



State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health
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Meeting of the Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC)
August 8, 2019, 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm
1 West Wilson Street, Conference Room 630, Madison, Wisconsin

MINUTES

Members of the LPC in Attendance: Chris Wirth, Justin Odulana, Alice Sykora, Barbara Beckert, Mary Neubauer, Chris Wirth, Kit Kerschensteiner, Jeanie Verschay (via teleconference), Kimberlee Coronado (via teleconference), Brian Michel (via teleconference),

Guests in Attendance: Marc Herstand (National Association of Social Workers), Amanda Anderson (Wisconsin Association for Marriage and Family Therapy)

DHS Staff in Attendance: Ryan Stachowiak, Joannette Robertson, Julia Hawes

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

Review and approval of the minutes of July 11, 2019

C. Wirth moved to approve the minutes of July 11, 2019.

K. Kerschensteiner seconded the motion.

Motion carried, minutes approved.

Announcements

M. Neubauer provided a briefing on national legislation in the works that would allow for Certified Peer Specialist services to be a covered benefit under private insurance not just Medicaid. Mental Health America (MHA) has written a position paper on the topic. MHA also gave an award to Representative Brostoff recognizing him for all of his work in Wisconsin. MHA Wisconsin also has a new podcast that is released on Tuesday mornings: <http://www.mhawisconsin.org/giving-voice-to-depression>.

B. Beckert announced that Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) has a PAMI Mental Health Advisory Council meeting coming up in Rice Lake. There will also be a listening session with the DRW Board.

B. Michel announced that MHA Wisconsin has selected a location in Pewaukee for the Veteran Peer Run Respite. The respite will be called the R and R House.

J. Odulana discussed some of his previous work on responses to terrorism. He has received renewed interest in the work as a result of current events. The work looks at mental health from a public health approach. J. Odulana offered to share more information with those who would be interested.

J. Verschay discussed legislation being proposed that would address restoring voting rights to people who have been incarcerated while still on paper. More information regarding the legislation can be shared with the LPC.

C. Hester announced that NAMI Wisconsin board is still in the process of hiring an Executive Director. NAMI Wisconsin for MH Awareness week, with affiliate leaders, will be supporting the creation of a little free library that will be stocked with guides and mental health resources.

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) Updates

R. Stachowiak noted that the WCMH voted to appoint Inshirah Farhoud as the Interim Chair of the Council. New leadership will be voted on at the September WCMH meeting. Members of the LPC discussed the Gaps Analysis survey that was distributed to the WCMH and LPC. A. Sykora stated that the survey could pose challenges for many people, in particular people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. The way the questions were written can be challenging to answer. J. Odulana suggested that future surveys may want to allow survey takers to skip questions that are not applicable.

Public Comment

M. Herstand discussed a press conference on the Child Victims Act and the clergy mandatory reporting bill. This legislation would close a loop hold in current legislation which prevented clergy from reporting something when it was told in confidence. In addition, current laws can prevent people from charging perpetrators of assault due to statute of limitations. M. Herstand discussed legislation that would ban conversion therapy for minors. K. Coronado briefed the LPC on the caregiver summit being held on September 5th at DHS.

2. Discussion and Review of Committee Membership and Leadership

C. Hester discussed the current need for leadership among the Council's Committees and the Council itself. People who are interested in getting involved are encouraged to apply or consider taking on a leadership position. In addition, there continue to be vacancies for new members on the LPC. B. Beckert suggested that the Recovery Conference might be an avenue to do recruiting in the future for the Council and its Committees. Members of the LPC discussed avenues for future recruitment.

3. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action

C. Hester provided a briefing. The meeting with DHS leadership was canceled this month but will resume in September. Members of the LPC discussed Medicaid expansion which was included in the budget, but was voted out in the Legislature. There was a press conference held to announce Senator Erpenbach introducing legislation to expand Medicare. The LPC will continue to track this legislation. At upcoming advocates meeting the group hopes to discuss crisis resource centers, system of care, Coordinated Services Team initiatives, and the family care waiver.

Members of the LPC provided updates on proposed legislation including CBRFs, peer run respites, and the challenges that peer run respites face, especially in regards to zoning. In some cases the Peer Run Respites have faced negative feedback from the community in which they are working to operate. B. Michel discussed that the Veterans Peer Run respite has not received much push back so far.

Members of the LPC discussed current legislation. C. Wirth discussed LRB 2755, which focuses on telehealth. The LPC will add this legislation to bill tracking.

B. Beckert discussed the Adoption Taskforce and areas pertaining to termination of parental rights that are being discussed.

Members of the LPC discussed AB336/SB312 related to 48 hour waiting period for purchase of handguns and SB316 related to the treatment of pregnant or post-partum persons in prison or county jail. Members of the LPC discussed AB346/SB324 related to extension of eligibility under the Medical Assistance program for post-partum women and AB355 related to accommodations at legislative committee meetings.

Members of the LPC discussed recent shootings and the stigmatizing comments that have been made regarding mental illness and gun violence. Members noted the importance of advocates working to debunk inaccuracies. The LPC will continue to discuss gun violence.

4. Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates

J. Robertson provided a briefing on the Crisis Services Workgroup that is working with WCHSA. The group has been meeting since February and is looking to address the crisis infrastructure across the state. The group hopes to survey each county across the state, looking at things like backup crisis call centers, regional crisis stabilization facilities, and means to increase training. Currently the group is comprised of County Human Services directors and DHS staff. B. Beckert encouraged the group to ensure more stakeholders and advocates are included in the discussion. A. Sykora discussed the importance of ensuring proper data collection in the crisis system. Many people who are DHOH may not know of the services available to them or how to access these services.

K. Kerschensteiner moved that the LPC ask the WCMH send a letter to DCTS leadership requesting that the membership of the Crisis Services Workgroup be expanded to include advocates, family members, and persons with lived experience.

M. Neubauer seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

K. Kerschensteiner and B. Beckert agreed to develop a letter in response to the motion for the WCMH to consider.

5. Agenda Items for the September 2019 Committee Meeting

Members of the LPC suggested the group further discuss gun legislation and items from the budget process that could be proposed as standalone bills.

6. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.