

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: Wisconsin Council on Mental Health - Legislative and Policy Committee			Attending: Alice Sykora, Barbara Beckert, Justin Odulana, Amanda Anderson, Jeanie Verschay, Chris Wirth, Hugh Davis, Mary Neubauer, Kimberlee Coronado, Kit Kerschensteiner, Crystal Hester, Marc Herstand, Jack Spear, Rick Immler, Long Vue, Jolene Plautz, Ryan Stachoviak, Joyce Allen, Joannette Robertson, Sarah Coyle
Date: 7/9/2020	Time Started: 12:30pm	Time Ended: 3:10pm	
Location: Meeting held via Zoom and Conference Call			Presiding Officer: Barbara Beckert
Minutes			

Meeting of the Legislative and Policy Committee

July 9, 2020

12:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Meeting Held via Zoom

MINUTES

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

Guests in Attendance: Marc Herstand (National Association of Social Workers-Wisconsin Chapter), Jack Spear (Member of the Public), Rick Immler (Wisconsin Council on Mental Health), Long Vue (Wisconsin United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Associations), Jolene Plautz (Member of the Public)

Department of Health Services (DHS) Staff in Attendance: Ryan Stachoviak, Joyce Allen, Joannette Robertson, Sarah Coyle

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

B. Beckert chaired the meeting at the request of Committee chair C. Hester. B. Beckert brought the meeting to order and the attendees introduced themselves.

Review and approval of the minutes of June 11, 2020

A. Anderson moved to approve the minutes.

**K. Kerschensteiner seconded the motion. Motion Amanda
Motion carried, minutes approved.**

Announcements

J. Verschay briefed the group on emergency response coalition that is being comprised of a number of community organizations. A. Anderson announced an

upcoming Wisconsin Association of Marriage and Family Therapy ethics webinar focused on exploring diversity. B. Beckert announced that Disability Rights Wisconsin is sharing information regarding voting resources. It is also National Disability Voting Week; B. Beckert will share information regarding upcoming training resources regarding supporting voting.

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) Updates

R. Immler discussed the agenda for the upcoming WCMH meeting. At the recent Executive Committee meeting, the group had discussed the need for looking at access and equity.

Public Comment

M. Herstand discussed tele-mental health services. There continues to be a concern among practitioners that insurance will not reimburse for these services and many are experiencing barriers to enacting these types of services. M. Herstand expressed the importance of advocating for tele-mental health services with the Governor's office and the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance.

2. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action

B. Beckert introduced her budget priority regarding improving access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services, which she had sent out to the group. M. Herstand offered that an avenue would be for increased funding for the Qualified Treatment Trainee (QTT) program. B. Beckert suggested that the group on the QTT advisory committee could add a budget priority. J. Allen discussed other opportunities for funding for priority populations. One of the challenges of the granting process is that it does have to go through a competitive process, which does not allow for funding to go directly to one agency. It is also important to look upstream and engage partners such as Medicaid, and Medicaid providers. It is important for the group to look at what in the behavioral health system could be preventative in nature. Such as why do people who end up being served by the public behavioral health crisis system do not receive preventative services that could have been provided before necessitating a crisis intervention. R. Immler suggested that it was important for the LPC and WCMH to look at the historical perspective and the Medicaid perspective.

K. Coronado discussed the importance looking at the intersection of disability, and minority populations, especially in the school system. J. Spear discussed the concept of cultural and linguistic competency. J. Spear stated that he is not seeing that there is an effort to involve the educational system, such as graduate schools, to create significant focus on understanding what cultural and linguistic competency means and how to function from that perspective. Providers often do not understand cultural and linguistic competency other than to use it as a buzzword. L. Hall discussed that at recent listening sessions the Office of Children's Mental Health (OCMH) has been hearing about similar needs and the understanding of this being a challenge. K. Coronado noted the importance of leveling the playfield for all kids to learn to read.

B. Beckert discussed transportation as a budget priority area. Non-emergency medical transport (NEMT) is another area in the budget priority area and an area in need of improved performance measures. There was a new NEMT contract awarded, however there was an appeal to that decision. Members of the LPC discussed barriers and challenges with NEMT. Members of the LPC discussed the potential for further discussion and the benefit of a presentation on the

current NEMT situation.

Members of the LPC discussed housing as another priority area. Housing is of critical importance right now because of COVID-19. During the presentation from the Division of Medicaid Services last month, it was noted that there might be some options for addressing homelessness through Medicaid SPAs, but are there currently are challenges. B. Beckert provided updates on state budget process and noted that there is still a lot of unknowns given the anticipated cuts to the budget resulting from the pandemic.

H. Davis discussed whether there is a budget ask around telehealth should be considered? C. Hester volunteered to help out members discuss and work on something around the area of telehealth. H. Davis discussed that the Children and Youth Committee is also working on some budget areas that could be included in the final document. K. Kerschensteiner discussed budget priority discussions that the Criminal Justice Committee (CJC) has discussed. Areas that the CJC has supported are Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS) expansion, trauma training for both inmates and employees within the prison system, and creating a pilot project for Forensic Peer Specialists. B. Beckert also discussed the importance for continued support for Medicaid expansion. Members discussed that this should be an area to keep in the budget priority document, and Medicaid expansion should be highlighted in terms of its immediate importance in during the pandemic.

K. Kerschensteiner moved that the LPC should forward access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services, housing, and transportation as budget priority areas to the WCMH.

J. Verschay seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

K. Kerschensteiner moved that the LPC recommend to the WCMH that they continue to support the expansion of Medicaid, in particular given the COVID-19 pandemic.

M. Neubauer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

B. Beckert discussed concerns regarding changes to voting as a result of recent court decisions limiting voting to 14 days for early voting, and changes of residency requirements from 10 days to 28 days.

3. Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates

J. Allen provided a briefing for the LPC. As there is need to adapt service delivery during the pandemic providers must ask for waivers and variances if there are changes required to their services, for certified programs. Medicaid is continuing to reimburse for services. In some programs to provide telephonic services they do need a waiver or variance.

The Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery (BPTR) has been able to provide increased support for the Suicide Prevention line. J. Robertson provided a briefing. Family Services of Northwest Wisconsin was awarded funding through a Grant Funding Opportunity. The organization is now in the process of

implementing the program expansion and is becoming a lifeline member. It is planned that through this expansion Wisconsin will now be able to answer roughly 100% of the Wisconsin lifeline calls once the program is fully in operation.

R. Stachowiak provided a briefing on the Crisis Counseling Program. The state has received funding to implement the program through FEMA in partnership with Wisconsin Emergency Management. BPTR is partnering with the Wisconsin Community Action Program Association to implement the program. The BPTR has also applied for the Regular Services Program funding for this program that will provide these services for an additional nine months.

4. Agenda Items for the August 13, 2020 Committee Meeting

No additional agenda items were discussed.

5. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm