

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: WCMH Legislative and Policy Committee			Attending: Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) Members: Barbara Beckert, Crystal Hester, Kimberlee Coronado, Amanda Anderson, Mary Neubauer, Jeanie Verschay, Justin Odulana, Michael Lappen, Alice Sykora, Hugh Davis, Kit Kerschensteiner, Kathie Knoble, Rick Immler Department of Health Services (DHS) Staff: Maddie Johnson, Joannette Robertson, Teresa Steinmetz, Ryan Stachowiak Guests: Jolene (WAMFT), Long Vue (WUCMAA), Lynette Studer (UW-Madison), Linda Hall (OCMH), Kathy Markeland (WAFCA, Anya Nailen (NASWWI), Giselle Granados-Mayorga (NASWWI)
Date: 2/11/2021	Time Started: 12:30PM	Time Ended: 3:00PM	
Location: Zoom			Presiding Officer: Crystal Hester

Minutes

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

Committee members, DHS staff and Guests introduced themselves.

Review and approval of the minutes of January 14, 2021.

Kathie Knoble moved to approve the minutes.

A. Anderson seconded this motion.

The minutes passed unanimously with no revisions.

Announcements

B. Beckert shared the [State Superintendent Candidate Forum link](#) in the zoom chat and that the primary election is coming up soon. A. Anderson shared [WAMFT's upcoming webinars](#). M. Lappen stated that Milwaukee has received another round of funding from the MacArthur Foundation to connect individuals who have contact with the justice system to services. K. Coronado stated she has four updates she will share in the chat. She mentioned that she attended a crisis intervention workshop on how to connect to a mental health professional, that Milwaukee United Way to 25 million dollars, a report on paying caregivers and a [WTMJ-4 report on drug overdoses and mental health](#). K. Coronado shared the link to the workshop titled [Innovation, Collaboration and Partnership between Crisis Services and 1st Responders in Harris County, Texas](#). K. Coronado shared a report in the zoom chat, [State Approaches to Reimbursing Family Caregivers of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs through Medicaid](#). K. Coronado also shared the link to the [United Way donation](#) in the zoom chat. L. Hall shared an OCMH Fact Sheet in the zoom chat on [Addressing Shortages in the Mental Health Workforce](#). C. Hester mentioned that NAMI is hosting an upcoming advocacy day. A. Sykora asked about interpreting services at the advocacy day and C. Hester said she would reach out to A. Sykora.

WCMH updates

C. Hester discussed the letter to the legislature that needs to be signed by the Council chair, R. Immler.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

2. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action

State budget discussion

C. Hester mentioned that budget is coming out and went through the press release to summarize the content. What she summarized included increasing access to care, expanding BadgerCare and telehealth services, substance use disorders and the opioid crisis, reforming crisis intervention and emergency detention, crisis services, and funding to support a behavioral health bed tracker. J. Odulana stated that the budget seems good for mental health and asked if anyone had a sense of if the Joint-Finance Committee would accept the budget. B. Beckert discussed in chat that these types of mental health investments would rely on Medicaid expansion which will likely not happen, so there will need to be other funding sources. C. Hester asked if there was anything that was a priority that was not included in the budget. B. Beckert mentioned that she thought there would be something about equity issues and providing mental health care to underserved communities. T. Steinmetz stated that the press release does not include everything from the budget.

B. Beckert asks if OARS (Opening Avenues to Reentry Success) was in one of the budgets and T. Steinmetz said yes, OARS is somewhere in the budget. The Committee then discussed if the Criminal Justice Committee is going to submit budget recommendations. M. Johnson mentioned that she emailed B. Beckert about budget document to see if there is a final version. C. Hester discussed the budget tracker from B. Michael, including AB 25 & SB 5 which is about prohibiting mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for employment. The Committee discussed potential mandatory vaccinations at organizations and if there had been any complaints from employees. Next, the committee discussed AB. 34 SB 40 which is a placeholder for the ACA, to protect individuals who may lose health insurance. The Committee also discussed SB 85 which changes the definition of staking and includes online content and communication in the definition. It was also mentioned that there is a potential grant for a hospital in Eau Claire County which would create 22 psychiatric beds.

C. Hester asked the Committee how to best manage bill tracking and the Committee discussed the potential of creating a google spreadsheet as well as other ideas for tracking bills. A. Anderson shared in a link on in the zoom chat related to [bill tracking](#). C. Hester mentioned that bill tracking could be a student project that is done remotely and guest L. Studer mentioned that she may have a student who wants to work on this. K. Coronado asked if there was a good federal budget tracker and the Committee discussed federal budget tracker options. M. Johnson mentioned that different advocacy organizations track federal legislation. B. Beckert mentioned in the chat that the National Disability Rights group shared federal legislation. T. Steinmetz mentioned that the DCTS updates were short and the Committee took a break.

A. Anderson shared a potential [federal bill tracker](#) in the zoom chat. C. Hester mentioned emergency detention draft recommendations from Attorney General's Office. The Committee then discussed the current system and regional crisis stabilization. B. Beckert stated that she wanted to see how others felt about the budget proposal process in regards to including people with lived experience and advocacy organizations. B. Beckert mentioned that there could have been a better package if there was more inclusive stakeholder engagement. K. Kerschensteiner stated that she was disappointed that individuals with lived experience were not as involved in the budget proposal process. K. Kerschensteiner discussed how there was a one day summit, but she did not feel like she or DRW were part of a coalition. The Committee then discussed their and their organizations various levels of participation in the one day summit and budget proposal process. H. Davis mentioned in the zoom chat that Wisconsin Family Ties was not notified about the budget proposal process and that he did not know of representation from children and families. He also mentioned that the emergency department process has been and still is a traumatic experience for children and families. B. Beckert mentioned in the Zoom chat that the process did not include people with lived experience and advocates.

J. Robertson mentioned that there is a crisis intervention workgroup with five smaller subgroups that work on specific priorities such as law enforcement. H. Davis asked if there could be something like peer run respite for families and

asked that individuals email him if they know of anyone who is an expert in peer run respite. H. Davis said it would be nice to have a respite program that isn't full separation of children from families. C. Hester mentioned that she got through page three of five of the budget proposal and will send this to M. Johnson to distribute. R. Immler mentioned the importance of access to the DBT treatment. C. Hester introduced 988 which is a nationwide mental health crisis line. C. Hester mentioned this is not just a suicide line, but a line for any mental health crisis.

Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates

J. Robertson provided an update on 988 stating that calls will be routed through national suicide lifeline center and will route back call to closet lifeline to where the person is calling in Wisconsin, but this does not work for all phone providers. J. Robertson stated that the statewide advisory committee started in November and earlier this month, they received a 988 state planning grant which is effective March 1st. J Robertson mentioned that 211 will be running the database for the statewide call center and there is one lead staff in BPTR organizing everything. C. Hester asked when the planning coalition starts and J. Robertson said in March. B. Beckert asked in the zoom chat if there is any documentation explaining 988 and J. Robertson stated there is a press release. T. Steinmetz said the press release has not been sent out yet, but M. Johnson can send it out. C. Hester asked J. Robertson if she could summarize the biggest challenge with crisis work and J. Robertson said having a single system where everyone could talk to each other like K. Coronado mentioned.

T. Steinmetz stated that in some states, 911 revenue goes back to the states, but in Wisconsin, the revenue goes back to the counties and this is a barrier. C. Hester mentioned that she shared the 988 implementation process and M. Johnson shared this with the group. J. Robertson told the group to google national suicide prevention lifeline if they want more information. T. Steinmetz stated that the state plan will be created once the technical assistance starts in March.

T. Steinmetz mentioned that Amanda Lake filled the Substance Use Services section chief position in the Bureau and now Andrea Jacobson is able to move into the Deputy Bureau Director position fulltime. T. Steinmetz also mentioned that Medicaid now covers substance use services in Wisconsin as of February 1st. In the zoom chat, K. Coronado asked if Tribes will be included in 988 and H. Davis asked if there is a DCTS directory by unit. T. Steinmetz mentioned that most counties have agreed to cover room and board for substance use services for individuals. T. Steinmetz also mentioned that there is an emergency COVID-19 grant with additional funding. R. Stachoviak stated that last April, the Division was awarded two million dollars for behavioral health services in response to the pandemic and we were able to fund providers across the state. R. Stachoviak additionally stated that this funding was extended from February 1st until May of 2022 for individuals experiencing SMI, SED or substance use disorders. T. Steinmetz responded in the zoom chat that Tribes will be included in the planning and rollout of 988 and that she will send the new directory to M. Johnson to share. T. Steinmetz also mentioned that the MHBG and SABG received additional one time funds for 2020-2022 (28.4 million dollars for the MHBG and 25.5 million dollars for the SABG). B. Beckert asked in the zoom chat if it would be possible to get this update in writing. T. Steinmetz said there could be additional funding still for the SABG and the MHBG.

3. Agenda Items for the March 11, 2021 Committee Meeting

C. Hester asked if there were any additional agenda items for the next Committee meeting and the Committee mentioned the Governor's budget address.

4. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00PM.

Prepared by: Maddie Johnson on 3/12/2021.

