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State of Wisconsin

**Wisconsin Council on Mental Health**

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**MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**April 14, 2016 from 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm**

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

**Minutes**

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

**Members of the LPC in Attendance via Conference Call:** Julianne Carbin, Mike Lappen

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

**Item 1: Call to Order**

*Review and approval of minutes of March 10, 2016*

**W. Parke-Sutherland moved to approve the minutes of March 10, 2016.**

**J. Odulana seconded the motion.**

**Motion carries, minutes approved.**

*Announcements*

M. Lappen announced that he will be the new Director of the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division. B. Beckert announced that the Community Justice Council received a MacArthur Grant. The goal of the project is to improve diversion programs for people with mental illness to divert people from entering the criminal justice system. D. Richards announced that there was recently a Deaf Legislative Day. The event had good attendance and participants met with State Representatives and Senators. W. Parke-Sutherland announced that registration for Empowerment Days ends April 18<sup>th</sup>. The Grassroots Empowerment Project (GEP) peer run respite, Grassroots Wellness, opened April 5<sup>th</sup> in Menomonie. M. Bachhuber announced that on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> the Independent Living Council will hold public hearings on the State Independent Living Plan that is being developed. These hearings will be held in Stevens Point and Madison.

**Item 2: Committee Membership**

*Review Outreach Memo*

S. Gross discussed a draft memo to conduct outreach. Committee members provided recommended edits for the document. S. Gross asked whether the document should specifically recruit people with dual recovery

experience. J. Odulana suggested that the document include the recruitment of people who are willing to advocate for people with mental illness. W. Parke-Sutherland suggested that the document be written to recruit people who have a strong tie to mental illness. B. Beckert suggested that there be a description of the Council and the Committee. S. Gross will write a new draft and provide the document to the LPC members. S. Gross encouraged people to disseminate the document.

#### *LPC Chair Responsibilities*

M. Bachhuber has agreed to serve as LPC Chair for the May meeting. W. Parke-Sutherland will serve as chair for the June LPC meeting.

S. Gross noted that there have not been any LPC members who have expressed interest in serving as the co-chair position when he resigns. S. Gross agreed to provide additional information detailing the role of the chair and co-chair position. J. Carbin suggested holding a meeting with those who have potential interest in leadership to discuss the work that would be required by the LPC chairs. S. Gross will work to hold a meeting with those who are interested. S. Gross plans to provide mentorship for the new LPC chairs prior to resigning.

### **Item 3: Legislative Tracking**

#### *State Legislation*

S. Gross discussed SB 615 which makes several changes to the Special Needs Scholarship Program. The program was created in the 2015-17 biennial budget. The changes are: requiring a child with a disability who wishes to participate in the program to have an Individualized Education Program or services plan in effect prior to being eligible to participate; permitting a child with a disability to apply for a scholarship and attend a private school under the program at any time during a school year; requiring a parent or guardian of the child attending a private school under the program to make the child available no more than once every three years for a reevaluation of the child's IEP and services plan; and requiring a participating private school that receives more applicants under the program than the number of spaces available at the school to accept applications in the order in which they are received. AB 664 allows licensed treatment professionals offering outpatient mental health services at school to receive Medical Assistance (MA) reimbursement, to the extent federal law allows such reimbursement, regardless of whether the school site is designated as a clinic office. The bill also requires Department of Health Services (DHS) to reimburse certain providers working independently, who may not currently be reimbursed by Medical Assistance. AB731 modifies provisions created by Act 55 in the 2015-17 biennial budget, which authorized the creation of ABLE accounts in Wisconsin.

#### *Federal Legislation/Policy*

The LPC discussed S2680, the Mental Health Reform Act of 2016. S. Gross noted that certain advocates had recently been informed that there is not as much optimism in Washington that the bill will be passed. Other legislation is being negotiated and in some cases being consolidated with other legislation. Some other smaller mental health reform bills are still being considered as well.

#### *Family Care 2.0 Concept Paper*

S. Gross stated that the DHS has issued a concept paper on Family Care reform. Information is available on the DHS website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycare/index.htm>. B. Beckert discussed the concept paper. Some areas of concern which had previously been addressed by advocates have been changed. One remaining

concern is the language regarding self-direction of behavioral health services. Language in the paper is restrictive. Advocates have tried to include self-direction for non-medical services. Another area of concern in the paper is that the role of counties is neglected and not adequately defined. B. Beckert suggested that a letter be drafted and presented to the Joint Committee on Finance detailing these concerns. S. Gross noted that given the time frame the WCMH Executive Committee would need to review any letter and approve it, given the time until the next WCMH meeting. As the Council did previously endorse a paper regarding the development of Family Care 2.0 a second letter would be in-line with previous positions. A motion by the LPC would allow the Executive Committee to approve a letter.

**M. Bachhuber moved that two letters detailing the LPC's Family Care Concept paper concerns be drafted. One letter should be written to the DHS and one letter to the Joint Committee on Finance. The letters will be provided to the Executive Committee for approval.**

**M. Neubauer seconded the motion.  
Motion carries.**

B. Beckert will draft up letters and provide them to the LPC members for comment and submission to the Executive Committee. S. Gross will discuss the motion with WCMH Chair Matt Strittmater with the holds of scheduling an Executive Committee meeting to discuss and vote on the letters.

#### **Item 4: 2017-2019 Budget Priorities**

##### *Review status of items*

M. Bachhuber suggested an addition to the budget priorities. M. Bachhuber stated, as an additional budget priority, currently in state law there is subsidy funding associated with clients who are at the Trempealeau County IMD. Some advocates would like to see a change in that provision to reduce or eliminate the incentive for long-term stays at the IMD and ensure independent assessment for those who have a stay of a longer term.

LPC members discussed the list of budget priorities. LPC members asked what can be what can be done with existing DHS resources in regards to data and reporting. Given the limitations of staff and resources, what more would be needed to accomplish all of the Council's data-related goals. W. Parke-Sutherland noted that there is a group in Michigan that is working to create a recovery scale which could be useful in Wisconsin. S. Gross requested that DMHSAS provide the WCMH and LPC a list of available outcome measures. J. Allen will provide this information. The LPC will further discuss data and outcome measures at an upcoming meeting.

Members of the committee also noted, in regards to peer supports, a study of pay for Peer Support Specialists may be of value. Members of the LPC requested that Bob Meyer from DMHSAS come to discuss the Individualized Placement and Support program and current environment. S. Gross will create a new list of the budget priorities and separate out those priorities which are budget versus policy priorities. S. Gross may reach out to members of the Committee to provide additional detail.

#### **Item 5: Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Updates**

J. Allen stated that the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) report has recently been released. In addition, a piece of legislation was passed related to a web based bed tracker. The DHS has been given the responsibility to implement the program and is currently working on the project with the Wisconsin Hospital Association. J. Allen stated that the DMHSAS is looking to provide a funding opportunity for counties and tribes who expanded

their services through CCS. A total of \$300,000 will be made available to provide to those CCS regions that have successfully enhanced their system during the expansion period.

**Item 6: Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

**Item 7: Adjourn**

Future agenda items which were noted:

- In May - budget priorities
- In-depth update on addressing behavioral health issues in Family Care
- Updates on IPS implementation and outcomes
- Child Psychiatry Consultation line

Meeting adjourned at 2:53pm.