

## OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: WCMH Legislative and Policy Committee			Attending: Committee members: Marc Herstand, Lynette Studer, Crystal Hester, Kimberlee Coronado, Kit Kerschesteiner, Alice Sykora, Justin Odulana, Amanda Anderson, Jeanie Verschay, Barbara Beckert, Hugh Davis,  DHS Staff: Ryan Stachoviak, Maddie Johnson, Teresa Steinmetz, Marina Navarro (Office Assistant Intern in DCTS), Andrea Jacobson, Alexa Nobis  Guests: Jessica Barrickman, Anya Nailen
Date: 8/12/2021	Time Started: 12:30PM	Time Ended: 3:00PM	
Location: Zoom			Presiding Officer: Crystal Hester
<b>Minutes</b>			

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

C. Hester started the meeting and Committee members introduced themselves.

*Review and approval of the minutes of July 8, 2021*

**K. Kerschesteiner made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 8, 2021.**

**A. Anderson seconded this motion.**

**The motion was approved. K. Coronado abstained.**

#### *Announcements*

C. Hester stated this is her last meeting chairing the Legislative and Policy Committee and she is resigning from her position at NAMI. The Committee members thanked Crystal for her time and wished her good luck. B. Beckert announced that the Mental Health Taskforce is having the annual Mental Health Task Force 2021 Karen Avery Forum: Celebrating Recovery, Ending Stigma, Embracing Possibilities .on September 14<sup>th</sup> and the forum is focused on substance use. B. Beckert shared the [registration link](#) in the zoom chat. A. Anderson shared the Wisconsin Association for Marriage and Family Therapy's 2021 September [Virtual Conference](#). H. Davis discussed the Children Come First Conference on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at the Kalahari Convention Center. K. Coronado stated that FCC//FEMA will test their broadcasting system for 30 minutes at 2PM. M. Johnson stated that there is an WCMH Executive Committee Rapid Response meeting next week to review the Block Grant application.

#### *Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) Updates*

K. Coronado stated that the Council membership is almost full. M. Johnson shared information on the Block Grant Application which is due on September 1<sup>st</sup>. M. Johnson also shared information on the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health fall tour, including the Division of Care and Treatment Services Facilities presentation on September 14<sup>th</sup> and the full Council meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

T. Steinmetz stated there was a quick turnaround on the Block Grant Application so the application is similar to the past, but the Bureau is open to any feedback.

K. Kerschesteiner stated that DRW was approached by the Governor to be the CAP and there are two public hearings. B. Beckert shared this link in the chat information on the [CAP public hearings](#). Other information was shared in the zoom chat below:

**“Hearing Dates and Locations:**

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Conference ID: 461 071 516# or calling 1-608-571-2209, 461071516#

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Room 106 (Board Room)

2811 Agriculture Drive

Madison, Wisconsin 53718

Or Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Conference ID: 838 466 7# or calling 1-608-571-2209, 8384667#

The Department invites the public to attend the hearing and comment on the proposed redesignation. Following the public hearing, the comment period will remain open until September 1, 2021, for additional written public comments. Comments may be sent in writing or by email to David Woldseth in the Division of Trade and Consumer Protection via email to [davida.woldseth@wisconsin.gov](mailto:davida.woldseth@wisconsin.gov).”

*Public Comment*

There was no public comment.

## **2. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action**

C. Hester stated that there is an opening for an LPC chair position. J. Odulana suggested putting together a job description. C. Hester mentioned there is likely a job description and C. Hester stated she will find the description, update the description, and send the description to M. Johnson. C. Hester stated she would like to see more youth on the Committee and a youth could be a Committee chair. M. Johnson will add the LPC open chair position to the next Executive Committee meeting agenda.

C. Hester stated that there was presentation from the Department of Health Services around budget items and she provides a summary of the budget issues including access to behavioral health issues, behavioral health training provider grants, and the child psychiatry concentration line. C. Hester also stated the Governor’s proposal supports youth, but the OARS Program was left out of the budget as well as less funding for the TAD Program. B. Beckert mentioned that the funding for the deaf and hard of hearing was not included in the budget. B. Beckert wondered if block grant and ARPA funding could support this issue. T. Steinmetz mentioned it is challenging to use ARPA funding for programs that need to be funded long term because this is temporary funding. T. Steinmetz mentioned that the ARPA Funding will be primary dedicated to crisis services. B. Beckert stated that the deaf and hard of hearing community also uses crisis services. C. Hester stated this issue will continue to be a focus at the workgroup.

M. Herstand mentioned the underfunding of DSPS which has delayed the process of provider applications for mental health service. M. Herstand stated the budget only included two aspects from the recommendations. M. Herstand stated he receives many calls related to this issue. M. Herstand stated he met with Governor staff about this issue. L. Studer stated she had three students who graduated in May who focus on DBT. L. Studer stated that all three students received job offers, but these students have not been licensed yet. M. Herstand stated if they are members of NASW, they should call him for assistance. C. Hester stated this issue has been

raised before and there was a letter written to the Governor's Office. C. Hester asked how many vacancies there are at DSPS compared to other department and M. Herstand stated he did not know. T. Steinmetz stated that all state agencies are seeing vacancies. T. Steinmetz mentioned that DSPS requested nine new staff and received two new staff. T. Steinmetz also stated that DSPS has the funding, but does not have the authority.

A. Nobis shared in the zoom chat the [Illinois removed the licensing exam](#) for those graduating with BSWs or MSWs. As an FYI -- Illinois just removed the requirement for those who graduate with BSWs or MSWs to take the licensing exam.

A. Anderson stated she waited six months to get licensed and she knows other who had to wait just a long or longer. M. Herstand stated there is a legislative partial fix that could pass. M. Herstand stated there is a provisional licensing bill which allows individuals to get a provisional license. M. Herstand stated this may be something the Council wants to take up. C. Hester stated she received many number of emails related to various bills. B. Beckert stated she needs to leave for another meeting, but she has shared updated on voting bills

The Committee took a break.

K. Coronado shared in the chat: "The Reading Roadmap to Success. AB 446/SB454  
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/proposals/sb454>"

M. Herstand discussed parity coverage of mental health services. M. Herstand stated he testified on a bill related to this issue. M. Herstand stated it is unlikely this bill will move out of the senate. M. Herstand stated he is meeting with a Republican senator in September regarding a more narrow bill only focused on tele-mental health. M. Herstand also mentioned the critical race theory bills. C. Hester asked for M. Herstand to explain critical race theory. M. Herstand mentioned that critical race theory discusses the impact of structural racism on our society. M. Herstand the bill may suppress the discussion of race and American history.

L. Studer shared in chat: <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/what-is-critical-race-theory-and-why-is-it-under-attack/2021/05>

M. Herstand stated critical race theory bills are presented all over the county and some bills have already passed. A. Sykora stated she was watching CNN and they discussed the census. A. Sykora stated the number of white people has dropped significantly and that diversity is increasing. A. Sykora stated that the number of white people living in cities is more than in rural settings. A. Sykora stated the Republicans have been controlling the country based off of these two factors, but these two factors are changing. M. Herstand stated learning and growth is important as there are immigrants coming to Wisconsin from countries we know nothing about. M. Herstand stated the WCMH took action on the alternative health care bill, but it might make sense for the Council to take action on the tele-mental health bill (likely in late fall or early winter).

C. Hester stated there is no federal legislation on the agenda.

#### **4. Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates**

T. Steinmetz stated DHS 75 (substance use services administrative rule) has made it through the JPRAR with no action. The next step is for the bill to go thru the LRB for final review. No action was taken – should be released within the next few months

T. Steinmetz stated the final ARPA plan was submitted July 2. Needs spent – sept 1 2021, sept 30 2025; this is only 1 time funding – focused on COVID related behavioral health needs in Wisconsin; T. Steinmetz stated

these arpa dollars spending – determined with the Governor’s Office and secretary office as there are ARPA dollars for many programs (not just block grant).

M. Herstand shared in chat AB 259 and SB 306 are the tele-health bills.

T. Steinmetz stated that the plan was to focus on initiatives that were not supported in the budget. T. Steinmetz stated supplemental county funds crisis services.

SABG- many funds going to counties and tribes based off of opioid epidemic. All supplemental funds must meet block grant set asides. T. Steinmetz stated individuals are working on alternative ways to fund 988. Wanting to support 5 regional stabilization facilities (since these were not supported in the budgets). Better access statewide – regional crisis stabilization; lots of funding will need to be open to counties and organizations to apply; 2 million SABG ARPA – funding going into crisis. T. Steinmetz also stated that harm reduction services are funded. T. Steinmetz mentioned expanding the stateline warm line. T. Steinmetz stated there is some funding for telehealth expansion and the children’s system. T. Steinmetz stated there is a press relief for ARPA funding. M. Herstand asked if there is funding for support for police officers (i.e. crisis services and professionals/social workers joining police). T. Steinmetz stated that all peer run respites who applied were hired.

## 5. **Agenda Items for the September 9, 2021 Committee Meeting**

C. Hester stated will not be here next month and M. Johnson stated the open chair position may need to be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

This information was shared in the zoom chat:

Keep All Students Safe Act <https://www.murphy.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/what-theyre-saying-the-keeping-all-students-safe-act> and Counseling; Not Criminalization in Schools Act Bills <https://pressley.house.gov/media/press-releases/support-grows-counseling-not-criminalization-schools-act>

## 6. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00PM.