

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: WCMH Legislative and Policy Committee		Attending: Committee Members: Rick Immler, Marc Herstand, Jeanie Verschay, Crystal Hester, Barbara Beckert, Amanda Anderson, Kit Kerschensteiner, Brian Michel, Alice Sykora, Justin Odulana, Hugh Davis, Kimberlee Coronado
Date: 6/10/2021	Time Started: 12:30PM	Time Ended: 3:00PM
Location: Zoom		DHS Staff: Ryan Stachoviak, Maddie Johnson, Teresa Steinmetz, Andrea Jacobson, Alexa Nobis
		Guests: Anya Nailen, Jessica Barrickman,
		Presiding Officer: Crystal Hester

Minutes

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

- a. Welcome and Introductions
- b. Review and approval of the minutes of May 13, 2021

The committee started with introductions.

Review and approval of the minutes of May 13, 2021

J. Verschay moved to approve the minutes from May 13, 2021 as corrected.

A. Anderson seconded this motion.

The motion was approved. J. Odulana abstained.

Announcements

A. Anderson stated she will share the [WAMFT July Ethnicity webinar link](#) in the chat. C. Hester mentioned that NAMI just finished up a busy month.

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) Updates

R. Immler mentioned that the focus was on expanding BadgerCare and now the Council is focusing on the block grant application as this is time sensitive. R. Immler mentioned the Bureau has done a remarkable job in the pandemic, but the Council is working to expand the reach to move upstream. R. Immler stated there are tentative zoom presentations upcoming on June 30, July 7, and July 14. These presentations may have folks present from Minnesota and/or Medicaid. R. Immler stated that there is a tentative work group on June 18th from 8AM-9:30AM.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action

C. Hester stated that she does not have many updates about the budget as currently the budget is in the hands of the Joint Finance Committee (JFC). C. Hester has stated that the JFC will discuss mental health in the month of June. B. Beckert stated the DHS budget will be considered on Tuesday by the JFC. C. Hester mentioned that the JFC had talked about the DSPS budget items. B. Beckert mentioned it might be a good idea to mobilize this Committee and reach out to legislators and the JFC.

J. Verschay mentioned gratitude to DHS leadership regarding needs and stated a letter had been sent. J. Verschay mentioned reaching out again and stating that the LPC can provide any further information needed to the JFC. J. Odulana asked what parts of the budget will impact mental health and B. Beckert stated there was voting on investments in Mendota Mental Health Institute.

B. Beckert shared the [Joint Finance Committee schedule related to the Department of Health Services budget](#) in the zoom chat.

M. Herstand stated the Governor is threatening to veto the entire budget. M. Herstand asked if DSPS received funding for positions and the Committee discussed what had been passed related to DSPS. C. Hester believed she read this was approved. C. Hester stated we are waiting for them to discuss items next Tuesday, but asked if there is anything the Committee or other organizations want to do between now and next month. J. Verschay asked if it would be practical to send a follow-up letter regarding connecting with the JFC. R. Immler stated this is a good question and a summary letter was sent to all legislatures. B. Beckert mentioned the Committee could send a follow-up letter. J. Odulana mentioned that a follow-up letter seems reasonable.

M. Johnson mentioned that when emails are sent, legislators send automatic replies asking for home addresses, highlighting they may want to hear from their constituents. R. Immler mentioned that in order to release a letter, the WCMH Executive Committee would need to have a rapid response meeting. B. Michel discussed in the chat and on the zoom call that potentially the Committee or Council could release a press release. B. Michel also discussed concerns with the legislature's decisions around Medicaid expansion. J. Verschay asked if M. Herstand was thinking about saying something. M. Herstand stated you could write an OpEd in a major newspaper. M. Herstand also stated that the Capitol is now open and the Committee could hand deliver letters as well as ask to speak to someone on the spot.

M. Herstand agreed with B. Michel that it is outrageous that the Legislature is not accepting the federal Medicaid dollars. C. Hester mentioned the Capitol is open and Madison is lifting restrictions on mask wearing. C. Hester mentioned that this would not need Executive Committee approval since these letters have already been passed by the Committee. C. Hester mentioned she would be willing to hand deliver the letters and J. Verschay mentioned she is willing to help hand deliver a letter. J. Verschay stated we need to find a way to share this message. R. Immler mentioned an idea of hand delivering is a good idea. C. Hester mentioned she has time Friday or Monday. M. Herstand stated he has time Monday morning or afternoon. J. Verschay stated that Monday will work for her. J. Verschay stated to not lose the thought of a possible OpEd piece or release a letter to the public. M. Herstand stated potentially contacting the editorial board of the Journal Sentinel and see if they would write something this week about this issue. R. Immler stated if there is a press release, this needs to go through the full Council or a rapid response Executive Committee. C. Hester said thank you to R. Immler and M. Johnson for their work. C. Hester also stated that if individuals are able to share the message, this would be helpful.

C. Hester discussed other grants including a grant to school districts to provide mental health services. C. Hester also mentioned the school mental health aid to provide aid for school social workers. B. Beckert stated she posted the building related funding in the zoom chat. The Committee then took a 10 minute break.

C. Hester started a conversation on current bills. C. Hester discussed AB 332 which is for crisis training for police training and AB 333 to expand collaboration with emergency response and behavioral health. B. Michel mentioned AB 193 which provides grants to firearm coalitions to support suicide prevention. B. Michael also mentioned the bill prohibiting conversion therapy. B. Michael mentioned there is a bill for expanding free and charitable clinics. B. Michael mentioned a bill related to expanding mental health courts. B. Michael mentioned he brought up bill AB 279 which increase penalties for participating in a riot.

J. Verschay asked if Sun Prairie just banned conversion therapy. C. Hester mentioned there have been many city resolutions and the bill in the legislature would ban conversion therapy statewide. C. Hester stated that M. Herstand has been a major leader and there is a small coalition. M. Herstand mentioned that Fair Wisconsin may have been involved with the Sun Prairie decision. M. Herstand described his advocacy work around the issue of prohibiting conversion therapy. M. Herstand also stated he is involved in advocating against the transgender athlete bills. M. Herstand stated that the DSPS bill will likely pass which will allow out of state providers to temporarily practice in Wisconsin.

K. Coronado shared in the zoom chat facts on reading proficiency including that 64% of fourth grad students are not reading proficient in Wisconsin. K. Coronado specifically shared: "In Wisconsin, 64% of fourth graders are not proficient readers, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, with 34% failing to meet even the test's basic standard? Nationally, of the 42 states that report separate reading scores for black students, Wisconsin ranks dead last in reading achievement among black students, falling 31 places since 1992. In the same timeframe, reading achievement for Wisconsin white students has fallen from 6th to 27th, and Hispanic students from 1st to 28th. Wisconsin's kids deserve better! Representative Dittrich, State Senator Kathy Bernier, Senator Alberta Darling, Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt, & State Representative Joel Kitchens are co-sponsors of their Roadmap to Reading Success Act."

K. Coronado stated in zoom chat that there is a [bill related to School Resource Officers \(SROs\)](#).

M. Herstand also stated there are many antiracism bills across the county. B. Michel mentioned that this was just banned in Florida schools.

K. Coronado stated in the zoom chat: "The Department of Education Office of Civil Rights is asking for public comment. This is an opportunity to impact change! They are requesting information in the form of written comments that include information, research, and suggestions regarding the administration of school discipline in schools serving students in pre-K through grade 12. OCR solicits these comments to inform determinations about what policy guidance, technical assistance, or other resources would assist schools that serve students in pre-K through grade 12 with improving school climate and safety, consistent with the civil rights laws that OCR enforces, to ensure equal access to education programs and activities. OCR has promulgated regulations to implement civil rights laws and periodically provides policy guidance and technical assistance to clarify these statutory and regulatory requirements. Information received through this request may be used to assist OCR in Disabled children & Black and brown children are disproportionately restrained, secluded, suspended, expelled, & subjected to corporal punishment. It must stop! Please provide public comment & share this widely!

Comment here: <http://bit.ly/tellOCR>"

R. Immler asked about time sensitive items and that the Executive Committee is meeting June 28th. M. Herstand mentioned that each bill has a different timeline and that the transgender athlete bill is being considered next week. The Committee then discussed potentially convening the Executive Committee meeting. M. Herstand asked if the Council has taken a position on tele-mental health. R. Immler, R. Stachowiak, and M. Johnson were not sure if this had been mentioned.

K. Coronado asked if there could be support for fully funding special education. R. Immler asked about where Special Education funding is ask in the bill process. C. Hester stated she is not sure. R. Immler stated he believes the Council has not taken a position on telehealth in the last year and asked if it makes sense to make a statement. M. Herstand discussed where the telehealth bill is in the process.

K. Coronado shared in the zoom chat information on the WI Department of Public Instruction [2019-21 Biennial Budget](#), [2021-21 Biennial Budget](#), and additional information on the [2021-23 Biennial Budget](#).

R. Immler stated that it sounds like the topic may not be time sensitive, so it may make sense to draft a motion for the upcoming Council meeting. R. Immler also mentioned that he hasn't been tracking the bills. R. Immler asked if more is need for Criminal Justice bills beyond what the Council has supported, but B. Michel did not answer.

C. Hester asked what the next steps are. R. Immler stated that these topics should potentially be added to the agenda next month (tele-mental health and parity; special education). B. Michel stated that he had stepped away, but he believes that what the Council commutated around TAD funding is sufficient. B. Beckert mentioned that voter restriction bills are moving through the legislature including SB204 regarding absentee voting. B. Beckert mentioned SB205 for absentee voting in care facilities and group homes. B. Beckert also mentioned SB212 which prevents clerks from making small corrections to ballots. B. Beckert also mentioned there is a bill preventing individuals who work for advocacy organizations from being poll workers. C. Hester mentioned that NAMI released a press release.

K. Coronado shared in the zoom chat "Congress has introduced the Keeping All Students Safe Act (KASSA) because every child should be safe, protected and prepared to learn while in school. Sadly, that is not always the case. School data show that of the 101,990 students restrained or placed in seclusion at school— 78% were students with disabilities. Although Black students comprise just 15% of students, they represent 22% of students secluded and 34% mechanically restrained. We need the Keeping All Students Safe Act (KASSA) now! Learn more and email your Members of Congress now. Find info. at <https://www.copaa.org/.../COPAA-Urges-Congress-to-Take...> and www.stophurtingkids.com"

R. Immler asked if there are position statements from DRW on the website. B. Beckert stated there is an action alert on the website and other resources. B. Beckert mentioned another bill and shared info in the zoom chat: "HR 2767: To clarify the eligibility for participation of peer support specialists in the furnishing of behavioral health integration services under the Medicare program"

K. Coronado stated she shared info related to the Road Map to Reading Success map which is a bill to support reading for children in Wisconsin. K. Coronado also discussed the Student Resource Officer training bill. KASS Act (keeping all students safe act) which is a federal bill and 19 states still have corporal punishment.

B. Beckert shared in chat: "Disability Vote Coalition Action alert on voter suppression bills: <https://disabilityvote.org/2021/act-now-on-voting-bills-that-will-make-it-harder-for-people-with-disabilities-to-vote-2/>

Our new report on how limited access to DMV is a barrier to the ballot. "Getting There is Half the Battle: Wisconsin's Photo ID Law, Access to DMV Services, and the Fight for Our Freedom to Vote," https://allvotingislocal.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/LCCHR_AVL_report.pdf "

R. Immler mentioned that the Children and Youth Committee will not meet till early August so R. Immler asked if it would be helpful to have a motion related to the SRO bill. K. Coronado stated that she believes SROs should not be in school, but if they are, the do no harm philosophy should be the standard. J. Verschay thanked K. Coronado for her advocacy and reviewed the plan to bring the letter to the legislature. J. Verschay also mentioned that there is a suggestion to write an OpEd in a major newspaper. J. Verschay asked about generating more awareness around these issues. K. Coronado mentioned she works with the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities and that support persons have not been let in during hospitalization stays due to COVID-19.

C. Hester then mentioned the federal legislation topic and there was no comment. C. Hester then mentioned the agenda item discussion of pay for in-home workers. K. Coronado mentioned that in-home workers are paid

little and their travel expenses are not paid. K. Coronado also mentioned that her advocacy work today is not paid. C. Hester mentioned that these workers are a first responder. K. Kerschensteiner mentioned there is a shortage in caretakers because individuals can get better paying jobs. B. Beckert mentioned there is a paper on the JFC website. R. Immler asked what the action opportunity is. M. Herstand mentioned that an individual from Kids Forward may be able to answer this question. K. Coronado mentioned the importance of having a standard for mentoring. K. Coronado mentioned that she would like to take a look at the recommendations on the JFC website and potentially testify. C. Hester mentioned this sounds like a good next step. J. Odulana mentioned looking at the effectiveness of Zoom for community organizations. J. Odulana asked to push this idea to the Council and connect it to everything they are doing.

B. Beckert shared in the zoom chat “Kimberlee, I think this is probably the right paper for finance but still skimming it:

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/budget/2021_23_biennial_budget/bpbd/107_june_15/103_health_services_elder_and_disability_services

Here is a link to the page with the Governor's Task Force on caregiving Report:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/gtfc/index.htm>”

K. Coronado mentioned that social capital is missing in zoom meetings. C. Hester asked when meetings can happen and R. Stachowiak stated the state does not know yet. B. Beckert shared in the zoom chat that she hopes virtual zoom meetings will still be available for Committees in the future.

4. Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates

A. Jacobson mentioned that DHS 75 is currently in the Joint Committee for Administrative Rules and they are waiting on the outcome. A. Jacobson stated that the division is also waiting for SAMHSA to approve the funding plan and specifically about some exceptions. A. Jacobson that the division asked for ideas for how to spend the ARPA funds. A. Jacobson stated that any ideas can be emailed to Maddie. A. Jacobson stated that there is funding for professional development opportunities.

R. Immler asked if the CAA application can be shared with the Committees and Council. A. Jacobson mentioned she will check with T. Steinmetz.

5. Agenda Items for the July 8, 2021 Committee Meeting

J. Odulana mentioned zoom, tele-mental health, special education funding, and in-home workers as potential future agenda items.

B. Beckert shared in the zoom chat there was not a taskforce recommendation for caregivers of children under age 18.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00PM.