

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Wisconsin Council on Mental Health Legislative and Policy Committee			Attending: Committee Members: Barbara Beckert, Marc Herstand, Mike Lappen, Jeanie Verschay, Hugh Davis, Alexa Sykora, Rick Immler, Amanda Anderson, Kristin Kerschensteiner, Barbara Frohn, Kimberlee Coronado, Crystal Hester DHS Staff: Maddie Johnson, Teresa Steinmetz, Joannette Robertson, Alexa Nobis, Kenya Bright, Sarah Coyle
Date: 5/13/2021	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

The Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) did not meet quorum, but began the meeting with introductions. After a few minutes, the LPC met quorum and B. Beckert called the meeting to order.

Review and approval of the minutes of April 8, 2021

J. Verschay moved to approve the minutes for April 8, 2021 as corrected.

A. Anderson seconded.

The minutes passed unanimously

Announcements

R. Immler stated that the WCMH is meeting next Wednesday May 19th. M. Neubauer stated that there is a private hospital opening in Milwaukee in August or September. A. Anderson shared that on July 24th and 31st, there is a two part ethics webinar. A. Anderson shared the [information about the July Ethics Webinars](#) in the zoom chat. A. Anderson stated the webinars are called the Historical System of Psychotherapy by Lindsey Marsh and the webinars are July 24th and 31st from 10:00AM-12:00PM.

M. Johnson stated she sent in the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health open meeting notice and it has not been posted yet, but will be posted on the open meeting notices website soon. B. Beckert mentioned that the voting bills are moving forward (approved in the Senate) and there is concerns this will put new restrictions on voting for absentee voting especially for folks with disabilities and mental illnesses.

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) Updates

R. Immler stated that the WCMH is focusing on Access and Equity. R. Immler mentioned that BadgerCare Expansion is a priority. R. Immler also discussed that there will be summer zoom meetings on different topics. R. Immler stated how hard public service workers have worked this year.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action

R. Immler and M. Johnson shared what budget updates were shared with the Joint Finance Committee in a letter. B. Beckert –stated that the Joint Finance Committee released a memo highlighting what areas were going to be removed from the budget including Medicaid expansion. Other points that were removed included a health equity officer and other aspects of the criminal justice system. B. Beckert mentioned that it is important

to continue to be in touch with your individual legislators. B. Beckert stated that the DHS budget will probably not be considered until mid-June.

M. Johnson discussed the rules of open meeting notices and T. Steinmetz mentioned that DCTS will support helping a motion move forward because of the timeliness of the budget process. M. Herstand asked about DSPS budget items. B. Beckert mentioned sending a more comprehensive letter to the full legislature. M. Lappen stated he would love to see support for a mental health emergency center. M. Lappen then continued to discuss the benefits of a mental health emergency center.

J. Verschay mentioned KidsForward's presentation from last month. T. Steinmetz mentioned that the DSPS budget items are still currently in the budget. M. Johnson explained what letters have been sent out to the Joint Finance Committee so far. B. Beckert mentioned that one suggestion would be to create a cover letter for the legislature highlighting the Council priorities and then include the documents to back up the cover letter. The Committee discussed the process for creating budget recommendations.

M. Herstand mentioned sending the letter to the joint finance committee and CCing the legislature. M. Neaubauer asked why it should be directed to the JFC instead of the whole legislature. Herstand stated because JFC has power. B. Beckert mentioned that the JFC public comment is over. M. Herstand said he is fine sending the letter to all of the legislature. K. Coronado stated that more information is power. K. Kerschensteiner mentioned she is not holding her breath about certain budget items. C. Hester joined the LPC meeting.

K. Kerschensteiner made a motion that the LPC recommends that the WCMH send a cover letter and all previous budget letters to the legislature reminding them of the Council budget priorities and rationale as well as including the letters that have already been sent in the past.

The motion was seconded by K. Coronado.

The motion passed unanimously.

R. Immler stated he can write the letter. T. Steinmetz mentioned the importance of prioritizing the MHBG presentation. B. Beckert discussed regional mental health centers and that Milwaukee County Mental Health Emergency center could be an alternative so folks could be hospitalized closer to home (instead of at the Winnebago Institute). The Committee continued to discuss potentially making a recommendation around Milwaukee Emergency Centers, but ultimately recommended to follow-up with M. Lappen about more specifics for this proposal before creating a motion. M. Lappen was no longer in the meeting.

M. Herstand mentioned that he is part of a coalition banning the transgender athlete bill. M. Herstand said there may be a hearing on this bill. M. Herstand stated there is a bill that covers all of telehealth service. M. Herstand also discussed raise the age coalition and the gun violence prevention coalition. K. Kerschensteiner stated there is another run at 5115 regarding mental health emergency detention.

3. Mental Health Block Grant Presentation

M. Johnson gave a presentation outlining the Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) and the MHBG Report. The Committee asked questions and discussed the requirements of the MHBG.

4. Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates

T. Steinmetz mentioned that the division is still waiting on the ARPA notice of award and will likely receive the notice the end of May/early June. T. Steinmetz explained that the ARPA funding is an additional 25 million attached to each block grant specifically to address behavioral health needs due to COVID-19 and all block grant requirements still need to be followed with the additional dollars.

K. Bright discussed peer supports and what peer support systems are being supported. K. Bright stated that five agencies applied for one time block grant funding and these agencies will all be funded. K. Bright mentioned they also completed a grant funding opportunity for peer recovery centers. K. Bright mentioned that

there is a GFO out for the peer specialist center. The Committee continued to discuss peer support and peer-run respite centers including how one time funding for Milwaukee and Lacrosse is over the course of 5 years. K. Bright mentioned there could potentially be 6 peer-run respite centers and C. Hester stated that additional staff are being added to take warm line calls to provide communities support during the pandemic.

5. Agenda Items for the June 10, 2021 Committee Meeting

M. Johnson mentioned adding pay for in-home workers as an agenda point since this agenda point was not covered at the May meeting.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00PM

Prepared by: Maddie Johnson on 6/10/2021.