

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: Wisconsin Council on Mental Health - Legislative and Policy Committee		Attending: Crystal Hester, Barbara Beckert, Mary Neubauer, Jeanie Verschay, Chris Wirth, Kit Kerschensteiner, Alice Sykora, Kimberlee Coronado, Justin Odulana, Hugh Davis, Amanda Anderson, Amy Polsin, Phyllis Greenberger, Jack Spear, Rick Immler, Marc Herstand, Eleanor Mudesi, Jolene Plautz, Linda Hall, Kathy Markeland, Zoe Jackson, Teresa Steinmetz, Joyce Allen, Ryan Stachoviak, Joannette Robertson, Kenya Bright	
Date: 5/14/2020	Time Started: 12:30pm	Time Ended: 3:00pm	
Location: Meeting held via Zoom and Conference Call		Presiding Officer: Crystal Hester	
Minutes			

**Meeting of the Legislative and Policy Committee
May 14, 2020
12:30 pm to 3:00 pm
Meeting Held via Zoom and Conference Call**

Members of the Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) in Attendance: Crystal Hester, Barbara Beckert, Mary Neubauer, Jeanie Verschay, Chris Wirth, Kit Kerschensteiner, Alice Sykora, Kimberlee Coronado, Justin Odulana, Hugh Davis, Amanda Anderson

Members of the Children and Youth Committee (CYC) in Attendance: Amy Polsin, Phyllis Greenberger

Guests in Attendance: Jack Spear, Rick Immler, Marc Herstand, Eleanor Mudesi, Jolene Plautz, Linda Hall, Kathy Markeland, Zoe Jackson

Department of Health Services (DHS) Staff in Attendance: Teresa Steinmetz, Joyce Allen, Ryan Stachoviak, Joannette Robertson, Kenya Bright

Minutes

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

Review and approval of the minutes of April 9, 2020

K. Kerschensteiner moved to approve the minutes.

M. Neubauer seconded the motion.

Motion carried, minutes approved, K. Coronado abstained.

Announcements

L. Hall announced that next week on Thursday the Office of Children's Mental Health (OCMH) will hold a virtual listening session for youth around the state on

mental health. C. Hester announced that last week NAMI Wisconsin held Action Online. The event featured different speakers who shared their stories. A live Zoom community mental health panel was also held.

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) Updates

R. Immler discussed the upcoming WCMH meeting. The focus next week will be review of current challenges around the crisis intervention system. The Council is looking at finding ways of sharing information in the interim between meetings. K. Coronado discussed the need for keep WCMH going with its overall agenda, but also taking into account the COVID pandemic and those needs arising from the pandemic.

Public Comment

M. Herstand discussed ongoing efforts and proposed legislation that would ban conversion therapy. The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is proposing a ban for conversion therapy be placed in the conduct code for counselors. There is a final hearing on this proposed change to the conduct codes with the Examining Board. M. Herstand asked that the LPC consider making a motion to ask that the WCMH send a letter to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules endorsing the change to ban conversion therapy.

J. Verschay moved that the LPC request for the WCMH to send a letter to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules supporting a ban on conversation therapy be added to the code of conduct.

**K. Kerschensteiner seconded the motion
Motion carried unanimously.**

2. Committee Discussion

State Budget Discussion and Planning

C. Hester discussed updates from the advocates meeting with the DHS Secretary's Office. They shared that DHS is working in a very tight fiscal environment and the Department is anticipating a roughly \$7 million cut. As it pertains to budget recommendations the Secretary's Office is still supportive and encouraging of advocates making budget asks so that the state is aware of those asks and can plan for the future.

A. Sykora discussed a business plan that was added to the proposal for the budget proposal document regarding services for people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHOH). A. Sykora also discussed the increase in social isolation being experienced by many people who are DHOH as well because of the COVID pandemic. J. Spear added that the proposal also contains information about how we go about making changes as they are a difficult set of services to implement. J. Spear added that COVID is also impacting people with hearing loss as services have been transitioned to telehealth.

C. Hester reviewed the budget items discussed at the previous meeting. B. Beckert and J. Verschay are leads on Individual Placement and Support (IPS), and Brian Michel is lead on suicide prevention. Barbara, IPS with Jeanie. Suicide prevention, Brian Michel. Workforce development.

3. Combined Discussion with Children and Youth Committee

Members of the CYC joined the LPC for a continued discussion of budget priorities.

J. Allen provided the group with a briefing on the Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery (BPTR) activities and changes that have resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff have been meeting on regular basis, and has taken steps to develop guidance for telehealth services. BPTR has also looked at how these changes align or do not align with current Administrative Rules. The BPTR has also applied for an Emergency COVID-19 grant from SAMHSA to provide behavioral health services. The BPTR will also apply for a FEMA/SAMHSA Crisis Counseling Program grant. The BPTR issued a Grant Funding Opportunity for implementing a state-wide crisis counseling line. The BPTR has also made investments to 211 to provide crisis call center supports. K. Bright discussed the forming of an advisory committee for the Qualified Treatment Trainee project.

Members of the group discussed barriers based by DSPS regarding reciprocity and licensure. From conversations members of the LPC have barriers for DSPS include that they do not have hiring authority for positions, which necessitates the hiring of LTE's in many circumstances. Reciprocity issues are partly statute issues, but there are also communication issues which is confusing for applicants.

P. Greenberger provided an update on recent discussions from the CYC. C. Hester summarized areas that the LPC had discussed as priorities for the budget asks.

K. Markeland discussed that the School Mental Health Coalition has had discussions on some budget priorities as well including the need for the expansion of school mental health grants. K. Coronado discussed the importance of protecting special education laws. K. Kerschensteiner expressed interest in focusing on suicide prevention. M. Neubauer suggested that DHOH legislation be a piece to prioritize, the document should be reformatted. Need to prioritize DHOH, suicide prevention still requires a lot of work, come out with a prioritized list that can advocate for.

K. Coronado noted that group could also look at asks that have no dollar attached. P. Greenberger discussed continued support for wrap around services for children, in particular there is need resulting from the pandemic. H. Davis discussed the importance of funding for children's system of care initiatives.

C. Hester offered to create a framework for budget priorities but noted that people should continue to take the lead on those areas that they have signed up for to develop the budget priority for inclusion in the document.

4. Agenda Items for the June 11, 2020 Committee Meeting

Members of the LPC agreed to continue the budget discussion. B. Beckert will reach out to representatives from the Division of Medicaid Services to ask for a briefing from their Division.

5. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Prepared by: Ryan Stachoviak on 5/14/2020.

