

Scott Walker
Governor



Matt Strittmater
Chair

Mishelle O'Shasky
Vice-Chair

Julie-Anne Braun
Second Vice-Chair

State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health

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

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

March 9, 2017, 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm

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

Members of the Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) in Attendance: Shel Gross, Crystal Hester, Mary Neubauer, Barbara Beckert, William Parke-Sutherland, Joanne Juhnke, Mike Bachhuber, Dori Richards, Kit Kerschensteiner, Justin Odulana

Members of the LPC in Attendance via Teleconference: Mike Lappen, Britt Cudaback

Department of Health Services (DHS) Staff in Attendance: Ryan Stachoviak, Kay Cram, Joyce Allen

Guests in Attendance: Tammy Conrad, David Wahlberg, Karen Iverson Riggers

MINUTES

Item 1: Call to Order

Review and approval of minutes of February 9, 2017

D. Richards moved to approve the minutes of February 9, 2017.

J. Odulana seconded the motion.

Motion carries, K. Kerschensteiner abstains, minutes approved.

Announcements

S. Gross informed the Committee that the WCMH Executive Committee did approve the two motions from the February 9th LPC meeting. Those motions were to recommend to the WCMH that they add the following to the Budget Priority document: the BadgerCare work requirement and the importance of adding exemptions and protections comparable to Food Share, and to support the Governor's budget initiatives to reduce homelessness. The second motion that was approved was to recommend to the WCMH that the Council support the Governor's budget item to remove young adults under the age of 18 from adult facilities.

J. Juhnke discussed the Children Come First Conference, organized by Wisconsin Family Ties, the conference will be held November 13-14, 2017. M. Bachhuber stated that the Independent Living Council will soon be meeting with Legislators, and the Survival Coalition will be a participant in Disability Advocacy Days.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Item 2: Committee Administration Issues

Membership

S. Gross provided an update on LPC membership changes. S. Gross introduced Tammy Conrad from the Association of Marriage and Family Therapists who is interested in becoming a member of the LPC and will attend two meetings. Karen Iverson Riggers has requested to become an official member of the Committee. S. Gross will officially recommend her for appointment at the next Council meeting. S. Gross informed the group that there will likely be a new Children and Youth Committee representative on the LPC soon. M. Neubauer stated that Brenda Wesley is also interested in joining the LPC and will try to attend an upcoming meeting.

Guiding Principles

S. Gross introduced the updated suggested changes to the guiding principles document.

The following changes were discussed by members of the LPC:

- Change item F to read Increasing “Cultural humility and linguistic responsiveness, and knowledge. Should the language include Increasing cultural and linguistic humility and skills?
- Include language about meeting a person where they are at. Perhaps understanding rather than responsiveness?
- “Total health integration” is a very broad topic, does this exceed the scope of the Committee? Should public health be included? Members discussed whether public health, total health, medical homes should be included.
- Removing item L. Perhaps fold that item into item E.
- Children and youth should be separated to highlight the importance of Children and Youth.

S. Gross will compile these recommendations and bring them to the Council.

Item 3: Budget Priorities

W. Parke-Sutherland provided an update on the Budget Priorities and meetings with legislators. Senator Taylor’s office is working on a juvenile justice package.

Members noted general support for the mental health items that were include in the Governor’s Budget. M. Bachhuber noted that there may not be too much room for expanded dollar amount asks.

Some questions by legislators pertained to whether the school mental health services would reduce the need for the child consultation program. Had conversations regarding youth mental illness and why more youth are being diagnosed with mental illness. Additional discussions with legislators centered on the role of mental health care in schools. C. Hester noted that Rep. Brostoff was looking to draft some bill related to suicide. S. Gross noted that some advocates have discussed DHOH with Sen. Darling. C. Hester asked whether there was any specific interest related to IPS. J. Juhnke noted that the Child Psychiatric Consultation Program (CPCP) seemed to be a fruitful area to put effort. Another area is the Special Education Categorical Aid. W. Parke-Sutherland noted that some legislators have expressed interest in conducting an independent review of Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake. M. Lappen stated that he would bring back information from the Wisconsin County Health Services Association (WCHSA) regarding their positions on these items. T. Conrad noted that her organization may be able to provide advocacy regarding increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates.

J. Juhnke provided a Children and Youth Committee (CYC) update. Three core budget items that have been discussed by the CYC are child's crisis services and treatment, the Children's Long Term waitlist, and Fostering Futures. The CYC moved to formally support the inclusion of these three budget items in the WCMH budget priority document.

J. Juhnke shared that the CYC has recommended that the Council support the Governor's budget proposal for the new Children's Crisis Treatment and Stabilization program. The proposal would create a new option for the provision of short term crisis care and treatment for children and youth, to de-escalate crisis situations in order to avoid the need for hospitalization and emergency detention. The \$1.5 million in funding across the biennium would be aimed at start-up for a single facility. The funds would be utilized to get the facility off the ground, but the intent is that after five years it would become self-sustaining. The program would be separate from the child welfare system, and would require a new DHS administrative rule. CYC recommends that stakeholders advising the creation of the new rule should include, but not be limited to: consumers and family, providers, county and tribal representation, crisis teams, educational support, law enforcement, and peer advocacy.

Item 4: Legislative and Policy Updates (State and Federal)

W. Parke-Sutherland and S. Gross briefly discussed the special session bills. S. Gross discussed AB 5 related to commitments for drug-related offenses, noting that there has not been an apparent interest for advocacy around this bill from many advocacy organizations. M. Lappen noted that among the counties there is a wide array of opinions related to this bill. C. Hester stated that the NAMI Policy Committee thought that the bill should include more funding for treatment. M. Bachhuber suggested that the involuntary nature of treatment may not be a good thing for a person. Making sure that there is treatment available to a person is the more critical part. S. Gross noted that much of the HOPE agenda seems to be moving forward, advocates should be prepared to provide comment if required.

Members of the committee discussed Assembly Bill 6, pertaining to authorizing the director of the Office of Educational Opportunity in the University of Wisconsin System to contract for the operation of a recovery charter school, insurance coverage of mental health treatment provided by a recovery charter school, and making appropriations. The effort would be a four year pilot project. M. Bachhuber noted that in the past the LPC has often opposed segregated services. J. Juhnke added that that there is not solid research regarding the behavioral health outcomes of these types of treatment. The program is not necessarily intended to be a permanent school placement, there is an intended transition back to the public schools.

S. Gross informed the LPC that the WCMH sent a bill to Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation regarding the Council's concerns over changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). B. Beckert suggested that advocates could meet with members of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation as there has not been much discussion or concern raised over the impact of the American Health Care Act (AHCA) on mental health care.

No Division of Care and Treatment Services Update was provided.

Item 5: Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:06pm.