



State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health

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MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

November 12, 2015 from 11:30 am - 3:00 pm

1 West Wilson Street, Conference Room 630, Madison, Wisconsin

Minutes

Members of the Legislative and Policy Committee in Attendance: Barbara Beckert, Mike Bachhuber, Shel Gross, Joanne Juhnke, Justin Odulana, Mike Lappen, Kit Kerschensteiner, William Parke-Sutherland, Kathy Knoble-Iverson, Dori Richards

Department of Health Services Staff in Attendance: Kay Cram, Ryan Stachoviak, Stacy Ewert, Joyce Allen, Rebecca Wigg-Ninham

Guests in Attendance: Suzanne Udehn, Marc Herstrand, Carla Shedivy

Item 1: Call to Order

S. Gross called meeting to order at 11:35am.

Item 2: Legislative Tracking

The Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) discussed legislation and the methodology for ranking and reviewing legislation. Committee members recommended the group address rights issues that are most closely related to people with Mental Illness. Members of the LPC noted that it is important to consider if constituent groups have taken positions on legislation as well. Some bills should come from the specific committees if the legislation pertains more closely with their topic areas. Certain bills were determined to be too far removed from what the Council is working on for consideration.

Item 3: Housekeeping

Review and Approval of the meeting minutes of October 8, 2015

M. Lappen moved to approve the meeting minutes of October 8, 2015.

M. Bachhuber seconded the motion.

Motion carries, minutes approved.

Announcements

D. Richards has been appointed to the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH).

The Children and Youth Committee (CYC) communicated to the LPC that a combined meeting with the Legislative and Policy Committee may no longer be needed. The LPC discussed the value of the combined meetings. The LPC would like to continue meeting occasionally with the CYC as the information sharing is valuable, S. Gross will communicate this to the CYC.

The LPC meeting schedule will remain the same for 2016.

Item 4: State Legislation

Bill Tracking Update

Criteria for tracking and taking positions on bills which were discussed by the LPC:

1. A bill that has been prioritized by Committees of the WCMH
2. A bill that has been prioritized by a constituency group
3. If other groups are actively involved the LPC may not need to be as actively involved
4. Bills should be considered if the legislation, though not directly addressing mental health, could impact mental health.

Children and Youth Committee Education Policy Principles

LPC has requested education policy principles to provide guidance to the WCMH; the CYC developed an educational policy principle document. The LPC may want to follow suit in the future which could likewise be presented to the WCMH.

Consideration of Position on Bills

The LPC discussed AB378/SB280. The CYC will bring a motion to support this legislation at the November 18th WCMH meeting. The bill involves first time non-violent offenders, and returning juveniles to the juvenile justice system. Youth are less likely to reoffend if involved in the juvenile justice system. Having an adult criminal record is harmful in many ways. The CYC would like to request the WCMH to support this motion. Counties may require additional funding to support these efforts; some counties may incur more costs with this change than others. Members of the LPC voiced support for the motion as written.

The LPC discussed AB414, regarding the Medical Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP). Benefit thresholds are very complicated and often discourage people from employment. The intent of MAPP was to incentivize work and provide an avenue to a job. The LPC voiced concerns over the bill. It is difficult to assess the impact of this bill. The DHOH community could be very negatively impacted by this bill. Members of the LPC expressed conflicting opinions on the AB414, there are positive components of the bill, but there are also concerns.

K. Kerschensteiner moved to ask the WCMH to take a position to provide information to legislators regarding AB414, pointing out the positives and the concerns of AB414.

M. Bachhuber seconded the motion.

Motion carries, D. Richards abstained.

Gun violence Bills (AB395/SB299, AB354/SB264)

The LPC discussed AB395. The bill will set up a judicial process for families or others who are concerned about an individual to remove a weapon from a person. Members expressed concern over the due process implications of the bill. Conceptually members expressed support for AB395, however there are many concerns.

The committee discussed AB354 regarding waiting periods for handgun purchases. Members expressed support for legislation that will prevent suicide.

M. Bachhuber moved that the LPC recommend the WCMH to support AB354.

W. Parke-Sutherland seconded the motion.

Motion carries unanimously.

Other Bills

Peer run respite is an area which has been discussed with Representative Tittl's office to provide a solution to zoning problems which the organizations have encountered.

Bills which are not on the tracking sheet are related to child protection. Information that has been developed could be shared with the LPC from other organizations that has been developed. This information can be shared with the WCMH as well for consideration.

The LPC discussed AB469 relating to the use of changing rooms by pupils. Members of the LPC stated that the bill should be opposed due to the behavioral health risks experienced by transgendered people, including an increased risk of suicide. Much of this risk is a result of bullying and the response of others. This bill opens up increased risk for negative impacts on transgendered youth and further stigmatizes transgendered youth. The bill may also have broader implications for people with disabilities. Title 9 precludes discrimination based on gender identity.

K. Kerschensteiner moved that the LPC recommend that the WCMH oppose AB469.

W. Parke-Sutherland seconded the motion.

Motion carries, D. Richards abstains.

Item 5: Federal Legislation

The LPC discussed the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Bill (Murphy Bill). The bill would significantly change protection and advocacy agencies, decreases the role of consumers and families, the use of evidence based practices, privacy rights, state funding, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) funding may be reduced for some states. The bill focuses largely on a medical model.

K. Kerschensteiner moved that the WCMH to take further action to communicate opposition to the Murphy Bill. This communication should be with Wisconsin's Congressional delegation and congressional leadership.

W. Parke-Sutherland seconded the motion.

Motion carries.

The LPC discussed S. 1945, the Mental Health Reform Act of 2015. The LPC will discuss this bill further at the next LPC meeting.

Item 6: DMHSAS Updates

The DMHSAS will provide additional information regarding IMD funding at upcoming LPC meetings. Members of the LPC recommended that the DMHSAS include consumers and advocates in grant review processes. Two new counties may join CST, DMHSAS will know more soon.

Item 7: Public Comment

Marc Herstrand discussed access to Mental Health Services for Medicaid clients in Dane County. There is a different standard with certain health care providers depending if a person is a Medicaid client or a client with private insurance. Clients are often referred to Journey Mental Health Clinic and are forced to wait for services. These situations raise parity concerns.

Members of the LPC requested that Marc Herstrand attend a future LPC meeting to discuss this matter further.

Item 8: Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:01pm.