

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

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| Name of Governmental Body: WCMH Legislative and Policy Committee | | | Attending: Committee members: Barbara Beckert (alternate), Marc Herstand, Justin Odulana, Brian Michel, Jeanie Verschay, Kimberlee Coronado, Kit Kerschensteiner, Mary Neubauer (alternate), Rick Immler (ex officio member) DHS Staff: Maddie Johnson, Holly Audley, Ryan Stachoviak, Alexa Nobis, Gynger Steele, Teresa Steinmetz, Kenya Bright, Sarah Coyle Guests: Jessica Barrikman (Wisconsin Council on Mental Health – WCMH), Nicole Ravens (Independent Living Resources, Inc.), Jolene Plautz (Marriage and Family Therapist) |
| Date: 11/11/2021 | 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. The meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Review and approval of the minutes of October 14, 2021

M. Herstand moved to approve the minutes of October 14, 2021.

K. Kerschensteiner seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) Updates

R. Immler shared there was a WCMH presentation from Wisconsin NAMI, Wisconsin MHA, and MN NAMI. R. Immler also stated that the meeting is November 17th and R. Immler will be giving a report from the chair as well as having a discussion about next steps relate to Access and Equity.

2. Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates

H. Audley and G. Steele provided updates on the facilities G. Steele discussed staffing shortages at the facilities and strategies for addressing these shortages. H. Audley expanded on the shortage of nursing positions. H. Audley discussed advertising strategies for these positions. The Committee members asked questions. G. Steele mentioned that they are working to make the facilities a destination workplace.

T. Steinmetz provided updates on the Bureau of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery. T. Steinmetz mentioned that DHS 75 was published on October 25th, 2021. T. Steinmetz mentioned that this rule does not go into effect until October 2022. T. Steinmetz stated the Bureau is hosting technical assistance calls to implement DHS 75. T. Steinmetz mentioned there is also a DHS webpage and email for questions about DHS 75. T. Steinmetz mentioned the Federal Health and Human Services budget was proposed mentioned that the Substance Abuse Block Grant will now have a new set-aside amount (10%) focused on recovery supports. K. Bright provided updates on peer programs. K. Bright stated that peer-run recovery centers received additional \$30,000 supplemental funds. K. Bright mentioned that the peer-run respites were also expanded. K. Bright also mentioned that the ARPA funds are funding a statewide warm line to provide active peer support. K. Bright

also mentioned that there have been train the trainer programs. K. Bright said that the Bureau is adding an ARPA Project Coordinator. The Committee asked questions.

3. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action

M. Herstand shared that the provisional licensure bill passed out the Senate Committee and there has been no action in the Assembly.

M. Herstand discussed a survey of insurance companies from the Office of Commissioner of Insurance which asks insurance companies about their willingness to continue covering tele-health in the future. M. Herstand mentioned that this survey focuses on insurance company willingness to continue tele-health services. M. Herstand is wondering if the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance can come to the next meeting to share information on the survey. M. Herstand will send out the initial invite to the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and CC M. Johnson. The Committee may invite the speaker for December or January. The Committee continued to discuss strategies to address the telehealth bill. The bills being discussed are Senate Bill 306 and Assembly Bill 259.

B. Michel mentioned the bill prohibiting conversion therapy. M. Herstand stated the legislature has until the end of the session to vote on one this rule. The bills are AB 312 and SB 326. B. Michel mentioned AB 592/SB 562 which requires Wisconsin Department of Health Services to seek approval from the federal government to expand medical assistance for postpartum women. B. Michel mentioned SB 668 about mental health screening and maternal mental health screenings and requests DHS to develop standards and best practices for maternal mental health services. B. Michel mentioned AB 668 which would create a DOJ and DHS grant for suicide prevention training for law enforcement officers. B. Michel mentioned he could share the bill tracking document with M. Johnson to share with the group. K. Coronado mentioned that SB 454 which is the reading readiness plan that was vetoed by the Governor. K. Coronado mentioned that Wisconsin has the worst achievement gap in the country.

B. Michel mentioned that the federal government released a [veteran suicide prevention strategy](#).

B. Beckert mentioned that the Legislative and Policy Committee brings perspectives from various member organizations. B. Beckert mentioned that the Grassroots Empowerment Project no longer exists and that the Committee consider adding another peer-led agency to the Committee to provide that perspective. The Committee continued to discuss the membership guidelines and the Council bylaws. The Committee discussed that the [LPC Membership Guidelines](#) is not a standing document of the Council, so LPC has the ability to develop this document. N. Ravens from Independent Livings Center shared some information about herself and that she is a Certified Peer Specialist. N. Ravens stated she is interested in serving on the Legislative and Policy Committee.

M. Neubauer nominated Nicole Ravens to the Legislative and Policy Committee as a representative from the Independent Living Resources, Inc.

J. Verschay seconded this motion

This motion was passed.

Announcements:

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

B. Michel stated the Legislative and Policy Committee will keep meeting virtually. B. Michel asked Committee members to email any potential agenda items to M. Johnson

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00PM.

Prepared by: Maddie Johnson on 12/9/2021.

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