

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

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| Name of Governmental Body: WCMH Legislative and Policy Committee | | | Attending: Committee Members: Marc Herstand, Barbara Beckert, Justin Odulana, Alice Sykora, Jeanie Verschay, Rick Immler, Mary Neubauer, Brian Michel, Kimberlee Coronado, Hugh Davis, Lynette Studer, Amanda Anderson, Kit Kerschensteiner DHS Staff: Maddie Johnson, Teresa Steinmetz, Sarah Boulton, Jason Cram, Caroline Crehan Neumann, Sarah Coyle Guests: Long Vue (State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA)), Jolene Plautz (Marriage and Family Therapist), Kathy Markland, Tracey Stanislawski |
| Date: 10/14/2021 | Time Started: 12:30PM | Time Ended: 3:00PM | |
| Location: Zoom | | | |
| Presiding Officer: Barbar Beckert | | | |
| Minutes | | | |

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

The Committee was called to order and attendees introduced themselves while also providing a short suggestion related to access and equity. B. Beckert mentioned Dr. Pat McManus from the Wisconsin Health Coalition. M. Herstand discussed an advocate. J. Odulana shared he retired from the University of Wisconsin. J. Odulana discussed how being in Madison teaches him more about access and equity. A. Sykora discussed how there is a new center at a university to support deaf and hard of hearing children.

R. Immler discussed the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health Medicaid presentation. K. Coronado – discussed importance of working with parents and helping them navigate services. Hugh Davis discussed the challenges parents face when navigating systems. J. Verschay mentioned the importance of peer specialists and giving people with lived experience a voice. M. Neaubauer discussed the importance of treating people as a whole and L. Studer mentioned LGBTQ Access.

2. Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates

T. Steinmetz discussed the reorganization of the Bureau including the new prevention section and 9 new ARPA staff. T. Steinmetz also mentioned that the Bureau is working on the Joint Finance proposals on topic areas including a substance use disorder platform, methamphetamine training grants (train providers in evidence-based practices) and medication assisted treatment expansion.

C. Crehan Neumann, crisis service coordinator, provided a 988 update. C. Crehan Neumann described the 988 program which will create a suicide hotline in Wisconsin where folks can call 988 when in crisis. C. Crehan Neumann stated that a coalition made up of stakeholders has been meeting since April. The Committee asked questions. C. Crehan Neumann mentioned that at the national level, they are considering how to incorporate the perspective of the deaf community. C. Crehan Neumann said she does not think there is exclusively someone who brings the perspective from the deaf community at the state level. C. Crehan Neumann said if anyone knows of other potential representatives, please email her.

J. Cram provided updates on the [Youth Crisis Stabilization Facilities](#). The Committee asked questions about the facilities. J. Cram then provided updated on Coordinated Specialty Care ([First Episode Psychosis](#)). The Committee asked questions about the CSC programs. T. Steinmetz stated five of the ARPA positions will be funded by other funding once the ARPA funding is done on September 30th, 2025.

Approval of minutes from September 9, 2021

J. Odulana made a motion to approve the minutes from September 9, 2021.

J. Verschay seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously

Announcements

J. Verschay shared some presentations being sponsored by the UW Madison- Psychiatry department. B. Michel mentioned that the peer-run respite is looking to hire peer-support specialists. K. Coronado mentioned she testified on Senate Bill 454 which focuses on reading difficulties in schools. Committee members share announcements in the zoom chat and via email.

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) Updates

R. Immler shared updates on the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health fall presentations including the presentation from Counties, the Division of Medicaid Services, the Department of Corrections, and the Division of Care and Treatment Center Facilities. M. Johnson mentioned that there was a Council Orientation meeting today.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action

R. Immler announced that B. Beckert and B. Michel are the new co-chairs of the Legislative and Policy Committee.

M. Herstand discussed three bills that impact providers. M. Herstand first discussed the delay in providers getting licenses. M. Herstand discussed more specifics of the bill. M. Herstand mentioned the Council had written letters related to the budget issues. M. Herstand stated it would be helpful if the Council could send a letter to Representative Horlacher and the Committee bills are AB217 & SB232.

R. Immler discussed the process of creating and defining a motion. R. Immler stated the Executive Committee can have a rapid response meeting to act on a motion on behalf of the Council.

M. Herstand made a motion that the Legislative and Policy Committee asks the Council to send a letter in support of AB217 & SB232 to Senator Mary Felzkowski and Representative Shae Shorwell cc'ing the lead sponsors of the bill. The letter should specifically recommend advancing the two bills so there can be a vote on the floor of the legislature.

M. Neubauer seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously

M. Herstand discussed the telehealth insurance requirement bill. M. Herstand mentioned there is a concern that insurance will stop covering telehealth therapy. Jolene mentioned stated there is wide support in the senate for telehealth. J. Plautz mentioned that the bill is not broad enough for the full mental health community. M. Herstand stated if individuals have a Republican senator, they should ask their senator to contact Senator Felzkowski and Representative Steffen.

M. Herstand made a motion that the Legislative and Policy Committee requests that the Council send a letter to Senator Mary Felzkowski and Representative David Steffen asking them to move forward

Senate Bill 306 and Assembly Bill 259 with the amendment to reimburse telehealth services at the same rate as face-to-face services.

L. Studer seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously.

R. Immler suggested that M. Herstand and J. Plautz made a bullet point list for contacting their legislatures. M. Herstand agreed. R. Immler asked if M. Herstand could meet tomorrow and M. Herstand said yes. M. Herstand stated he will share more information at the next meeting. M. Johnson asked R. Immler to share when the next rapid response meeting will be.

B. Michel reviewed the bill tracking sheet. B. Michel mentioned that when test strips are available, this changes individual use behavior (SB600). B. Michel mentioned there is also a bill to expand Medicaid (AB444 and SB439). B. Michel also mentioned that there is a bill that would allow psychology licensing to transfer between states (AB537 and SB534).

There was not time for the rest of the meeting agenda items.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00PM.

Prepared by: Maddie Johnson on 12/2/2021.