

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: WCMH Legislative and Policy Committee			Attending: Committee attendees: Barbara Beckert, Kit Kerschensteiner, Jeanie Verschay, Mary Neaubauer, Hugh Davis, Alice Sykora, Justin Odulana, Lynette Studer, Brian Michel, Kit Kerschensteiner, Marc Herstand, Kimberlee Coronado, Amanda Anderson, Kathy Markeland, Rick Immler
Date: 09.09.21	Time Started: 12:30PM	Time Ended: 3:00PM	
Location: Zoom			DHS Staff: Maddie Johnson, Teresa Steinmetz, Andrea Jacobson
			Guests: Jessica Barrickman, Charlie Morgan, Tip Pom
			Presiding Officer: Barbara Beckert
Minutes			

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

R. Immler appointed B. Beckert at interim chair of the Legislative and Policy Committee.

B. Beckert asked the Committee members to introduce themselves and state what they hope the Committee will accomplish. B. Beckert introduced herself and stated she hopes to get a win on mental health services for deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind, Wisconsinites. R. Immler stated he hopes the Committee better defines areas of opportunity for access to care for diverse communities. M. Neaubauer mentioned deaf and blind mental health services. H. Davis stated he hopes the Committee can focus on things that are preventing kids and families from thriving. A. Sykora mentioned in the zoom chat a successful campaign to get mental health services for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf and blind people in Wisconsin. M. Herstand said making staying in the profession affordable for diverse practitioners. J. Verschay added accessibility for individuals. K. Kerschensteiner mentioned the Committee revitalizing emergency detention/interactions with law enforcement (avoid traumatizing incarceration). T Steinmetz did not have a recommendation, but would like to see the recommendations transform the system. J. Odulana mentioned the importance of diversity beyond professionals and the importance of raising awareness about our work as well as the importance of geographic diversity.

L. Studer mentioned looking at the current state of community support programs. B. Michel said expanding access for peer support services and expansion in non-law enforcement responses to mental health in the community. J. Barrickman stated looking at expanding trauma-informed practices and the continued expansion of peer support. A. Jacobson mentioned identifying policy and programming areas to advance quality services for everyone in the state. K. Coronado said closing the achievement gap of children (60% of students are not at grade level reading) as well as seclusion and restraint and domestic violence. A. Anderson typed in the zoom chat that she would like the committee to help with getting telehealth coverage to go beyond the emergency order.

The Committee shifted to agenda point two as the guest speakers were on the zoom call.

2. Division of Medicaid Services update on the NEMT transition

T. Pom was a guest speaker for the Committee. T. Pom is the contract monitor for the Division of Medicaid Services Bureau of Benefits Policy specifically NEMT Manager Transition. NEMT stands for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation. T. Pom provided an overview of the history of the NEMT Manager Model, goals of the NEMT Manager Model, who is eligible for NEMT, members not eligible for the program, members excluded, categories of NEMT rides, types of NEMT, exceptions for rides, scheduling NEMT, the complaints process, the

level of need process, additional policies, manager transition, program improvements, and additional riders. The Committee asked questions about the NEMT transition. T. Pom stated that the NEMT transition includes all counties, but there are some exceptions for buses in the winter, but the transition will continue to be evaluated.

T. Pom mentioned counties have to be compliant with a certain number of providers per county, but this is challenging up north due to a thin provider network. T. Pom also stated he will provide the list of non-eligible individuals via email. J. Barrickman stated that she is open to being a Council representative on the advisory council.

Review and approval of the minutes of August 12, 2021

J. Odulana made a motion to approve the minutes of August 12, 2021.

M. Herstand seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

R. Immler abstained from the vote.

Announcements

M. Herstand shared a link in the zoom chat [the NASW-WI 2021 Annual conference](#) and that the conference has special sessions on rural mental health. B. Beckert stated that the Milwaukee Mental Health Taskforce is hosting the annual [Karen Avery Forum](#) on September 14th which is celebrating recovery, ending stigma and embracing possibilities with great national speakers and a panel. B. Beckert stated that at the conference, they will recognize annual award recipients. K. Coronado shared in the zoom chat that September is Recovery Month and Suicide Awareness Month. K. Coronado also shared information on the Reading Readiness Bill which will help students be identified earlier. K. Coronado included the link to the bill Assembly Bill 446 (wisconsin.gov) and asked meeting attendees to please come testify in support on Thursday September 14 at 10am.

L. Studer stated there is a two-day free virtual motivational interview training for students and attendees can receive CEUs. R. Immler stated that the Department of Health Services Secretary's Office is soliciting comments about what can be done to improve the Wisconsin behavioral health workforce which is 36th in country for patient to behavioral health provider ratio.

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) Updates

R. Immler stated that on Tuesday September 14th, there will be a Division of Care and Treatment Services presentation on facilities and at the full Council meeting on September 15th, the Department of Corrections will be presenting. R. Immler stated he is hoping that the Division of Medicaid Services can present on September 29th. K. Coronado added in the zoom chat that these presentations are part of the fall tour and the other dates are October 13th, 27th, and November 10th from 12-2PM.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates

T. Steinmetz stated that the ARPA funding has allowed the Bureau to approve 9 new positions. T. Steinmetz mentioned that five positions will be long term and four of the positions will be project-based. T. Steinmetz said that the Bureau currently five sections, but the Bureau is expanding to six sections with the new section will

focus on prevention and intervention. T. Steinmetz stated that the Bureau works across sections and that the Block Grant now has added an additional 50 million dollars to the Bureau.

A. Jacobson stated that the Bureau hired a consultant to focus on internal diversity, equity, and inclusion. B. Beckert mentioned that training could be potentially funded through ARPA. R. Immler asked that if there will be more support for Committees and Councils. T. Steinmetz said that the additional funds are not going to take anything off of the Bureau's plate. T. Steinmetz mentioned that there might be opportunities from the Secretary's Office.

T. Steinmetz was hoping there would be authority for a new administrative rule to support the facilities, but the Wisconsin Legislature limited the funding that was awarded. T. Steinmetz mentioned that the hope is the 10 million dollars can be used to support crisis services. T. Steinmetz mentioned that the bed tracker did go into effect with peer respite and crisis stabilization beds. T. Steinmetz stated there is a hope to support five crisis stabilization centers. The Committee members asked questions about the DCTS updates and discussed that peer run respite should not be used as an overflow for the hospital systems. T. Steinmetz mentioned she does not know the timeline of the new crisis facility and that the funding would follow a grant funding opportunity. T. Steinmetz said that there will hopefully be 5 regions in Wisconsin, but for more of a social work response, there would need to be a statutory change. T. Steinmetz mentioned that the crisis workgroup has talked about triaging crisis services and that the Medicaid reimbursement model would need to reimburse this service.

The Committee took a short break.

K. Coronado shared in zoom chat "ISP and CLTS plans discussion is needed to bring Best Practices for Crisis and on call services. Youth using this funding are using crisis services at higher rates and WI has high hospital rates." B. Beckert asked to include this topic on October's Committee meeting.

4. Review of MHBG Application Letter

R. Immler encouraged the LPC to carefully review the Block Grant Letter. R. Immler stated that the Bureau works very hard and there are structural issues within the division. B. Beckert mentioned that there may be additional time to discuss the block grant letter at the October meeting and the Committee agreed.

5. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action

M. Herstand stated that the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) is processing applications and that there is a provisional licensing bill that should help with this process. B. Michael mentioned there is a bill AB467 which creates in legislation a transgender taskforce. B. Michael also mentioned act 122 from 2019 which addresses inconsistencies for peer recovery coaches and the long-term goal is to make all peer recovery services stand alone.

R. Immler stated that workgroups can be an option to support Committee chairs. R. Immler hopes that being co-chair of LPC will be a gratifying and energizing experience. M. Johnson mentioned that the LPC chair finalizes LPC agendas and that this is a great opportunity to practice facilitation skills. J.

6. Agenda Items for the September 9, 2021 Committee Meeting

J. Odulana requested in the zoom chat to discuss in-person vs. virtual meetings at the next Committee meeting. J. Odulana mentioned that meeting in-person provides opportunity to also meet with legislators.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3PM.

Prepared by: Maddie Johnson on 10/13/2021.

