

## OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) - Criminal Justice Committee (CJC) Meeting			Attending: Mary Delaney, Matt MacLean, Brain Michel, Emily Smiley, Mike Soukup, Chis Zahn, Dennis Hanson Guests: Kevin Kallas, Michelle Larson, Staff: Becci Main, Suzanne Williams
Date: 6/9/2021	Time Started: 10:00am	Time Ended: 11:49am	
Location: videoconference			Presiding Officer: Tamra Oman
<b>Minutes</b>			

### Draft June 9, 2021 Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by co-chair Tamra Oman. Welcome and meeting introductions shared. Meeting guidelines reviewed (attachment). April 2021 meeting minutes approved.

#### 2. Criminal Justice Committee Business

##### a. Initiatives update by Dr. Kevin Kallas

Presentation (attachment):

- DOC has an improved website that includes interactive dashboards. DOC has developed statistics in the past year or so. The pandemic drastically decreased admissions. This has eased the overcrowding in both DOC facilities and jail. Vaccination status is included in the dashboard (currently about 63%). Recidivism rates are also available.
- Change in sentence structure, convictions before 2000 versus after 2000. Prevalence of mental illness is about 40% of the population. There is an increase in individuals with mental health needs, but not serious mental illness. The most common diagnoses for the male population are depression, anxiety, and adjustment disorder. 90% of the female population is on the mental health caseload. PTSD is the most common mental health disorder in the female population. There are significant stresses associated with incarceration, but it can also be stabilizing for some individuals. Suicide and homicide rates have decreased in jails and prisons. Homicide is very rare, prisons have become much safer. Leading causes of death in prisons is medical illness (cancer, heart disease, liver disease). Treatment types are mental health and recidivism based including psychotherapy, psychotropic medication (provided at all major facilities). There are dual diagnosis programs that are residential at 3 facilities. Most care is rendered out patient. Facilities have a special management unit. Current initiatives include telehealth services, Crisis Intervention Partners (CIP), Certified Peer Specialists (CPS), and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT). Challenges include restrictive housing, staff vacancies, and staff recruitment and retention. The number of inmates in restrictive housing is decreasing. Transgender care is being incorporated.

##### • Community Corrections:

8 statewide regions. Each region has a psychologist for evaluations. When released to community individuals have access to 90 days of medication. Most treatment is provided by community providers. There is a decrease in admissions due to revocations. Tamara will provide the additional updates in future meetings.

##### b. Committee Membership update (applicant, attendance) provided by co-chairs:

Tabled. There is one application.

##### c. State budget and supplemental funding

Brian Michel:

- Joint Finance Committee will be meeting 6/10/2021. Link provided in Zoom chat.
- The State has an open GFO for peer specialists including specialists that specialize in forensics or justice involved individuals.
- There has not been many items the legislature has approved from the Governor's budget.

## d. Legislation tracking:

Brian Michel:

- No movement in the last few months. There is a bill eliminating claims against LE officers and a bill pushed forward that increases penalties for riot and unlawful assembly.
- There is a federal bill to increase availability of peer support specialist and include under Medicaid billing

1

## e. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

- Review resources.
- Discussion regarding training in correctional facilities. Training is currently being provided to DOC management.

## f. Updates and announcements from the WMHC and committee members:

Tamara Oman:

- Free Campaign is celebrating its five year anniversary. The program was developed out of the idea of re-entry and reform not addressing many gender specific issues (financial, vocational, parenting, housing, etc.). The program is working on reunification with children. The anniversary celebration will be in Altoona on 6/26/2021. Women will be attending who have formerly been incarcerated. This event will provide an opportunity to see the value of the work being done by the program and the impact it has had on families.

Chris Zahn:

- St. Vincent DePaul is in the process of opening an eight bed transitional living program for women. There are also 4 stores that can provide employment skills in a safe environment that is component with behavioral health systems.

## g. Public Comment: None

## h. Comments from the public relating to any committee business: None

## 3. Review proposed Agenda items for August 11, 2021.

- Email Jamie McCarville with ideas for agenda items, [Jamie.McCarville@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jamie.McCarville@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

## 4. Adjourn 11:49 PM

Website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wcmh/executive.htm>

Prepared by: Jamie McCarville on 7/21/2021.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 8/11/2021