

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: Wisconsin Council on Mental Health - Legislative and Policy Committee		Attending: Crystal Hester, Mary Neubauer, Amanda Anderson, Alice Sykora, Jeanie Verschay, Hugh Davis, Mike Lappen, Chris Wirth, Barbara Beckert, Kit Kerschensteiner, Brian Michel, Kathy Knoble-Iverson, Marc Herstand, Jack Spear, Leah Rolando, Linda Hall, Rick Immler, Kathy Markeland, Joannette Robertson, Joyce Allen, Teresa Steinmetz, Ryan Stachowiak	
Date: 4/9/2020	Time Started: 12:30pm	Time Ended: 3:00pm	
Location: Meeting held via Zoom and Conference Call		Presiding Officer: Crystal Hester	
Minutes			

Meeting of the Legislative and Policy Committee

April 9, 2020

12:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Meeting held via Zoom and Conference Call

MINUTES

Members of the Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) in Attendance: Crystal Hester, Mary Neubauer, Amanda Anderson, Alice Sykora, Jeanie Verschay, Hugh Davis, Mike Lappen, Chris Wirth, Barbara Beckert, Kit Kerschensteiner, Brian Michel, Kathy Knoble-Iverson

Guests in Attendance: Marc Herstand, Jack Spear, Leah Rolando, Linda Hall, Rick Immler, Kathy Markeland

Department of Health Services (DHS) Staff in Attendance: Joannette Robertson, Joyce Allen, Teresa Steinmetz, Ryan Stachowiak

1. Call Legislative and Policy Committee Meeting to Order

Review and approval of the minutes of March 12, 2020

K. Knoble-Iverson moved to approve the minutes of March 12.

M. Neubauer seconded the motion.

Motion carried, minutes approved. A. Anderson and C. Wirth abstained.

Announcements

B. Beckert announced that there were some unprecedented barriers for people to vote in this past election and she was hoping to circulate a survey that the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition will be sending out to gain information on the election. It is hoped that the survey will get an inclusive response. The intended audience is people with disabilities and their allies. B. Michel announced that the Prevent Suicide Wisconsin Conference has been moved to September 8th and 9th. The main conference will be on the first day and then there will be post-conference sessions on the 9th. Will be exploring options C.

Hester announced that Action on the Square on May 7th has been moved to a digital platform. The NAMI Annual Conference was rescheduled for September 29-30th. The NAMI Wisconsin has been doing a deep dive into the warm line function in Wisconsin. Several organizations provide this service a group has been of stakeholders has been convened to try to determine capacity and the need. C. Hester will share more information with the group. L. Hall announced that the Office of Children's Mental Health is preparing for a social media event for Children's Mental Health Awareness Day on May 7th. The goal is to connect with teens and young adults with messaging around "you are not alone", and "peers can be your support". L. Hall will share more information with the group. J. Spear announced that he will share with the group information for apps for people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing for communicating remotely.

Public Comment

M. Herstand discuss telehealth legislation and suggested that the LPC consider making a motion encouraging the Council to send a letter to DHS discussing the importance of telehealth during the COVID pandemic. R. Immler offered to discuss the topic further.

2. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action

Members of the LPC discussed Budget items.

B. Beckert discussed expansion of IPS as a key area. J. Verschay expressed interest in looking into the issue and the need for more training for agencies that provide supported employment and the importance of ensuring overall capacity is increased. B. Beckert, J. Verschay, and C. Hester agreed to be point people for the priority.

Members of the LPC discussed strengthening suicide prevention, treatment and support as an area for continued focus. L. Hall noted that the OCMH has a focus on youth suicide prevention this year. Members discussed legislation from the suicide prevention taskforce. Everything that was not moved forward during that session. B. Michel will take a lead on suicide prevention related pieces for the budget related document.

Members of the LPC discussed workforce development. R. Immler is heading up a workgroup on the topic. R. Immler noted that A. Sykora brought a proposal piece for the discussion with the workgroup for support for DHOH interpreting for people to reach their necessary hours for licensure. R. Immler noted that the group hopes to reach out to DSPS to identify needs that the agency may have. Members of the LPC discussed funding barriers that DSPS may experience. A. Sykora noted that she was planning to meet with the core mental health group to look at opportunities for advancing legislation. Members of the LPC discussed past efforts that the committee has made on workforce issues.

B. Beckert agreed to be a lead for budget priorities on transportation and housing first initiatives. C. Hester suggested that the LPC connect with the Children and Youth Committee and Criminal Justice Committee to provide input on other budget priority areas as well.

H. Davis suggested that social determinants of health be an area for which a budget priority could be developed. Housing and transportation are components of this but also social connectedness could be an area to address. Peer specialists could play a role in a priority area around this area as well.

B. Beckert suggested that the group also address needs that have arisen from the COVID pandemic. The LPC discussed the need for telehealth in light of COVID. A potential lack of reimbursement still seems to be a concern among providers. R. Immler noted that for some providers it took time for providers to get the necessary technology to provide telehealth in the current situation. B. Beckert asked whether this was something that the Council wanted to weigh in on. It may be important to look at gaps in services and barriers on the side of providers in the current situation.

Members of the LPC discussed issues around people lacking access to phones for telehealth and options for clients to receive a phone, some options do exist through Medicaid, though sometime phone minutes are limited. K. Markeland noted that there is still a gap for providers due to issues of technology. Issues of travel reimbursement also play into issues on lost revenue. Providers are trying to move toward telehealth, but there are still issues with receiving reimbursement. M. Neubauer noted that it might be worth the Council looking into how to address the disparity in minutes that phone providers provide to people who rely on cell phones for receiving telehealth services.

B. Michel provided the group a briefing on state legislation. A large number of bills that were introduced early in 2020 have not progressed, and there has not been any updates since the legislature adjourned in March. Members of the LPC discussed opportunities for follow up on some pieces of legislation, including items for the Suicide Prevention Taskforce.

3. Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates

J. Allen provided the group with a briefing on the Emergency COVID-19 grant application being developed by the BPTR. The intent of the funding is for treatment services for people with mental health or substance use needs. A portion of the funding is also devoted to healthcare providers and people who have mental health needs less than a serious mental illness. The BPTR is reaching out to communities with a high number of COVID cases to identify needs in those areas. J. Allen provided the group with a briefing on work being done to bring administrative rules into alignment to address the current needs to provide services during the COVID pandemic.

4. Agenda Items for the May 14, 2020 Committee Meeting

Members of the LPC will discuss budget priorities at the coming meeting. C. Hester asked the members who have taken lead on priorities to develop a rough draft of budget proposals for the May meeting.

5. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm