

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: WCMH Legislative and Policy Committee			Attending: Committee members: Justin Odulana, Jeanie Verschay, Nicole Ravens, Brian Michel, Barbara Beckert, Marc Herstand, Alice Sykora, Lynette Studer, Rick Immler, Kit Kerschensteiner, Amanda Anderson, Hugh Davis DHS Staff: Ryan Stachoviak, Teresa Steinmetz, Alexa Nobis, Maddie Johnson Guests: Mark Prodoehl, Barb Belling, Jody Ullman, Dennis Whitlow, Rebecca Rebholz, Jolene Plautz (Marriage and Family Therapist)., Julie Walsh, Oliver Wink, Kathy Markeland
Date: 1/13/2022	Time Started: 12:30PM	Time Ended: 3:00PM	
Location: Zoom			
			Presiding Officer: Barbara Beckert and Brian Michel

Minutes

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

B. Beckert called the meeting to order and Committee members introduced themselves.

Review and approval of the minutes of December 9, 2021

M. Herstand moved to approve the minutes of December 9, 2021.

A. Sykora seconded this motion.

The motion passed. A. Anderson abstained

Announcements

R. Immler mentioned that next Wednesday the 19th is the January Wisconsin Council on Mental Health meeting. A. Anderson shared February webinar information: "[Increasing Your Clinical Ability to Better Meet the Needs of Families Engaged in the Child Welfare System.](#)"

B. Michel shared that Mental Health America is planning for the Prevent Suicide Wisconsin conference in April and the conference calls for presenters and as well as Zero Suicide Training call for applications (which will be posted here: <https://www.preventsuicidewi.org/zero-suicide>). B. Michel also shared: "Additional Suicide Care Trainings hosted by UW-Green Bay Behavioral Health Training Partnership, registration information and course description available here: <https://www.preventsuicidewi.org/suicide-care-trainings> "

B. Beckert mentioned that the spring elections are for school board members county supervisors as well as circuit court judges. B. Beckert also mentioned that these elections impact people with mental illness. B. Beckert shared in zoom chat the [Spring Election Toolkit](#).

N. Ravens shared in the zoom chat: "Wisconsin Peer Recovery Conference, August 18-19, 2022 in Madison is also looking for presenters. Submissions can be entered here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8tQRWjCYK02tsBULRU2SkiULd49aEr9DID4kcHriaz5URDVDNkZHRVM0QTNIUEIBTjVZSTNNRzQ2WS4u> "

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) Updates

R. Immler mentioned that the WCMH is prioritizing strategic planning and considering items for the Department of Health Services (DHS) budget. The tentative date for strategic planning is February 23rd. R. Immler stated that there was a Criminal Justice Committee motion and a letter was sent in December to the Joint Finance Committee requesting additional staff at Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to process licensing applications.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Presentation from the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI)

The OCI conducted a survey of insurance companies regarding telehealth. J. Ullman shared the survey results. The majority of companies mentioned they expanded telehealth surveys during the COVID-19 pandemic. The most common expanded services were behavioral health as well as physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language therapy. OCI asked what type of services would remain in place after the pandemic is over and companies stated they would follow state and federal guidelines. The majority of companies said telehealth services would likely remain the same after the pandemic. Companies stated that the top issues with telehealth connectivity issues were not having access to a computer or smartphone. Most of the companies waived cost-sharing for tele-health services and most companies authorized services without prior authorization. Some companies expanded their networks and used existing networks to recruit telehealth providers. J. Ullman summarized that most companies expanded telehealth services.

J. Ullman opened up the presentation to questions. M. Hestand asked what can providers and the state do if insurance companies stop telehealth services after the pandemic. J. Ullman stated that most companies stated they will continue telehealth services after the pandemic. J. Walsh mentioned that Wisconsin does not have a telehealth law. R. Rebholz mentioned that if a person cannot access telehealth services, it is possible to send a complaint to OCI.

A. Anderson shared in the zoom chat: MFT's follow a few national organization guidelines:

<https://amftrb.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Proposed-Teletherapy-Guidelines-DRAFT-as-of-09.12.16.pdf> & https://www.aamft.org/Online_Education/Online_Therapy_Guidelines_2.aspx

N. Houdek mentioned that the OCI has issued a couple bulletins encouraging insurers to expand telehealth coverage. N. Houdek mentioned that in the Governor's budget there was a provision to create a telehealth parity law (this was not included in the final budget). R. Immler asked about assessing access to telehealth services and R. Rebholz mentioned that an outside vendor will be doing a market scan to assess access to telehealth services.

B. Beckert mentioned that OCI reported that some insurance companies did not have connectivity issues. B. Beckert questions how they arrived at this conclusion and that their data must not be complete. B. Beckert asked if choice for services (telehealth vs. in-person services) is being protected for individuals with private insurance. J. Ullman mentioned that connectivity issues were regional (urban Milwaukee area and northern Wisconsin). R. Rebholz mentioned that they would follow-up on complaints if individuals were unable to access services in-person and wanted to.

R. Immler shared in the zoom chat [the 2019 Wisconsin Behavioral Health System Gaps Report](#).

L. Studer asked if there are requirements around consumer satisfaction surveys and R. Rebholz said she didn't think so. R. Rebholz mentioned they are considering launching a follow-up survey. L. Studer asked how long does it take to resolve a grievance. B. Belling mentioned that the grievance must be resolved in 30 days unless

additional information is needed. B. Beckert mentioned increasing services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals and asked what are the obligations ensuring individuals understand their rights to have an interpreter. J. Walsh stated that insurance companies need to ensure there are services for everyone.

3. Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates

T. Steinmetz mentioned that A. Nobis will be supporting the Legislative and Policy Committee in place of M. Johnson. T. Steinmetz mentioned that S. Coyle will be staffing the Adult Quality Committee in place of A. Nobis. These staffing changes will give BPTR staff more flexibility in supporting the Council.

T. Steinmetz provided updates on budget requests from last year and where requests are now. T. Steinmetz went through the Governor's Budget. T. Steinmetz mentioned:

- A piece of crisis services went through with the budget, but the department did not receive the administrative rule authority. 10 million dollars were allocated to the first year of the biennium.
- The warmline Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO) was funded through ARPA dollars (the American Rescue Plan Allocation). B. Michel mentioned that the annual budget that was proposed in NAMI's stakeholder survey for a warmline is one fifth of the GFO provided. T. Steinmetz mentioned that the Crisis Intervention Training Grant went through (this amount was raised to 1 million dollars and added to the NAMI contract).
- The request for expanding behavioral health services was not approved.
- \$300,000 was added for a substance use disorder platform.
- The improved access to medication-assisted treatment was approved.
- Room and board for residential substance treatment was not covered, but funding was put out for counties to apply for funding from the opioid settlement for opioid treatment.
- Prevention services and psycho-social rehabilitation services did not go through the budget

4. Discussion of LPC Vision and Priorities

B. Michel mentioned that the priorities will focus around the state budget as well as access and equity. B. Beckert mentioned that sharing budget priorities with the Department of Health Services by May is important per T. R. Williams presentation to the WCMH Executive Committee. B. Beckert mentioned that this biennial budget is during an election year. B. Michel mentioned historically, the Committee has used documents to prioritize budget items. B. Beckert mentioned that L. Studer requested discussing DBT at the February Committee meeting. B. Beckert mentioned that it may be helpful to determine how to prioritize budget items. R. Immler mentioned that there was a needs assessment released in 2014 using a federal government tool to rank priorities. B. Beckert asked if a survey would be helpful for the Committee. J. Odulana mentioned that all of the Committee meeting materials were overwhelming. B. Beckert mentioned that please feel to reach out to B. Michel or herself or the Committee staffer with any feedback.

5. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action

B. Beckert discussed the Treatment and Diversion (TAD) Program bill and that there is a hearing on January 18th at 10AM. B. Beckert shared in the zoom chat: "Hearing: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1653624>

- Committee members 2021 Committee on Corrections (wisconsin.gov)
- Clerk Linda.Palmer@legis.wisconsin.gov "

B. Michel provided updates from the bill tracker:

- AB. 826 discusses the use of pepper spray from the Department of Corrections (DOC) and allows correction officers to use pepper spray without any restrictions. B. Beckert mentioned that DRW opposed this bill and the executive session is next week on January 18th. B. Beckert mentioned there is also a senate bill (SB 845).

- AB 828 went to the Committee on Corrections. This bill discusses additional compensation for correctional officers and uses ARPA funds. This bill will be discussed January 18th at the executive session.

The Committee also discussed voting rights and how people who have lost voting rights because of felony would have to pay fines which would result in disenfranchisement for folks with a mental illness.

M. Herstand discussed that the provisional licensure bill in the Assembly committee is stalled. M. Herstand said there was supposed to be a hearing in December. M. Herstand stated he will be trying to speak with Speaker Vos's policy person and anyone else can join him. M. Herstand also mentioned the complementary and alternative health care bill with an amendment allowing certain providers to not diagnose, but still provide treatment. M. Herstand stated that the ask will need to be to have the Governor veto the bill. M. Herstand also mentioned there is a bill with a hearing today in the Assembly providing equal reimbursement to social workers for providing substance abuse services and he hopes this bill passes.

6. Agenda Items for the February Committee Meeting

M. Herstand mentioned low payment of Medicaid for group services and how this is challenging trying to treat perpetrators of domestic violence M. Herstand stated he has an expert he could ask to come and speak. L. Studer will speak about DBT at the February meeting.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00PM.