rebecca Main shared she is on the Dept. of Justice (DOJ) subcommittee and DOJ is concerned about staffing for programs. Members thought that staffing and peer specialists should be included in the language. Brian Michel moved to support TAD funding in the Governor's budget

and there was a second by Dennis Hanson, the motion carried. c. Housing Discussion led by Tamra Oman. Members discussed the critical housing shortage especially for people in need of supported housing and with criminal records. This may be a future agenda item.

d. CJC Committee membership update –new applicant. This applicant has a recommendation of support from a current committee member. Please review the application and give your recommendation.

e. Community Corrections Discussion. Members have heard about many changes positive changes at the Department of Corrections. There will be a Town Hall meeting on violation response. Kevin Kallas will give a presentation on DOC at the next meeting. Tracy Johnson from DOC was also mentioned.

f. The February 2021 minutes were approved with a motion by Tara Wilhelmi and second by Mary Delaney motion carried.

g. Updates and announcements from the WCMH and committee members included the workgroups of SCAODA and WCMH on equity and inclusion by Rick Immler, We need to have regular BIPOC (black, indigenous people of color) representation and we need to move discussion from broad ideas to action steps. Members also raised the issue of people having to take off work to attend meetings and some people can't afford to do this. There is a need for people to be paid for their time. There is also a need for mentoring. Mary Delaney shared raceequity.net. Brian Michel shared that Reggie Moore has moved to injury program at Milwaukee Medical College. There is a need for a committee onboarding process and Tara Wilhelmi offered to help. Brian Michael and Becci Main will help with court language.

h. No public comment.

3. Review proposed Agenda items for June 9, 2021. Budget process update, Corrections, membership

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Website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wcmh/executive.htm>

Prepared by: Jamie McCarville on 5/21/2021.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 6/9/2021