



State of Wisconsin

**Wisconsin Council on Mental Health**  
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**Meeting of the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH)**  
**July 17, 2019**  
**10:00 am to 3:30 pm**  
**Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**  
**1801 Aberg Avenue, Madison, WI and Via Conference Call**

**Members of the WCMH in Attendance:** Holly Audley, Jerolynn Bell-Scaggs, Lea Collins-Worachek, Kimberlee Coronado, Inshirah Farhoud, Crystal Hester, Rick Immler, Radha Kanchana Karthik, Dan Kiernan, Bonnie MacRitchie, Sheryl Smith

**Guests in Attendance:** Lynn Harrigan, Constance Eller, Ray Ploof, Breckyn Ryg, Kellie Blechinger, Brian Dean, Thai Vue, Norman Briggs, Roger Frings, Autumn Lacy, Sen. Janet Bewley, Delora Newton

**Department of Health Services (DHS) Staff in Attendance:** Joann Stephens, Joyce Allen, Joannette Robertson, Kenya Bright, Tim Connor, Ryan Stachoviak, Mike Derr, Allison Weber

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Call Meeting to Order**

*Review and approval of the minutes of November 14, 2018*

**L. Collins-Worachek moved to approve the minutes.**

**B. MacRitchie seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously, minutes approved.**

*Review and approval of the minutes of January 16, 2019*

**L. Collins-Worachek moved to approve the minutes.**

**B. MacRitchie seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously, minutes approved.**

*Review and approval of the minutes of March 20, 2019*

**B. MacRitchie moved to approve the minutes.**

**R. Immler seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously, minutes approved.**

*Announcements*

No announcements were made.

### *Public Comment*

Ray Ploof, a member of the public, discussed his concerns regarding conditions at the Winnebago Mental Health Institute (WMHI), where his daughter currently is placed. Mr. Ploof noted his concerns regarding DHS codes not being followed, and that his family member reported that she experienced retaliation from staff when raising concerns, or when trying to help other patients. Mr. Ploof stated that treatment seems inconsistent, and, according to his family member, staff at WMHI are putting in large amounts of overtime due to overall staff shortages. Regarding DHS code, each patient upon admissions, and on an annual basis, should have their client rights reviewed, however this has not happened consistently. The high amount of staff overtime also appears to be leading to inconsistency in treatment. Mr. Ploof expressed his hope for more consistency in treatment and services at WMHI, increased time with clinicians, and ensuring client's rights are followed.

## **2. Presentation on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis**

Tim Connor provided a briefing of the Needs Assessment and Gaps analysis, and led a discussion on the themes that emerged in the analysis. Wisconsin rates of suicide is higher than the national average, rates for males are higher than females. R. Immler asked about the changes in Medicaid population from the previous needs assessment. D. Kiernan noted that there appears to be a trend of an increase, but there has been a change in how the data is being collected so the data may not be comparable. T. Connor provided a briefing on the gaps analysis. A survey was provided to the members of the Council, peer specialists, county providers, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders. The team is also holding focus groups that will be held with specific groups. The survey gets at themes of service availability, accessibility, and adequacy. Some preliminary themes that have emerged include the need for psychiatrists, in particular child psychiatrists, a lack of dually trained clinicians, and a need for therapists who are trained to work with people with special needs. Other concerns are a lack of transportation in rural areas, waitlists, and the overburdened residential facilities.

A common barrier throughout is workforce capacity. Education is seen as a barrier, the debt incurred by psychiatrists, and low reimbursement rates. Language is also a barrier; translation services are not always adequate. Another theme is that the county structure can be a barrier and creates disparities among communities.

Solutions that stakeholders talked about the most in gaps analysis include the following: Medicaid expansion should be a top priority, a need to do more at addressing carve outs for Medicaid contracts, utilizing the hub and spoke model for model for mental health and substance use services.

## **3. Working Lunch**

## **4. Review and Discussion of the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) and Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG)**

R. Stachowiak and M. Derr provided a summary and briefing on the MHBG and SABG plan and application including a discussion on the priority areas and budget. Members of the Council discussed high levels of drug related deaths in Wisconsin, and how the SABG is utilized with other funding to address the opioid crisis. T. Vue discussed the priorities and how the SABG addresses underserved populations and minority populations. When

you look at what is generally classified as Asian populations, you are really talking about roughly 26 distinct ethnic groups that reside in Wisconsin. More can be done to address the needs of these communities, as well as measure and define what success looks like for these groups. N. Briggs expressed his hope that primary prevention priority areas can look at more specific outcomes. Members discussed avenues for including vaping among the priorities.

#### **5. Public Hearing: Comment on the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant and Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Block Grant**

C. Hester, presenting as a representative from NAMI Wisconsin, provided public comment. This included a briefing on the accomplishments NAMI Wisconsin made with the MHBG funding that was received by the organization. NAMI Wisconsin serves people across the state, many of whom are underserved. The organization also works in partnership with other mental health advocates to improve the mental health system in the state. Serve people across the state, people who are underserved. R. Immler commended NAMI Wisconsin on their work to provide CIT training in Wisconsin.

Member of the WCMH agreed to authorize the WCMH leadership to draft a letter from the WCMH to include in the MHBG application.

#### **6. WCMH Committee Reports, Discussion, and Consideration of Motions**

##### *Executive Committee*

Members of the WCMH discussed the currently vacant Chair, Vice-Chair, and Second Vice Chair positions. Members noted their desire to learn more about the specifics of each role and the time commitment of each position. R. Stachoviak will send more information to the Council. The Council will address leadership at the September Council meeting and select an interim chair until that time.

**R. Immler moved to appoint Inshirah Farhoud as the Interim Chair of the WCMH.**

**B. MacRitchie seconded the motion.**

**Motion approved unanimously.**

##### *WCMH Fall Tour*

Members of the WCMH discussed options for the fall tour. The Council members agreed to not hold a fall tour this year due to the large turnover of membership and need to address leadership. In lieu of a fall tour the Council will hold a regular meeting on September 11.

**K. Coronado moved to send a letter to Mr. Ploof thanking him for attending the Council meeting and for providing testimony regarding WMHI**

**R. Immler seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried, H. Audley abstained.**

##### *Children and Youth Committee (CYC)*

B. MacRitchie announced that J. Juhnke has resigned as co-chair of the CYC as she has a new position with Wisconsin Family Ties. Phyllis Greenberger has agreed to fill the role of co-chair on an interim basis.

### *Criminal Justice Committee (CJC)*

The most recent CJC meeting was canceled, no CJC update was provided.

### *Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC)*

C. Hester provided a briefing. The LPC has continued to discuss the state budget, Medicaid Expansion, and avenues to advocate for Medicaid Expansion. The LPC has also been discussing the extreme risk protection order legislation and legislation that would change licensing for ASL interpreters. The Speaker's Legislative Taskforce on Suicide Prevention is holding public hearings throughout the state.

### *Nominating Committee*

No Nominating Committee update was provided.

## **7. Division of Care and Treatment Services Briefing and Updates**

R. Stachoviak provided an update on Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Grant funding for 2020. J. Allen discussed changes at the Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery (BPTR). Teresa Steinmetz has been appointed as the new Deputy Bureau Director has been appointed. Ryan Stachoviak has been appointed as the new Performance Management Section Chief.

The DHS continues to review impacts of the budget including the Governor's vetoes in the budget. The budget provided funding for suicide prevention grants. This will go through a procurement process. Also included in the budget was funding for the implementation of the Hub and Spoke model for substance use treatment.

H. Audley provided updated that group that the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center will be expanded as a result of the budget. The admissions unit for WMHI will also move forward which will allow for better intake and addressing people's needs. DCTS continues to recruit an Assistant Administrator. There has also been a realignment of responsibilities between the Assistant Administrators so that both supervise facilities. H. Audley will continue to oversee the BPTR as well.

## **8. Call for future WCMH agenda items**

Members of the Council suggested the following items for future agendas.

- Continued discussion of the MHBG.
- Addressing Council leadership.
- Medicaid opportunities, best practices, and optimizing Medicaid rates.
- A discussion of reimbursement rates for Children's Long Term Services.
- A discussion of the current state of CCS and how CCS has impacted Wisconsin's mental health system.
- Plans for a 2020 WCMH fall tour

## **9. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.