

**Legislative and Policy Committee Strategic Plan
January 2014-December 2016**

The purpose of the Legislative and Policy Committee is to enhance the ability of the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) to effectively promote its priorities and see them become practice. To accomplish this the Legislative and Policy Committee provides expertise, continuity and focus on mental health budget and policy by engaging consumer, family, advocacy and provider organizations that are actively involved in state level mental health budget and policy advocacy. The committee seeks to enhance the ability of other standing committees to address policy that is within the scope of those committees.

The Legislative and Policy Committee will employ the following strategies to accomplish its purpose:

- I. The Legislative and Policy Committee will monitor state budget and bills introduced into the legislature. The Committee will inform other standing committees of legislative issues that fall into their scope and determine whether those committees wish to take the lead on developing the WCMH policy response.
- II. The Legislative and Policy Committee will disseminate information about legislative and policy actions, in coordination with other committees that may be the policy lead in a given area.
- III. The Committee will work to strengthen the ability of other standing committees to act as policy lead for bills in their scope through:
 - a. Joint meetings with the other standing committees which will discuss:
 - i. The priorities of the other committees.
 - ii. The bill areas where they might like to be lead.
 - iii. Communication and coordination between the two committees on policy issues.
 - iv. How the Legislative and Policy Committee can strengthen the ability of the other committee to act as policy lead.
 - b. Trainings, either individually with other committees or jointly, to educate other committee members on policy and advocacy processes and strategy.
 - c. Mentoring of individuals from other committees by including them in policy meetings, legislative visits and meetings with decision-makers.
 - d. Cross-representation on committees where feasible and where individuals have the ability to do so.
- IV. The Legislative and Policy Committee will take the lead on the following:
 - a. Creating a coherent and balanced package of budget priorities with input from the other standing committees.
 - b. Items that do not fall into the scope of other committees or that other committees do not wish to be the lead on.
 - c. Items that involve multiple committees if there is a need to coordinate a response or mediate differences.
- V. The Legislative and Policy Committee will revisit the engagement and involvement of Legislators/staff on the committee.
- VI. The Legislative and Policy Committee will consider how to better engage with the provider community. This will entail:
 - a. Identifying which provider organizations to engage with.
 - b. How best to engage recognizing the following:
 - i. The limitations of providers being able to participate in lengthy, monthly meetings in Madison.
 - ii. A desire to ensure that the Legislative and Policy Committee remains strongly consumer, family and advocate run.