

## OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: WCMH Legislative and Policy Committee			Attending: Committee members: Barbara Beckert, Rick Immler, Mike Lappen, Justin Odulana, Crystal Hester, Mary Neubauer, Brian Michel, Jeanie Verschay, Marc Herstand, Alice Sykora, Lynette Studer, Amanda Anderson, Hugh Davis, Kit Kerschensteiner  DHS staff: Maddie Jonson  Guests: Linda Hall, Pie Intern, Bree Carey Baylor, Anya Nailen, Kathy Markeland, Jessica Barrickman
Date: 7/8/2021	Time Started: 12:30PM	Time Ended: 3:00PM	
Location: Zoom			
			Presiding Officer: Crystal Hester

### Minutes

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

##### *Welcome and Introductions*

The Committee members introduced themselves.

##### *Review and approval of the minutes of June 10, 2021*

J. Odulana asked for more specific details in the meeting minutes, for example, expanding on what made a month busy.

**J. Odulana motioned to approve the minutes from June 10, 2021.**

**A. Anderson seconded this motion.**

**The motion passed. M. Lappen and Mary Neubauer abstained.**

##### *Announcements*

C. Hester shared that July is [minority mental health awareness month](#). A. Anderson shared the [July ethics webinar](#). R. Immler stated that the first psychiatric residents graduated from graduation in Wausau, WI. B. Beckert shared that Karen Avery Forum hosted by the Milwaukee Mental Health Taskforce is happening in the fall and she will share registration info when it becomes available. B. Beckert shared these details in the zoom chat: "Save the Date Celebrating Recovery, Ending Stigma, Embracing Possibilities Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force 2021 Karen Avery Forum and Awards Presentation- Tuesday, September 14, 2021 2:30 – 5:30 PM - virtual event via Zoom"

L. Hall stated there are two listening on July 20<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup> through the Office of Children's Mental Health and registration information can be found [here](#). M. Lappen stated that the mental health emergency center – Milwaukee county behavioral health system and 4 local health systems – has been approved and he shared [this link with more information](#) in the zoom chat.

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

R. Immler stated that the Council is close to full membership and that the July meeting will focus on the block grant application. R. Immler stated the block grant application was released late and that last year the Council shared broad concerns about the mental health block grant and mental health system. The Council will either need to respond on July 21<sup>st</sup> or in a rapid response meeting. R. Immler stated there is an access and equity workgroup next week and that zoom meetings are no longer occurring this summer. R. Immler discussed that the Council will be hearing more about the institutions potentially in the fall pending Council approval. M. Johnson shared that the DHS Secretary's Office presentation on access and equity initiatives is happening at

the full Council meeting at 10:30 on July 21<sup>st</sup>. B. Beckert asked for the WCMH meeting notice and M. Johnson said she will send out the meeting materials tomorrow

J. Odulana asked if the Council would be willing to hear about the impacts of zoom. R. Immler stated that for Council members who are far away, it makes sense to have zoom as an option. R. Immler also said the past zoom presentations in the fall were helpful. R. Immler said the Executive Committee has to ask about the public health implications of zoom meetings.

### *Public Comment*

There was no public comment.

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

C. Hester stated the Governor signed the budget today. B. Beckert shared in the zoom chat “Here is a link to [Governor Evers veto message](#) if people did not see it yet.”

M. Herstand mentioned that there are delays in licensing approval for providers. L. Studer mentioned in the chat : “It is the number one issue for MSW graduates, both current and the ones that are now applying for LCSW.” M. Herstand stated that DSPS is hoping to hire additional staff. B. Beckert stated that there are possibilities for Governor vetoes.

C. Hester discussed that staffing at peer-run respite is a priority for NAMI. M. Herstand discussed sending a letter related to a bill to be sent to the Assembly Committee on Health by July 29<sup>th</sup>. M. Herstand will send out legislative testimony regarding this bill. M. Johnson stated she will share the motion template with the Committee and Council. K. Markeland shared the [link to the bill](#) M. Herstand discussed. C. Hester mentioned that this is a bill that the Council has voted against in past legislative sessions.

**J. Odulana made a motion that the LPC recommends M. Herstand write a letter for approval by the full Council requesting amendments to bill AB86. The recommendation is that this letter will be sent to the Assembly Committee on Health.**

**J. Verschay seconded this motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**B. Beckert** discussed the voting bills passed in the senate and the assembly which will place limits on absentee voting. M. Herstand stated the importance of re-framing the issue about protecting voting rights and how this is not a partisan issues.

B. Beckert shared [a report about local voting](#) in the zoom chat. C. Hester mentioned that a park bench can be a voting location. C. Hester stated that we need to advocate all year. K. Kerschenstein mentioned bill AB 228 which is about the the ability to stop due process while an individual being detained is experiencing a physical health issue. L. Hall stated in the zoom chat that this is also referred to as the 72 hour hold bill. B. Beckert shared a link to bill [SB239](#) in the zoom chat. B. Beckert stated in the zoom chat “excluding time for evaluation and treatment of certain medical conditions from the time limit for emergency detention without a hearing” The Committee continued to discuss bills related to 72 hour holds. B. Beckert shared a link in the zoom chat related to [SB239](#). B. Beckert mentioned if there are other organizations who lobby, it would help if other organizations could register on IM lobbying.

M. Herstand mentioned concerns that insurance companies may drop tele-mental health. M. Herstand stated that there is needed legislation to require tele-mental health. C. Hester mentioned that NAMI is working to share information about the 988 crisis line and that NAMI is concerned about tele-mental health. R. Immler shared in the zoom chat: “Marc, I am interested in the Tele-MH reimbursement issue. Let me know when the meeting with the Legislator will be and if it might be possible to participate by phone.”

L. Studer asked if there will be a parameter built in related to tele-mental health. A. Sykora shared that she knows a provider who is better able to serve individuals via video rather than in-person because there are less no-shows. B. Beckert shared in the zoom chat “It is essential that this be a choice. People who receive mental health services should be able to have the choice of telehealth or in-person. they should also have access to accommodations.” H. Davis shared in the chat – “I agree with Barbara, Crystal, et al. that telehealth should be an option. It can help resolve longstanding issues like transportation and distance that have been barriers in certain parts of the state. I believe it will result in expansion of services to people in need.”

The Committee decided to table the topic of pay for in-home workers to next weekend. J. Odulana discussed the impacts of the pandemic specifically screen time and zoom. C. Hester mentioned that the pandemic has impacted the mental health of children as children have to use zoom and screen time. R. Immler stated that there is an alarming rate of children being brought to the ER for mental health issues. M. Herstand discussed the challenges with isolation for children. M. Herstand also mentioned that there is anxiety for children going back to school.

H. Davis shared information related to mental health and the pandemic. B. Beckert asked if anyone could be a good speaker on this topic. H. Davis shared in the zoom chat: “[Opportunity to provide feedback to DPI: Feedback on WI Department of Public Instruction Use of American Rescue Plan Act \(ESSER III\) Funds:](#)” The Committee tabled special education funding as a topic to discuss next meeting as this was a topic proposed by K. Coronado.

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

M. Johnson shared updates for the Division, specifically that DHS 75 is being reviewed by the Joint Commission on Rules and Regulations. M. Johnson also stated that the ARPA Block Grant supplemental plan was submitted to SAMHSA on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Division is waiting for feedback on the plan. M. Johnson stated that the plan focused on crisis services related to the pandemic as well as addressing some system gaps and increase peer supports for the short term. M. Johnson stated that the Division is recruiting to fill numerous vacancies.

#### **6. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3PM.

Prepared by: Maddie Johnson on 8/13/2021.

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