

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: WCMH Legislative and Policy Committee		Attending: Committee members: Jeanie Verschy, Mary Neubauer, Crystal Hester, Justin Odulana, Rick Immler, Alice Sykora, Amanda Anderson, Kimberlee Coronado, Marc Herstand, Brian Michael, Barbara Beckert, Kit Kertschensteiner, Hugh Davis, Michael Lappen
Date: 3/11/2021	Time Started: 12:30PM	Time Ended: 3:00PM
Location: Zoom		DHS Staff: Maddie Johnson, Ryan Stachoviak, Andrea Jacobson, Joannette Robertson
		Guests: Lynette Studer (UW-Madison), Ramsey (Member of the public), Anya Nailen (NASW), Jordan Lamb (DeWitt Law firm), Delaney Collins (NASW), Jolene Plautz (WAMFT), Kathy Markeland (WAFCA), Dawn Crim (DSPA), Dan Hereth (DSPA), Linda Hall (Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health)
		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 February 11, 2021.

M. Neubauer moved to approve the minutes.

M. Herstand seconded this motion.

The minutes passed unanimously with no revisions.

B. Michel abstained.

Announcements

M. Herstand stated that March is Social Work Month and NASW has some upcoming webinars focusing on the impact of the COVID. M. Neubauer mentioned that the Milwaukee Mental Health Taskforce holds meetings the second Tuesday of the month – the next Meeting is Tuesday April 13th from 3-5PM. M. Neubauer mentioned that there will be presentations on the hospital system and behavioral health division. M. Neubauer stated they are looking for individuals who have received mental health services and incarcerated to complete a survey.

A. Sykora mentioned that there is news covering mental health needs for deaf and blind individuals and she shared this link with M. Johnson who shared this link with the LPC. K. Coronado mentioned that there is a free first responder training. J. Verschay asked who sponsored and developed the training. K. Coronado mentioned a blogger who is a first responder with a child on the spectrum who is offering the training. K. Coronado also mentioned that the [Dyslexia Guidebook](#) will soon be available for public comment and there will soon also be a guide released for parents and teachers.

L. Studer shared in the zoom chat that there is a [free event at the School of Social Work](#) with a speaker sharing information on black male suicide on 3.24.21. This is a public event at the School of Social Work that will be held on 3/24/21.

C. Hester said NAMI has tools to create more approachable websites for individuals with disabilities. A. Sykora mentioned that one accessibility challenge is being able to see the interpreter during zoom meetings that have a lot of attendees and that it might be a good idea to focus on the interpreter through a phone or iPhone. A. Sykora mentioned that she is able to pin the interpreter which helps.

B. Michel mentioned that the respite center is now open in Milwaukee and that there are warm line services for individuals in need. B. Michel shared the R&R House line (262-336-9540) which is available for veterans. B. Michel mentioned that there is a [federal grant opportunity](#) for MHA to support the creation of an advisory council and strategic plans for early childhood systems.

K. Coronado shared in the zoom chat a “Free Webinar Understanding Autism: A Guide for Milwaukee Area First Responders” which is on March 23rd from 6-8:30PM. To register, K. Coronado shared Officer Joseph Morgano’s email (Joseph.Morgano@milwaukeecountywi.gov).

B. Beckert mentioned that Disability Rights Wisconsin is conducting different trainings and she will share these updates with M. Johnson. B. Beckert also mentioned that there are voting bills that may prevent individuals from voting. A. Anderson mentioned that WAMFT is hosting a [webinar on working with transgender individuals](#). C. Hester mentioned pride month is in June and NAMI will be showing a film called Cured. C. Hester also mentioned that NAMI just had their Advocacy Online day.

WCMH Updates

R. Immler stated that the WCMH was hoping to partner with the SCAODA Ad Hoc workgroup, but this might not be the best fit so this will be discussed at the next WCMH meeting.

Public Comment

There were no comments.

K. Coronado shared in the Zoom chat the link to the current [print disability guidebook](#).

2. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action

Secretary Dawn Crim of the Department of Safety and Professional Services shared information on the Governor’s Budget including information on integrating opioid use treatment into their services. D. Crim also mentioned that the Governor’s Budget suggests investing in mental health services. D. Crim suggested considering the Governor’s Budget and the DSPS requests which includes improving technology and helping support more providers.

R. Immler introduced himself and shared that it is important that challenges with staffing and technology are being addressed. M. Herstand shared he is glad the Department is working to improve the licensure process. M. Herstand asked if they are looking for the authority to hire or for funding. D. Crim stated DSPS is looking for the authority to hire from the legislature. M. Herstand mentioned that it sounds like DSPS is trying to receive money to improve their computer system. A. Anderson shared her own experience with getting licensed and that it was a long process. A. Anderson also said WAMFT is looking for easier means to connect to DSPS. D. Crim said DSPS does not currently have a dashboard highlighting what providers are available.

K. Markeland has received the question asking why the need cannot be filled with limited-term employees. K. Markeland also asked if there is anything that highlights the current demand for providers and potentially how this has changed overtime. D. Crim mentioned LTES are great temporary employees, but the challenges are that there are no benefits with these positions and LTES are looking for permanent positions. D. Crim mentioned that DSPS has become a training center since many LTES leave to take full time positions. D. Crim

stated that full time employees allow individuals to retain expertise. D. Crim said they are working to collect this data.

D. Hereth mentioned that the call center receives 4,000-8,000 calls per week and that DSPS has added more LTE employees so now 81% of the calls can now be answered. D. Hereth mentioned that there are LTEs can be a quality concern if LTEs may not have the experience to understand different licensures. D. Hereth mentioned that around 246 licensures fall under DSPS.

M. Herstand asked what the next steps are for LPC. M. Herstand mentioned that it may make sense to meet with staff from the Joint Finance Committee. C. Hester asked if M. Herstand wanted to draft a letter. R. Immler mentioned he can share the previous letter with M. Herstand to look at. K. Coronado discussed in the zoom chat the importance of limiting barriers in the mental health system based off of her family's experience.

C. Hester stated this letter would be shared with the Council at the next meeting. C. Hester asked if M. Herstand could draft a letter and share this letter with M. Johnson who can share this letter with the Council. M. Herstand said he would try to attend the full Council meeting.

The Legislative and Policy Committee took a break.

K. Coronado shared information in the zoom chat on NAMI's upcoming Ask the Expert Series on March 25th.

Mark made a motion to approve and send the DSPS letter once the letter is written to the Wisconsin Legislature Joint Committee on Finance.

Jeanie seconded this motion

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Hester went through a DHS PowerPoint focused on the Governor's budget. The Committee discussed the benefits of expanding Medicaid and improving access to Behavioral Health Crisis Care. B. Beckert shared in zoom chat the importance of supporting positions at the new respite centers and B. Michel mentioned that most respite centers do not also have warm line services. M. Lappen discussed supporting Milwaukee Crisis Response. B. Beckert shared in zoom chat information on the "Milwaukee County Crisis Mobile Team Grant and the Milwaukee Trauma Response Team.

C. Hester mentioned additional funds for behavioral health services for the deaf and hard of hearing community. A. Sykora stated that many therapists do not have the knowledge to provide services to the deaf and hard of hearing community. A. Sykora also stated that individuals in the deaf and hard of hearing community may have experienced trauma from being unable to communicate with their family.

Crystal asked if LPC wanted to make a motion related to this. Ramsey asked how citizens can help. M. Neubauer asked if they can write a letter to the finance committee. C. Hester and A. Sykora stated this is a good idea. A. Sykora stated that the data for children with hearing loss is not the best, but about 500,000 individuals in Wisconsin have challenges with hearing. K. Kertschensteiner stated that in the letter, LPC should frame it as a motion instead of referencing the Governor's Budget.

Ramsey shared this in the zoom chat at a [news story](#) regarding the shortage of mental health services for the deaf and hard of hearing community.

M. Neubauer asked if A. Sykora would like to work on this letter with M. Neubauer and A. Sykora said yes. Ramsey said he would also be available to help. K. Coronado mentioned that she and Ramsey are on the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities.

M. Neubauer will contact a Representative to see if there is a Republican ally who will support this funding initiative. C. Hester continued to review the Governor's Budget including treating and preventing substance use disorders. R. Immler mentioned that substance use treatment has been underfunded. B. Beckert shared information in the zoom chat on the Substance Use Harm Reduction Programs Grant, the Medication Assisted Treatment Rate Increase, and the Medication Assisted treatment Expansion. M. Herstand asked in the zoom chat if the Governor's budget increases Medicaid rates for group therapy and K. Markland stated that there are rate increases, but she will see if this includes group therapy.

C. Hester then mentioned supporting children as part of the Governor's Budget as well as service for Justice-Involved individuals. M. Lappen stated in the zoom chat that FACT teams cost about \$1 million dollars more than MA reimbursement for 100 participants. C. Hester also mentioned linking law enforcement to behavioral health. Individuals continued to discuss the FACT teams in the zoom chat. K. Markland shared in the zoom chat "Mark - 90853 and 90849 (group psychotherapy are both on the list of codes - caveat is that they aren't committing to increases in any specific code."

B. Michel mentioned that there is the 988 grant for Wisconsin to focus on suicide prevention. Ramsey shared there are upcoming trainings on the Governor's budget. R. Stachoviak mentioned that DHS 75 is currently in the legislative committee to be reviewed. R. Stachoviak stated that the Division also just received notice of additional funds for the MHBG and SABG. The President signed another bill today that will provide additional funding.

3. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00PM.

Prepared by: Maddie Johnson on 7/12/2021.