

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: WI Council Mental Health Criminal Justice Committee			Attending: (See member attendance below) Andrew Kennard, Ayesha Raheem, Monique Hicks
Date: 2/19/26	Time Started: 10:03 a.m.	Time Ended: 11:44 a.m.	
Location: Microsoft Teams			Presiding Officer: Juli Bliefnick

Minutes

Member attendance:			
x	Mary Delaney / <i>Erica L. Loomis</i> attended until 10:58 a.m. (Alternate)	x	David Mahoney
x	Juli Bliefnick co-chair	x	Stephanie Short
x	Shameeah Flowers: joined at 11:20 a.m.		
x	Julia Polk		
x	Susan Franzen		
	Matt MacLean		

1. Call meeting to order
2. Welcome and introductions
3. Review October minutes: Susan Franzen motions to approve, David Mahoney seconds, all in favor.
4. 2026 Meeting dates
 - a. Discussion regarding the poll that went out to CJC members. Wednesdays overall was the day that seemed to work best for the majority.
 - b. Dave Mahoney motions to move meetings to 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1:00-4:00p.m. All in favor, no opposition.
5. Committee membership updates
 - a. Rebecca Wigg-Ninham resigned from the committee.
 - b. Open co-chair position. Juli Bliefnick requested that any committee members interested please reach out.
6. Discussion: [Comprehensive Study of the Division of Adult Institutions Correctional, Mental Health, and Medical Practices with a focus on Restrictive Housing Final Report](#): Discussed the high rates of individuals who are incarcerated, both male and female, experiencing a mental health issue. Curious about how legislators will utilize this information. Generated ideas for how the CJC as an advisory committee help advocate and push for solutions to some of the issues, especially with upcoming elections. Susan Franzen shared a link: <https://www.edovo.org/>, which is a free resource provided on tablets for individuals who are incarcerated and family members/friends of those incarcerated who are interested to take courses to learn more about mental health. CJC members will review this resource further and will potentially make recommendations and advocate for this to be available for individuals incarcerated in WI after learning more, if appropriate.
7. Update: Feedback from the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health for the Criminal Justice Committee’s motion regarding stance on solitary confinement. Juli Bliefnick will update the motion based on the council’s recommendations and send out to the rest of the CJC for discussion
8. 15-minute break
9. Update on status of the Criminal Justice Committee’s strategic plan: Item #1: Julia Polk shared an update on the TAD statute and recent discussions about the status of expanding the target population for TAD to individuals with mental illness and the following links: [SB153/AB178](#), [SB837/AB847](#). It sounds like the bills will not be moving forward by next January. Will revamp item #2 on the strategic plan and make it more comprehensive. Juli will work on this and bring it back to the CJC at the next meeting in April. Item #3: Discussed current barriers to peer support for individuals who are incarcerated and progress that’s been made in this area as well. Want to make

sure to address inconsistencies that are still happening related to peer support for individuals both still incarcerated and also while on supervision in the community. Item #4: Discussed. Item #5: In process. Item #6: Juli will look into this further and bring information back to the April CJC meeting. Item #7: Remove. Item #8: will continue to work on these areas of the plan. Item #9: In process. Item #10: In process, will continue to work on these materials. Item #11: In process. Link shared: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/proposal/2025/-6461>.

10. Updates from the Wisconsin Mental Health Council

11. Additional committee updates

a. FREE and Wisdom:

- i. Annual summit is 4/16/26. Juli Bliefnick will share the flyer and registration once it's finalized. There will be a screening of a documentary on 4/15/26 as well.
- ii. There are some upcoming trainings as well.
- iii. Reentry simulation coming up in March.

b. MHAP:

- i. 2/20/26: Hosting a learning session about Chapter 51 with a presentation from 2 different counties that have different approaches to the emergency detention process. Registration: [Click here to register](#). Recording can be found at: <https://www.mhapwi.org/learning-sessions>.
- ii. NAMI WI Annual Conference, April 10-11: <https://namiwisconsin.org/get-involved/annual-conference/>

c. The Ladies of SCI: [DOC Friends & Family: Forums](#)

d. Discussed voter rights for individuals with a misdemeanor offence

12. Public comment

13. Announcements

14. Adjourn: Agenda complete and meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m. Shameeah Flowers motions to adjourn, Stephanie Short seconds, all in favor.

Additional upcoming events:

If you have questions about a specific event below, please reach out to the presenting organization.

- February 12-13, 2026: [Adolescent Health Symposium](#) (La Crosse)
- March 4, 2026: [We Heart You: Recovery in Our Community](#) (Oshkosh)
- March 7, 2026: [Mental Health Summit](#) (Milwaukee)
- March 12-14, 2026: [Wisconsin Psychiatric Association Spring Conference](#) (Elkhart Lake)
- March 13, 2026: [Help and Hope Conference](#) (Racine)
- March 19-20, 2026: [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Annual Conference](#) (Waukesha)
- April 10-11, 2026: [NAMI Wisconsin Annual Conference](#) (Appleton)
- April 13-14, 2026: [Wisconsin Maternal and Child Health Conference](#) (Wisconsin Dells)
- April 14, 2026: [Overdose Prevention Summit for First Responders](#) (Onalaska)
- April 15, 2026: [Overdose Prevention Summit for First Responders](#) (Wausau)
- April 16, 2026: [Overdose Prevention Summit for First Responders](#) (Oshkosh)
- April 17, 2026: [Supporting Clients Navigating Health Conditions: A Professional Symposium](#) (Virtual)
- April 20-21, 2026: [Peer Recovery Conference](#) (Wisconsin Dells)
- April 22, 2026: [Overdose Prevention Summit for First Responders](#) (West Allis)
- April 22-24, 2026: [Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals Statewide Conference](#) (Wisconsin Dells)
- April 23, 2026: [Overdose Prevention Summit for First Responders](#) (Madison)
- April 25, 2026: [Drug Take Back Day](#) (Statewide)
- April 27, 2026: [CommUnity Conference: Civic Health in Wisconsin and Beyond](#) (Madison, Oshkosh, Stevens Point, Dodgeville)
- May 8, 2026: [Bridging Health Equity Gaps in Wisconsin Communities](#) (Sun Prairie)
- May 14-15, 2026: [Circles of Life Conference](#) (Stevens Point)
- May 19-21, 2026: [WPHA-WALHDAB Annual Public Health Conference](#) (Wisconsin Dells)
- June 10-11, 2026: [Wisconsin Injury and Violence Prevention Summit](#) (Virtual)

- June 15-17, 2026: [Prevent Suicide Wisconsin Annual Conference](#) (TBD/Virtual)
- August 5-6, 2026: [Wisconsin Substance Use Summit](#) (Green Bay)
- August 5-7, 2026: [Great Lakes Motivational Interviewing Conference](#) (Madison)
- August 10-11, 2026: [CESA 5 Mental Health and Behavior Summit](#) (Wisconsin Dells)

Call for presenters

- Prevent Suicide Wisconsin Conference: [Workshop proposals are due February 13, 2026.](#)
- Crisis Intervention Conference: [Workshop proposals are due February 13, 2026, for first consideration, with a final consideration deadline of February 27, 2026.](#)
- Wisconsin School Counselor Association Annual Conference: [Workshop proposals are due March 2, 2026.](#)
- Mental Health and Substance Use Recovery Conference: [Workshop proposals are due March 11, 2026.](#)

Trainings

The trainings below are managed by the Behavioral Health Training Partnership at UW-Green Bay. Send questions about these trainings to bhttp@uwgb.edu.

- February 10-11, 2026: [Substance Use in Crisis Intervention](#) (Virtual)
- February 13, 2026: [Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk in Correctional Populations](#) (Virtual)
- February 24 and 26, 2026: [Suicide Prevention 201: Advancing Suicide Prevention & Management for Diverse Clients](#) (Virtual)
- March 5, 2026: [Reflective Supervision](#) (Virtual)
- March 10-11, 2026: [Assessing & Managing Suicide Risk \(AMSR\) for Outpatient Settings](#) (Virtual)
- March 12, 2026: [Crisis De-Escalation: Concrete Skills for Intervention](#) (Virtual)
- March 13, 2026: [Reducing Risk and Intellectual Disability](#) (Virtual)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has awarded Wisconsin \$203,670,005 for the first year of the Rural Health Transformation Program. [See the DHS plan for this funding.](#) We will share DCTS work under this effort in the coming months.

Current Grant Funding Opportunities:

- [Current Grant Funding Opportunities | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

Prepared by: Katelyn Blatter on 2/19/2026.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: