



State of Wisconsin

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

**Meeting of the Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC)**

**July 11, 2019**

**12:30 pm to 3:00 pm**

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

**Members of the LPC in Attendance:** Crystal Hester, Brian Michel, Alice Sykora, Mary Neubauer, Kit Kerschensteiner, Hugh Davis, Justin Odulana, Mike Lappen, Chris Wirth, Jeanie Verschay (via teleconference), Kimberlee Coronado (via teleconference)

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

**MINUTES**

**1. Call LPC Meeting to Order**

*Review and approval of the minutes of June 13, 2019*

**B. Michel moved to approve the minutes from June 13, 2019.**

**C. Wirth seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried, M. Neubauer, K. Kerschensteiner, and M. Lappen abstained.**

*Announcements*

C. Hester announced that the NAMI Wisconsin board of directors is in the process of reviewing candidates for the organizations Executive Director Position. NAMI Wisconsin is also holding the Warm Winter Wishes campaign, collecting winter items and collecting donations for people in need. The organization is also working with other local services providers on this effort to collect donations for this coming winter.

B. Michel announced that MHA Wisconsin is hiring for a Veteran Peer Run Recovery Respite Coordinator.

*Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) Updates*

R. Stachoviak informed the group that the next WCMH meeting will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup>. The Council agenda largely includes discussion and review of the Needs Assessment and the combined 2020-2021 Community Mental Health Services Block Grant and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant plan and application.

*Public Comment*

No public comment was made.

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

C. Wirth noted that he is working on identifying an alternate representative for the committee from the Wisconsin Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

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

C. Hester announced that Governor Evers signed the budget bill into law, including some areas that were impacted by the Governor through partial vetoes. K. Kerschensteiner provided an update from a DHS meeting with the advocates meeting earlier in the day. DHS leadership is still hopeful on gaining traction on some areas which did not go through budget.

J. Odulana offered it may be beneficial, when advocating with legislators, to highlight the critical connection between education and healthcare. Members of the LPC discussed challenges that were experienced when attempting to schedule meetings with members of the Joint Committee on Finance and representatives from the Governor's Office throughout the budget process. Some members of the LPC and other advocates were able to attend public hearings and provide comment at those meetings.

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

The Suicide Prevention Taskforce continues to plan and hold hearings, more will be held over the coming months. After the hearings the taskforce is planning on putting together a package of legislation. One area that could be discussed is legislation known as the Extreme Risk Protection Order. This legislation would allow a family to petition to have a firearm temporarily removed from a household of someone for which there is concern they are at risk of harming themselves or others.

Members of the LPC discussed legislation changing professional licensing requirements and categorizations for American Sign Language interpreting. A. Sykora noted that the legislation also details that people who serve in a mental health setting must have mental health training. This won't take effect into 2023, so it will be important to start educating people about these changes and the new requirements.

B. Michel provided a briefing on SB 308. This bill prohibits discrimination on the basis of a person's gender identity or gender expression, which is defined in the bill as a person's gender-related identity, gender-related appearance, gender-related expression, or gender-related behavior, regardless of the person's assigned sex at birth or gender identifiers on official documents issued by a federal, state, or local government agency. The bill also adds sexual orientation and gender identity or gender expression as bases of discrimination in certain other laws prohibiting discrimination.

Members of the LPC discussed SB 293 relating to automatic voter registration and the integration of registration information with information maintained by the Department of Transportation and other state agencies and granting rule-making authority. Members of the LPC also discussed AB 168 relating to the requirement for a person to state their name and address prior to voting.

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

J. Allen provided an update on the reorganization and new appointments in the Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery (BPTR). Teresa Steinmetz is the new Deputy Bureau Director effective July 21, 2019. Ryan Stachoviak is the new Performance Management Section Chief, effective July 21 as well. Tabitha Beckwith has joined the Bureau as a new Operations Associate. Abraham Morris is the new Coordinated Services Team coordinator and DHS 40, Adolescent Day Treatment rule coordinator. J. Robertson announced that the Bureau has hired a new Individual Placement and Support (IPS) state trainer, Stacy Teegardin. The Bureau hopes to bring a second trainer on board in 2020. Julia Hawes has been hired as the new Outreach Specialist for Community Recovery Services (CRS) Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement. At the Division level, now that Rose Kleman is the new Division Administrator, the leadership team is doing a reorganization of the positions so now both Assistant Administrators will oversee some of the facilities that are overseen by the DCTS.

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

J. Odulana suggested the LPC discuss the outcome of Affordable Care Act related Supreme Court cases.

#### **6. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned 1:39pm.