



State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health

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

MEETING MINUTES OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

January 8, 2015, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

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

Members of the Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) in Attendance: Danielle Summers, Matt Strittmater, Julianne Carbin, Mike Lappen, Mike Bachhuber, Annabelle Potvin, Stacey Paul, Paula Buege, William Parke-Sutherland, Shel Gross, Justin Odulana

Department of Health Services Staff in Attendance: Kay Cram, Joyce Allen, Ryan Stachoviak, Dan Zimmerman, and Rebecca Wigg-Ninham.

Members of the Public in Attendance: Suzette Urbashich, Jeri Boniva, Heidi Rose.

Item 1: Call to Order

Welcome and Introductions

S. Gross began introductions.

Review and Approval of the meeting minutes of December 11, 2014

P. Buege motioned to approve the meeting minutes of December 11, 2014 as amended.

D. Summers seconded the motion to approve the minutes as amended.

Motion carries.

W. Parke-Sutherland abstains.

Announcements

S. Gross thanked D. Zimmerman for his years of service with the Legislative and Policy Committee.

Item 2: LPC Purpose and Membership

J. Odulana introduced the purpose and membership document of the LPC. S. Gross pointed out on page two of the document there is a placeholder for providers and requested that the LPC provide feedback on how to add providers to the document. W. Parke-Sutherland stated that the Wisconsin Independent Living Network was previously considered for inclusion and should be added to the document. This addition would add a 7th organizational member to the LPC. M. Bachhuber provided information regarding the Wisconsin Independent Living Network and Independent Living Council. Other organizational members of the LPC are Grassroots Empowerment Project, NAMI-Wisconsin, Mental Health America of Wisconsin, Disability Rights Wisconsin, Wisconsin Family Ties, Wisconsin Counties Human Services Association. The LPC will also have up to three members of the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH). Additional at-large members will represent underrepresented or underserved groups.

J. Allen offered to assist in reaching out to the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA) if the WCMH LPC is interested in being more collaborative with the substance abuse community. Members of the committee voiced their support and for including someone from the substance abuse community as MH and SUD go hand in hand so often. D. Summers noted that funding has been increasingly focused on overall coordination of mental health and substance use funding and efforts. J. Odulana suggested changing the language on page two regarding "Elderly persons with mental illness". S. Gross recommended adding the language 'appropriate members of provider organizations' to the reference to at-large members.

W. Parke-Sutherland motioned to approve the LPC Purpose and Membership as amended by discussion.

M. Bachhuber seconded the motion.

Motion carries.

Item 3: Wisconsin Initiative for Stigma Elimination (WISE)

S. Gross introduced Suzette Urbashich. S. Urbashich discussed WISE. WISE is a statewide coalition with multiple organizations. There is representation from many diverse groups. WISE has now elected an executive committee. Members of the executive committee are Debbie Rueber, Prevent Suicide Kenosha and Kenosha County Division of Health, Martina Gollin-Graves, Executive Director/CEO, MHA WI, William Parke-Sutherland, Executive Director, Grassroots Empowerment Project, Julianne Carbin, Executive Director, NAMI WI, Faith Boersma, Peer Run Respite and Peer Services Coordinator, DHS, and Sue McKenzie & Suzette Urbashich, Co-Directors, Rogers InHealth. The WISE initiative was born out of interest in the work of Dr. Patrick Corrigan and the group has been meeting for roughly 1.5 years. S. Urbashich stated that the majority of people on the executive committee are people with lived experience. P. Buege stated based on the list provided this aspect of the leadership is not apparent. S. Urbashich asked how to best illustrate this element.

M. Bachhuber stated that there is concern over acts versus attitudes. Focusing on stigma is in itself essentially stigmatizing. Saying that people with lived experience have stigma rather than prejudice is an important distinction. The language is an issue. S. Urbashich stated that the group talked about the use of the term stigma with Dr. Corrigan since the group did not like that word either, and would prefer the use of 'discrimination'. However it is important to look at who is the intended audience of the messaging and the document is directed toward the legislative audience. S. Urbashich stated that WISE uses many of the concepts of open, honest and proud. WISE works on two arenas: working to show that the sharing of stories is powerful instrument of change, and two, how is this sharing done? There is positive effect on any point of the spectrum, even crafting 'your story' can have a positive impact. The coalition is there to serve the members and bring information together. There are a handful of individuals who participate as volunteers.

S. Urbashich stated to take these two components of WISE statewide there needs to be people who are trained in the practice and have been trained in sharing their personal stories. Members of the coalition bring expertise to the project and WISE has a committee to focus on continuous learning. The proposal calls for 10 change agents who would be trained and have an understanding of best practices. The change agents become consultants to their local sectors. The mini grants are dollars to support those projects which the change agents are working with.

P. Buege stated that there are already people working on efforts such as this (peer support specialists) and that she is uncomfortable with the word 'stigma'. J. Odulana stated that he thinks that it is a good project, but what would be plan B if this is not funded? S. Urbashich stated that the executive committee will work to identify

other sources of funding. W. Parke-Sutherland stated that there is a lot of work being done and this effort is a chance to harness all these efforts and turn it into a movement.

Item 4: Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort

Heidi Rose and Jeri Boniva from the Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort (WAVE) provided a presentation to the WCMH LPC. The organization has been active roughly 20 years. In Wisconsin 70% of cases of gun-related violence are suicides. It is important to look at self-violence and interpersonal violence. It is important to note that mental illness and gun violence is not linked. The WAVE has worked to develop a common sense approach that would make a real impact on gun violence. One policy change which is needed is background checks on all gun sales as an accurate predictor of future violence is past violence. The California Gun Violence Restraining Order Law creates a temporary period where guns cannot be possessed. This type of policy is intended to remove the most lethal means from people based on evidence indicating risk is not based just on mental illness. This may be the type of law which could be implemented in Wisconsin. S. Gross stated that this is appealing because it is much less of an infringement on civil rights, and there is precedent in domestic violence law. The impact may be limited, but it is potentially an intervention that is a mid-way option.

W. Parke-Sutherland stated that it would be helpful to know what sort of input can be provided or what sort of assistance WAVE could use from the LPC. J. Boniva stated that WAVE can share the materials electronically. Going forward the group is trying to put together a draft plan and the WAVE would like to share it with the LOC and get more feedback. The WAVE is also very concerned about unintended consequences of creating new legislation.

Item 5: Other business/agenda items for the next meeting

Agenda items which were mentioned are:

1. Office of Children's Mental Health
2. Waiver programs
3. Parent peer specialist training
4. State budget and legislation

Item 6: Public Comment

S. Urbashich encouraged the LPC and WCMH to inform WISE if there are means by which the work of WISE can be advanced. P. Buege stated that incorporating Corrigan's work into peer specialist training would be a positive advancement.

Item 7: Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:33pm.