



State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health

1 West Wilson Street, P.O. Box 7851
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7851

Meeting of the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health Executive Committee

May 18, 2015, 2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

1 West Wilson Street, Conference Room 850-B, Madison, Wisconsin and Via Conference Call

Members of the Executive Committee in Attendance: Shel Gross, Mishelle O'Shasky, Karen Herro

Guests in Attendance: Joann Juhnke (Children and Youth Committee & Legislative and Policy Committee)

Department of Health Services Staff in Attendance: Ryan Stachoviak

Minutes

Item 1: Call to Order

Welcome and Introductions

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Item 2: Motion regarding the 'Opportunity Schools Partnership Plan (OSPP)

S. Gross stated that this motion comes from the Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC). The motion is that the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) asks the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) not to include the OSPP in the state budget. The plan, in summary, is to convert failing Milwaukee Public Schools to charter or voucher schools. Current indications are that this legislation will be introduced as part of the budget. It is of particular importance to the WCMH as this plan would impact children with special needs and mental health needs. Children served in voucher schools and charter schools are not protected by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and these schools are not required to provide services in the same manner as public schools. A big concern is the lack of details and information being made available to stakeholders regarding this legislation. The LPC believe that this legislation should not be included as part of the budget process and that it should be introduced as a standalone bill. Moreover, there should be adequate discussion with stakeholders and stakeholder involvement. J. Juhnke stated that is a fairly complex proposal, and the details of the proposal have not widely seen or made available. There is a lot at stake for children with behavioral health needs. If the legislature is committed to stakeholder input regarding mental health this legislation should not be placed in the budget.

S. Gross introduced the motion from the LPC, the motion is to oppose the inclusion of the OSPP in the budget, and approve a press release from the WCMH regarding the WCMH's position.

Motion carries unanimously.

Item 3: Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.