



State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health
mhc.wisconsin.gov

Meeting of the Legislative and Policy Committee

June 13, 2019, 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Department of Health Services, 1 West Wilson Street, Madison, Wisconsin and via Conference Call

Members of the Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) in Attendance: Crystal Hester, Justin Odulana, Barbara Beckert, Chris Wirth

Members of the LPC in Attendance via Conference Call: Jeanie Verschay, Kimberlee Coronado, Kathie Knoble-Iverson

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

Guests in Attendance: Hugh Davis (Wisconsin Family Ties), Leah Rolando (Mental Health America-Wisconsin), Marc Herstand (National Association of Social Workers), Tim Saunders

MINUTES

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

Review and approval of the minutes of April 11, 2019

Members of the committee provided corrections to the minutes.

C. Wirth moved to approve the minutes of April 11th, 2019 as amended.

K. Knoble-Iverson seconded the motion

Motion carried, J. Odulana and J. Verschay abstained.

Review and approval of the minutes of May 16, 2019

Members of the committee provided corrections to the minutes.

K. Knoble-Iverson moved to approve the minutes of May 16, 2019 as amended.

J. Odulana seconded the motion.

Motion carried, minutes approved, B. Beckert abstained.

Announcements

B. Beckert announced that Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) is holding a listening session in Racine on June 21 from 4pm-6pm. As part of these listening sessions the DRW Mental Health Advisory Council is also working to receive input from stakeholders and people receiving mental health services.

J. Odulana announced that he attended a listening session with the Governor and Representative Kind. J. Odulana wrote a letter to the editor of the La Crosse Dispatch regarding Medicaid expansion. The letter was recently published and J. Odulana will share it with the committee.

C. Hester announced that NAMI Wisconsin is recruiting for a new Executive Director as the current Executive Director, Jessica Gruneich, will be moving on to another opportunity in August.

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) Updates

C. Hester was recently appointed to the WCMH by Governor Evers. The Council did not hold a May meeting due to low quorum and a lack of items for the agenda. The next meeting will be held on July 17.

Public Comment: The committee will accept comments from the public relating to any committee business

D. Kiernan announced that Bureau of Benefits Management, Division of Medicaid Services is hiring for a Behavioral Health Therapy Consultant. This position will be responsible for providing clinical input for the development of Wisconsin Medicaid coverage policies and maintaining oversight of service authorization reviews for the mental health and substance use disorder service areas. Current licensure or certification to provide psychotherapy or substance abuse counseling is required. Applications are due June 26. D. Kiernan encouraged members of the committee to share information regarding this position with anyone who may be interested.

2. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action

Budget Priority Planning

Members of the LPC discussed options for doing outreach to the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) and members of the public regarding Medicaid expansion.

B. Beckert moved to ask the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) to send a letter asking that the legislature seek input from the WCMH, including on the Council's Mental Health's budget priorities, and the Council's input on the state budget.

J. Odulana seconded the motion

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Beckert discussed DRW's role with Survival Coalition. Survival Coalition will be hosting three calls this coming week for a discussion of the state budget. The focus of the calls will be items the group hopes to keep in the budget, things that the group wants to be included in the budget, areas where more is needed, and lastly a discussion of what is missing from the budget. This could include Medicaid expansion, dental reimbursement, and transportation services. Investments related to the criminal justice system will also be discussed.

Members of the LPC discussed a proposal regarding regional crisis services, the benefits for the communities, and the current burdens on law enforcement services. J. Allen discussed the proposal and the question as to whether these were receiving facilities that can do clearance for a patient. To have the ability to do clearance the facility would need access to labs for testing and also the necessary medical personnel. This would be distinct from a crisis stabilization facility which is meant to provide diversion services.

State Legislation and Review of LPC Bill Tracking and Bills to Review and Approve

C. Hester provided a briefing on the Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention. This is a bipartisan task force of the assembly that is charged with taking a deep dive into the public health crisis of suicide. The task force is holding hearings across the state and is meeting with various stakeholder groups and holding meetings on specific topics. There is a website available to learn more about the work of the taskforce:

<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/committees/assembly/suicideprevention>.

C. Hester discussed the extreme risk protection order, proposed legislation that is being discussed related to this taskforce's work. The legislation would allow a family member to petition to have a firearm removed from a household if they think their family member is at risk of suicide. Similar legislation has been shown to save lives in other states. Advocates have been meeting to discuss this legislation with members of the task force.

Funding for the Child Psychiatry Consultation Program (CPCP) and Step Therapy have both passed the senate. School based mental health proposals are also receiving support. J. Verschay discussed bills she is tracking, AB 33, relating to expungement of records of certain crimes, and AB 30, relating to creating a procedure for granting certificates of qualification for employment for persons convicted of a crime and making an appropriation.

Members of the LPC discussed AB 255, relating to increasing reimbursement for personal care services under the Medical Assistance program, Medicaid expansion and eligibility for BadgerCare Plus and BadgerCare Plus Core, and making an appropriation. Members of the LPC will track this bill, with the understanding that it may not move forward.

Members of the LPC discussed SB 259, relating to trauma-informed care position grants and making an appropriation. The LPC decided not to track this legislation.

Members of the LPC discussed SB 163/AB 175, relating to causing bodily harm to a nurse and providing a penalty. This bill would make harm to a nurse a class H battery. There could potentially be many situations where a person with a disability or mental illness could cause harm to a nurse related to the health challenges they are experiencing. This would increase the risk of criminalizing those actions. There is no hearing on the legislation as of yet.

The LPC discussed SB 270, relating to grants for the Center for Suicide Awareness. The bill would provide \$110,000 in each fiscal year to operate the Hopeline. Members discussed that that language in the bill may be misleading as the Center for Suicide Awareness does not directly operate the Hopeline. Members of the LPC decided to track this legislation.

Federal Legislation, Executive Actions or other Federal matters

HR 945/S 286 has been introduced in the house and senate .The legislation opens up Medicare reimbursement of all masters' level mental health practitioners.

3. Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates

J. Allen discussed the upcoming Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grant application. The Bureau's evaluation team continues to pull together the Needs Assessment document, which will also be provided to the WCMH for review. The gaps analysis will also be a large part of this effort. The DCTS is collaborating with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute on this effort. The gaps analysis team has conducted interviews and will be sending out a survey that will be sent to the members of the WCMH and its committees. Focus groups will also be brought together to gather information.

4. Agenda Items for the July 2019 Committee Meeting

Members of the LPC note that there should be further discussion on the state budget at the July meeting.

5. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 3:00 pm.