



State of Wisconsin

**Wisconsin Council on Mental Health**  
mhc.wisconsin.gov

**Meeting of the Legislative and Policy Committee**

**January 10, 2019, 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm**

**1 West Wilson Street, Conference Room 630, Madison, Wisconsin and via Conference Call**

**Members of the Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) in Attendance:** Crystal Hester, Chris Wirth, Alice Sykora, Joanne Juhnke, Justin Odulana, Kit Kerschensteiner

**Members of the LPC in Attendance via Teleconference:** Kathie Knoble-Iverson, Mike Lappen, Barbara Beckert

**Guests in Attendance:** Marc Herstand, Chelsea Crane, Brian Michel, Ariel Mitchell, Radha Karthik, Breckyn Ryg, Jeanie Verschay

**Department of Health Services (DHS) Staff in Attendance:** Ryan Stachoviak, Joyce Allen, Joannette Robertson,

**MINUTES**

**1. Call Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) Meeting to Order**

*Review and approval of the minutes of December 13, 2018*

**J. Juhnke moved to approve the minutes from December 13, 2018.**

**J. Odulana seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried, C. Wirth abstained.**

*Announcements*

B. Beckert informed the group that the Wisconsin Election Commission Advisory Committee is still looking to recruit a member who can represent the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community. Lea Kitz is the new Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) Executive Director.

C. Hester announced that NAMI Wisconsin has opened registration for Action on the Square. This event does fall on the same day as the May LPC meeting. It may be beneficial to move the LPC to a subsequent week.

J. Verschay announced that the WISDOM group is going to hold a press conference at the State capitol regarding issues around supervision in the criminal justice system. J. Verschay will share additional information with the group.

*Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) Updates*

The next WCMH meeting will be held on January 16, 2019.

## *Public Comment*

No public comment was made.

### **2. Discussion and Review of Committee Membership and Leadership**

C. Hester discussed current vacancies on the LPC. J. Verschay and B. Michel voiced interest in becoming formal members of the committee. C. Hester discussed leadership roles on the LPC, including the need for a co-chair. M. Neubauer will work to set up meetings with the Governor's Office. B. Michel has expressed interest taking the lead in coordinating the LPC's bill tracking document. B. Beckert will help schedule meetings with DHS leadership.

### **3. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action**

#### *Budget Priority Planning*

C. Hester provided a briefing on additional budget priorities being introduced by the Criminal Justice Committee (CJC) for inclusion in the budget priority document. The first priority area is to provide funding to enable the systematic screening of trauma among Wisconsin inmates and implement of evidence-based, trauma-focused treatment groups throughout adult prisons in Wisconsin. The second priority area is to provide funding for five full-time Certified Forensic Peer Specialist positions to expand service availability to clients not enrolled/eligible for Comprehensive Community Services (CCS). The third priority area is to allocate funding to increase release medications from a two-week to a four-week supply for people leaving the corrections system. Members of the LPC discussed cost estimates for the proposals and provided suggestions for working changes, including recommending using person first language in the proposals.

The budget priority document will be brought to the upcoming WCMH meeting so the Council has the opportunity to review the additions and modifications that have been made to the document since the Council's initial approval last year. The document can then be used in discussions with lawmakers. Areas may be prioritized based on Governor Evers' budget requests.

#### *State Legislation*

K. Kerschensteiner discussed a lawsuit in which DRW, the League of Women Voters, and other organizations are the plaintiff regarding the recent lame duck session bills signed by Governor Walker.

J. Juhnke discussed proposed legislation regarding seclusion and restraint. This legislation had been discussed at recent legislative sessions. Advocates are hoping to hit the ground running on the bill this legislative session. Some modifications are being made to the legislation since it was last introduced. Advocates are hoping the legislation can soon be circulated for co-sponsorship.

C. Hester and M. Herstand briefed the group on what is being referred to as red flag legislation. The legislation would allow family members and police officers to petition to have a firearm removed from a household for up to a year. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor have voiced some support for this type of legislation. The legislation could have an impact on mass shootings, but can also have an impact by preventing suicide. This

would be one more tool for families and police in these types of situations. Members of the LPC discussed how legislation such as this could intersect with Chapter 51, cases of dementia, and the impacts on the person having their firearm removed.

Members discussed recent executive orders made by Governor Evers. Order 1 is relating to prohibiting discrimination in state employment, public service, and contracting. Order 2 is relating to recognizing and respecting State employees. Order 3 is relating to the creation of a Healthy Communities initiative. Order 4 is relating to the preservation of insurance protections.

#### **4. Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates**

R. Stachoviak briefed the group on updates to the Crisis Counseling Program being funded through funding Wisconsin has received from FEMA and SAMHSA in response to the 2018 flooding and other natural disasters that impacted the state. Nine counties are eligible for this service based on the emergency declaration. The DHS has partnered with WISCAP and Couleecap to provide the Crisis Counseling Services in those impacted areas.

R. Stachoviak discussed the recent DCTS action memo that was released regarding a funding opportunity for Counties and Tribal Nations to implement systems improvements for Early Serious Mental Illness. It is hoped that communities can begin to adopt principles and practices of the Coordinated Specialty Care evidence based practice. Applications are due in late January with an intended start date of March 1.

#### **5. Agenda Items for the February 2019 Committee Meeting**

Members of the LPC suggested discussing budget priorities, legislative updates, and planning discussion with the Governor and the Legislature.

#### **6. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 2:22 pm.