

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Wisconsin Council on Mental Health			Attending: Council members: Holly Audley, Inshira Farhoud, Dennis Hanson, May yer Thao, Rick Immler, Crystal Hester, Ana Winton, Jessica Barrickman, Sheryl Smith, Jerolynn Scaggs, Lynn Harrigan, Kristin Welch, Kimberlee Coronado, Dawn Shelton-Williams, Kevin Kallas DHS Staff: Jason Cram, Sarah Coyle, Becci Main, Alexa Nobis, Ryan Stachowiak, Teresa Steinmetz, Joannette Robertson, Mai Zong Vue, Kenya Bright, Andrea Jacobson, Haley Young, Jamie McCarville, Maddie Johnson Guests: Mark Eisner (DVR), Lydia Bliss, Tim Perrenboon (DPI), Mike, Emilie Smiley, Amy Polsin
Date: 5/19/2021	Time Started: 10:00AM	Time Ended: 3:30PM	
Location: Zoom			
Minutes			Presiding Officer: Dr. Rick Immler

1. Call Meeting to Order

R. Immler called the meeting to order. The Council members, DHS staff, and guests introduced themselves. S. Smith read the WCMH guidelines for conduct of the meeting.

Review and approval of the minutes of March 17, 2021

C. Hester made a motion to approve the minutes from March 17, 2021.

K. Coronado seconded this motion.

The Council discussed a few small changes to the meeting minutes

The minutes passed unanimously as amended.

Announcements

C. Hester mentioned that May is Mental Health Awareness Month and that the Healing Art Show is at the Daisy Café in Madison. C. Hester also mentioned that NAMI is hosting Webinar Wednesdays on different topics. C. Hester also mentioned that there is a free screening on the documentary called Cured. C. Hester mentioned that there will be a live panel focused on the documentary. A. Nobis shared in the chat the [WIIPS Conference registration](#) is open. A. Nobis stated that the free conference is on June 9th and 10th. R. Immler announced there is an upcoming DBT training. C. Hester mentioned in the chat that the NAMI events are free, but there is an optional donation. C. Hester also mentioned that NAMI has a \$5 open door membership for community members.

L. Harrigan discussed updates for INSA and that there upcoming presentations on Tuesday.

K. Coronado shared in the zoom chat that Thursday, May 6, 2021 was Children's Mental Health Awareness Day and that there was a proclamation from Governor Evers'. C. Hester shared in the zoom chat that NAMI launched a [Kid's mental health video in Spanish](#) and anyone who donates to NAMI in May will receive a free fan.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) Updates

M. Johnson provided updates on the MHBG Supplemental Funds. M. Johnson mentioned that SAMHSA has not yet moved the Supplemental Fund plans. M. Johnson stated that Wisconsin was awarded an additional Supplemental Award just under \$25 million dollars yesterday and a plan for these funds will be due to SAMHSA in early July.

T. Steinmetz provided additional updates on the Supplemental Funds stating that these funds will be used for counties, tribes, crisis services, workforce development, and peer supports. K. Coronado asked if there is funding going to domestic violence and T. Steinmetz mentioned that this type of support is provided through the Department of Children and Family.

T. Steinmetz then led the conversation with Section Chiefs about how funds are used to support Communities of Color across Wisconsin. T. Steinmetz mentioned that she is also open to feedback on how ARPA funds could be used by the Council.

J. Cram mentioned that there are Urban Youth Primary Substance Use Prevention programs. J. Cram also mentioned Youth Prevention and Intervention programs in Milwaukee. J. Cram discussed the Protection and Advocacy Contract with Disability Rights Wisconsin. J. Cram stated that with additional funds, the Youth Substance Youth Prevention will expand. T. Steinmetz stated in the zoom chat that block grant funds will be used to expand the Qualified Treatment Trainee (QTT) program.

J. Cram also stated additional funds will be used to provide outreach to tribal communities and diverse counties. J. Cram stated there is no longer a requirement for the groups that use funding to be urban areas which expands availability to other areas. J. Cram stated there was a RFA to support workforce development. J. Cram also stated there was a vendor conference to raise awareness about the funding opportunity. J. Cram mentioned there were applicants from the Hmong, Hispanic, LGBTQ+, Rohingya community as well as other applications.

K. Coronado share in the zoom chat information on the [DOJ and OCMH press released focused on the Crisis Card](#) which helps youth in crisis. J. Robertson mentioned that the Hmong Mutual Assistance Organization was awarded suicide prevention funds and this funding was expanded. J. Robertson also mentioned that they are working to implement CLAS standards into the Wisconsin Statewide lifeline call center.

J. Cram shared in the zoom the link to the [action memo focused on Mental Health Workforce Development](#). J. Robertson mentioned that they are funding the PATH program which supports individuals experiencing homelessness. K. Coronado asked in the zoom chat if the Zero Suicide Training is translated into Hmong. M. Vue said she did not think so in the zoom chat.

J. Robertson mentioned they are creating a crisis data dashboard with the additional supplemental funding. J. Robertson also mentioned that funds support peer services and advanced crisis intervention training specific for seniors experiencing dementia. C. Hester shared in the zoom chat that Leah Rolando, the Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator at Mental Health America (MHA) could answer any questions (leahr@mhawisconsin.org MHA phone: (414) 276-3122).

R. Stachoviak mentioned that the supplemental funds will provide additional funds to counties and tribal nations. R. Stachoviak also mentioned that funds supported the creation of the gaps report and there is hope to create briefs related to this report. R. Stachoviak mentioned revamping the data collection system at the state. R. Stachoviak mentioned that current data uses the PPS system so there is planning for rolling out a new data system. M. Johnson mentioned that supplemental funds to counties are tracked and monitored.

R. Immler asked if there has been discussion about integrating data systems. R. Stachoviak mentioned that there is some discussion regarding integrating data systems. K. Bright then mentioned that the Emerging Leaders Institute is continuing to be funded and will occur next year as well. K. Bright stated that they are also creating a data analysis format and learning collaborative framework. K. Bright also mentioned that communities of color are being supported to attend a conference. K. Bright mentioned the Qualified Treatment Trainee program which supports recent provider graduates. K. Bright also mentioned that there is a Train the

Trainer program for peer specialists. K. Bright mentioned the Substance Use and Recovery Conference in the fall as well as M. Vue who supports Diversity and Equity in the Bureau.

T. Steinmetz mentioned that the Substance Use section has converted prevention materials to Spanish and Hmong. T. Steinmetz also mentioned that prevention campaigns are being looked at through the lens of diversity and equity. T. Steinmetz mentioned that there are funding streams to support women's treatment and bilingual services. T. Steinmetz mentioned that there is specific funding for diverse communities related to substance use prevention. T. Steinmetz asked about the warm line and K. Bright mentioned that they are trying to see how they can extend funding for a warm line for the Hmong Community specifically through 211.

R. Immler asked about the Emerging Leader program and the data analysis format. K. Bright mentioned that this format is being built and it is being determined what program participants should be asked. M. Thao asked if there could be a bullet point document and if there is sustainability for some of these funding opportunities. T. Steinmetz mentioned that many of the updates were projects that are continued to be funded. T. Steinmetz mentioned that many projects that receive one-time funding are renewed year after year. T. Steinmetz mentioned that there is an internal approval process that could take about a month to release documents.

S. Coyle shared in the zoom chat [information on the Rohingya community](#). K. Coronado shared in the zoom chat information on [Otter AI](#). C. Hester mentioned the DHS Office of Health Equity. T. Steinmetz asked if the WCMH has any input on how to spend ARPA funds. A. Winton asked if clinics could get technical support to re-transition to face-to-face services. C. Hester mentioned there should be specific services for the elderly community. R. Immler asked if these funds can be used to support capacity issues at the Bureau. T. Steinmetz mentioned that there is potential to fund limited term employees.

In the zoom chat, K. Coronado asked what is happening for children and if money is being used to address the Child Psychiatrist shortage. J. Cram shared in the zoom chat that one program is expanding from urban youth to all youth to prevention substance use with the hope that rural communities and tribes will apply..

H. Audley mentioned that positional authority is approved by the Department of Administration. J. Barrickman mentioned the importance of peer supports for individuals in institutional settings. H. Audley mentioned that there are programs related to peer supports with the Department of Corrections. R. Immler mentioned the mental health needs of county jails.

J. Barrickman asked in the zoom chat if K. Bright or a state partner would be available to attend the RWC Consumer Advocate Committee Meetings to discuss incarceration programs that offer peer support and expansion ideas.

A. Jacobson mentioned how there has been a focus on how Narcan and peer supports can be available to jails. B. Main mentioned the importance of prevention in jails specifically the Stepping Up initiative which is looking to reduce the number of individuals with mental health who enter jails. K. Coronado asked in zoom chat if there is any funding going to youth that is not related to substance use. H. Audley mentioned that behavioral supports are going into half of county jails and to support prescriptions.

T. Steinmetz shared in chat "Thanks for asking Kimberlee, I would add that the funding being considered for crisis development and support will include youth and additional support of youth related crisis interventions, as well as thoughts about how to continue to support the children's system of care development (specifically additional funding for wraparound TA, improved practice, etc.) We do need to focus the MHBG on youth with SED and are open to other thoughts. There is also the set aside for additional funding for early serious mental illness that will need to go out, which is typically 16-25 year old young adults"

K. Coronado shared in the zoom chat the link to the [Stepping Up initiative](#). A. Winton mentioned that there are barriers to cell service and broadband. T. Steinmetz mentioned that block grant funds cannot be used to make these purchases. A. Nobis mentioned that the state of Wisconsin is getting 100 million dollars from the federal government to expand broadband access. K. Welch asked if there is availability to increase access to providers for indigenous communities especially in urban areas.

K. Coronado shared in the zoom chat if individuals qualify for government assistance, they qualify for [a free government cell phone service](#). A. Nobis shared more [information on the broadband initiative](#) in the zoom chat. J. Cram shared in the zoom chat programs and initiatives supported by Bureau that support youth (non-substance use related): “Coordinated Specialty Care for first episode psychosis; Coordinated Services Teams initiative in all 11 tribes and all but 4 counties in WI; youth justice diversion in 8 counties and 1 tribe; Family Support and Education - Parent Peer Specialists; Youth Crisis Stabilization Facilities; Youth Treatment Initiatives - Evidence Based Practice Treatment.”

3. Discussion of Access and Equity Next Steps

H. Audley mentioned that the Secretary’s Office is working to present on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives in July. H. Audley mentioned that there is a national search for the Director of the Office of Health Equity. H. Audley stated that each division is creating an executive level position to support equity. T. Steinmetz mentioned that there have been educational sessions and learning opportunities in the Bureau. T. Steinmetz mentioned there is a bidding process to hire a consultant. Shelton-Williams commended the Bureau on this work.

R. Immler moved into the presentation on the MHBG application process. R. Immler stated in his PowerPoint presentation that SAMHSA has not provided the MHBG Application materials. R. Immler shared that DCTS has worked very hard and that Medicaid funds many behavioral health services. R. Immler also mentioned that there are many unnecessary hospitalizations. R. Immler mentioned that counties have limited outpatient services. In R. Immler’s PowerPoint presentation, he shared SAMHSA guidance on the Block Grant application including tracking outcomes. R. Immler also discussed the limitations of Block Grant funding including only supporting those with serious mental illnesses. R. Immler then outlined the Block Grant priorities.

R. Immler then discussed what was budgeted in 2021 and what needs to go to the counties through the Community Aids Allocation. R. Immler then compared Wisconsin behavioral health outcomes to other neighboring states. R. Immler then discussed the Wisconsin state crisis system and co-occurring disorders. R. Immler discussed how Minnesota invests in primary prevention. Next, R. Immler shared the program revenues of State Mental Health Institutes. R. Immler shared some of the DCTS challenges including the high costs of institutions. R. Immler stated that the state mental health bed availability is low. R. Immler then discussed the benefits of expanding the focus of the MHBG (which currently focuses on counties and data). R. Immler stated we need the Bureau and we need to expand access. R. Immler stated that leaning on Medicaid could allow there to be more mental health bed availability.

4. Lunch Break

R. Immler opened up the meeting to discussion. T. Steinmetz mentioned that all states measure their behavioral health outcomes differently. T. Steinmetz mentioned that there are many grants that the Bureau oversees. R. Immler asked how communities of color could be better served through the block grant or otherwise. D. Shelton-Williams mentioned that good technology systems are a barrier for many community-based organizations. A. Winton mentioned there is a lack of awareness of children’s mental health and infant mental health. K. Coronado mentioned she would like to see more trauma-family services and the family-systems trauma model. K. Coronado shared a link on [family trauma](#) in the zoom chat.

R. Immler mentioned that in Minnesota, they leverage Medicaid dollars to promote evidence-based practices. C. Hester mentioned in the chat “Journey Mental Health put on a wonderful presentation yesterday on the topic of race and the intersection of mental health and generational trauma”

K. Coronado shared in the zoom chat information from the Disrespect: Family Trauma Solutions webinar she attended on Thursday May 6th.

R. Immler mentioned potential next steps are more informational zoom meetings, including a presentation from Medicaid. K. Coronado asked who else should present. R. Immler stated K. Kallas offered to speak on what Department of Corrections is doing. R. Immler also mentioned having someone speak about state budget analysis. K. Coronado stated she would like to hear about educational issues and the achievement gap. R.

Immler also mentioned hearing from advocates with national experience. K. Coronado stated she supports this initiative. M. Thao stated yes on her end and so did A. Polsin. T. Peerenboom shared in the zoom chat information on the [Disproportionality Technical Assistance Network](#).

5. Governor's Budget Discussion

This agenda item was discussed under the LPC updates.

6. WCMH Committee Reports, Discussion, and Consideration of Motions

a. Executive Committee – Rick Immler

R. Immler stated the EC has had various budget discussions and more generally discussed the MHBG.

b. Adult Quality Committee – Lynn Harrigan and Kristin Welch

L. Harrigan stated that there is an upcoming meeting on Tuesday. L. Harrigan stated there will be a presentation on the Mental Health Block Grant and a presentation on a care model for first nations. S. Smith stated there needs to be more recruitment of members. K. Welch stated there are some potential members attending the Committee on Tuesday.

The Council then discussed the Committee appointment process. Lynn Harrigan recommended Lalanya Lampe be appointed to the Adult Quality Committee. R. Immler approved this appointment.

The Council then discussed how the Council email DHSWICouncilonMentalHealth@dhs.wisconsin.gov can be contacted to submit potential public comment.

c. Children and Youth Committee – Phyllis Greenberger and Amy Polsin

A. Polsin mentioned that School Resource Officers are the main focus. A. Polsin also mentioned that William Parke-Sutherland from Kids Forward presented and that the next meeting is June 3rd.

d. Criminal Justice Committee – Tamra Oman and Karen Breit

B. Main stated there was a presentation on the Governor's Budget related to Medicaid Expansion. There were two motions, one related to TAD funding and one related to Medicaid Expansion. B. Main stated that DOJ is looking for additional staff. B. Main stated the next meeting is June 9th. C. Hester shared in the zoom chat that she is stepping down from her position in the Criminal Justice Committee and NAMI's new program director for the CIT/CIP grant, Emilie Smiley, will be the primary contact.

e. Legislative and Policy Committee – Crystal Hester

- i. Motion: The LPC moved to recommend that a letter be sent to all members of the legislature reminding them of the Council budget priorities and rationale as well as including the budget letters that have already been send in the past.

C. Hester mentioned that Governor Evers sent out a letter related to support for budget items including warm lines, peer run respite, school mental health, and expansion of the TAD program. C. Hester mentioned that the budget is in the Joint Committee on Finance's hands. C. Hester stated the DHS budget will likely not be discussed until mid-June. C. Hester mentioned that there was a motion that a letter be sent to all of the Legislature.

S. Smith moved that the WCMH send a letter to all members of the legislature reminding them of the Council budget priorities and rationale as well as including the budget letters that have already been send in the past.

A. Winton seconded the motion.

K. Coronado asked about education and C. Hester mentioned the education recommendations. The Council then discussed current grant opportunities and opportunities to expand funding for education through the budget.

T. Peerenboom shared in the zoom chat information on the [State School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Program](#).

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Hester mentioned there was a press release from the Governor related to requesting a special session related to BadgerCare expansion. C. Hester read through the [recommendations](#) including broadband expansion, the HSHS emergency detention beds to add more mental health beds to Sacred Hearts hospital in Eau Claire, additional mental health beds in Wausau, changing Racine into a FQHC, a veteran housing grant, grants to community health centers, free and charitable clinic grants, firearm protections, literacy lab, and DHS funds for responding to the pandemic.

T. Steinmetz mentioned that the DHS program implements a screening and referral system in unique COVID-related areas such as at vaccination sites or COVID-19 testing sites. R. Immler asked when the special session is and H. Audley stated May 25th.

S. Smith asked how often she should reach out to her legislator. C. Hester mentioned that the moment we become silent, this shows that we have given up so we must continue to be vocal.

C. Hester made a motion stating the WCMH should send a letter to the Governor and Legislature to support the additional 11 projects related to BadgerCare Expansion.

J. Barrickman seconded this motion.

C. Hester mentioned adding supporting BadgerCare expansion. C. Hester mentioned she will draft the letter.

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Hester mentioned the transgender athlete bill and the telehealth services bill. C. Hester mentioned that M. Herstand is part of a Raise the Age and a gun violence prevention coalition.

f. Nominating Committee – Kimberlee Coronado

K. Coronado provided updated on the WCMH roster and that there are currently two state vacancy positions. K. Coronado mentioned that A. Winton is the Second Vice Chair of the Council and Jessica Barrickman is a new member. K. Coronado mentioned that they will be looking at applicants more in the first week of June. J. Barrickman stated she is leaning towards serving on the Legislative and Policy Committee.

C. Hester asked that potential interested new members attend two meetings and if you are interested, C. Hester will share this information with R. Immler. K. Coronado mentioned that the next meeting is June 21st and that anyone is welcome to join.

7. Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS) Briefing and UpdatesHolly Audley and Teresa Steinmetz

H. Audley mentioned that there are increasing rates of vaccinations at the facilities for staff. H. Audley stated there are still PPE protocols in place and that there are much lower levels of COVID-19 cases. H. Audley stated that there are increased vacancy rates in all positions at all facilities. H. Audley mentioned that they brought food trucks to the employees. H. Audley stated they are in the final stages of recruiting a deputy director of Winnebago Mental Health. H. Audley stated that the director of the Sand Ridge Treatment Center is Ann Moran. H. Audley stated there is a second wave of the pandemic which is a behavioral health pandemic. H. Audley stated there is a high need for services due the pandemic and there is a high level of admissions.

T. Steinmetz mentioned that DHS 75 (substance use services administrative rule) is still with the legislature for review with the hope of moving on Friday to JCRIR. J. Robertson mentioned that BPTR received a 988

planning grant for a crisis-call line that will be rolled out in June. J. Robertson said the calls will be answered by the National Suicide Prevention call center and there are four call centers in Wisconsin. J. Robertson mentioned the importance of creating sustainable funding for all the call centers. C. Hester stated if you are able to do advocacy, there is a bill for Senator Chris Larson's office in Milwaukee related to sustainable funding. C. Hester stated the bill cannot move forward without a Republican legislator. C. Hester stated if Chris Larson is your Legislator, she would love to hear from you. C. Hester stated NAMI is created a small advocacy group.

K. Welch shared in the zoom chat that this is something the ESHTER mental health taskforce can assist with.

8. Call for future WCMH agenda items

R. Immler stated that the July meeting is the time the WCMH responds formally to the MHBG. R. Immler asked if there were additional budget items to consider. H. Audley stated that the DHS Secretary's Office will be presenting on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion updates within DHS.

R. Immler asked if there is anyone who volunteers to be in a mini workgroup around zoom presentation planning. R. Immler stated he may reach out to a few folks about the mini workgroup.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:30PM.