



State of Wisconsin

**Wisconsin Council on Mental Health**  
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**Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) Fall Visit to Ashland  
September 11-12, 2018  
101 Lake Shore Drive W, Ashland, WI 54806**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Members of the WCMH in Attendance:** Lea Collins-Worachek, Kimberlee Coronado, Tom Engels, Inshirah Farhoud, Dan Kiernan, Mark Lausch, Bonnie MacRitchie, Sheli Jo Metzger, Mishelle O'Shasky, Matt Strittmater

**Department of Health Services (DHS) Staff in Attendance:** Joyce Allen, Holly Audley, Cory Flynn, Theresa Kuehl, Heather Leach, Ryan Stachoviak, Joann Stephens, Dawn Winquist

**Presentations Day One - September 11, 2018  
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**1. Fall Tour Day One Summary**

On day one of the WCMH's visit to Ashland several organizations provided presentations. The following organizations and agencies presented: Ashland County Health and Human Services, Bayfield County Department of Human Services, New Horizons North, North Lakes Community Clinic, the Ashland School District Project AWARE, and Northland Counseling Center.

**Meeting Day Two - September 12, 2018  
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**2. Call Meeting to Order**

*Welcome and introductions*

M. O'Shasky called the meeting to order at 8:06 am, members of the WCMH and attendees held introductions.

*Review and approval of the minutes of July 18, 2018*

**M. Strittmater moved to approve the minutes of July 18, 2018.**

**S. Metzger seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously, minutes of July 18, 2018 approved.**

### *Announcements*

S. Metzger announced that she may need to leave the Council due to potential changes in her organization, but hopes to remain on the Council.

### *Public Comment*

D. Winquist thanked the Council and Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS) staff for visiting Ashland for the fall tour.

### **3. Fall Tour Day One Debriefing and Feedback**

Members of the WCMH provided the following overall comments on the Council's visit to Ashland.

- The organizations in the community seemed very hopeful and collaborative. Organizations appear willing to pool their resources and work together to support each other and work through red tape in a very collaborative way.
- Transportation, housing and red tape seemed to be common barriers.
- There seemed to be a lot of good practices in the community that other areas of the state could learn from.
- Overall the questions that were provided to the presenters were a helpful way to frame the discussions.
- County staff members were able to speak clearly and with detail to a lot of the services and programs offered by the two counties.
- Overall, residential capacity also appeared to be lacking in the area, as was 24 hour supervision of staff in the area was lacking. Behavioral health partnerships may be beneficial for the counties.
- The community itself seemed to be providing a lot of support to its members, and was able utilize personal connections to help others creating a supportive system and community.
- The WCMH shouldn't over promise anything as a result of this visit. Resources in the area are very limited in the region. The WCMH should thoughtfully provide some feedback on means that could perhaps help close some gaps.
- The WCMH didn't hear as much regarding adult services. In addition, the WCMH should still consider the services and resources available for people such as veterans, tribal members, and older consumers.
- Overall, the community still seems to have a lot of needs. There are struggles that probably were not evident. This could include things like education and infrastructure, that aren't readily evident.
- It was striking the number of students in the school district and the proportion of those kids that were referred for services.
- A regional economic group presentation would be helpful for their perspectives for the long term and how economic development could impact mental health. It is important to consider the employment context as well, are jobs coming into the community?
- There appears to be an overall dearth of psychiatric care in the area.
- At future tours, the WCMH may benefit from hearing from local law enforcement.

Members of the Council provided the following thoughts on specific organization's presentations.

### *Ashland County Health and Human Services*

- It may be beneficial for the county to learn about the Parent Peer Specialist trainings that are occurring in the area, and at the Bad River Tribe. It is a resource, especially in the Bad River tribe.
- The stories that the presenters provided helped provide context to the community. Any other information or positions that the staff would like to provide would be helpful to share with Legislators and the Governor would be welcome.
- The presenters' discussion on prevention was helpful and the importance of focusing on prevention rather than intervention and treatment.

### *Bayfield County Department of Human Services*

- CCS intake could be helpful.
- Does the county operate a 24 hour crisis line?
- It was illuminating learning more about the barriers posed by Duluth being unavailable as a resource.
- There appeared to be a lack of neuropsychology available in the community.

### *New Horizons North*

- New Horizons North expressed some challenges with Comprehensive Community Services (CCS). Information regarding the abbreviated assessment process may be beneficial. Area Administration may be able to provide support.
- Statewide information regarding CCS didn't always trickle down to them, which may be something that could be addressed at the State level.
- Their involvement in Zero Suicide is impressive.
- The organization's efforts and emphasis on equal access to equal needs is commendable.
- Members of the Council expressed interest in learning more on how the safety plan process and how it is utilized.

### *North Lakes Community Clinic*

- The feedback informed treatment that they discussed seemed to be a positive effort. .
- Overall the organization sounds to be doing great work in the community, and the presenters brought a lot of enthusiasm and positivity.
- The WCMH noted their hope that the organization can continue to support those other organizations in the community and community partners, as Northlakes Community Clinic appears to be a valuable resource for many others.
- It would have been beneficial to learn more about availability and waitlists for AVA therapies.
- The organization has many unique qualities and provides interesting programs such as therapy camp.
- Members suggested that the Council thank them for their collaborative nature, noting that the Council would like to see them continue to build those collaborations and connections.
- The agency has partnered with community centers in Superior and they are successfully forming partnerships across the county lines.

*Ashland School District Project AWARE*

- The presenters and their programmatic efforts were very positive.
- Members of the WCMH were encouraged by their commitment to building a committed space for mental health services in the school.
- It was striking the number and proportion of students receiving and being referred for mental health services.
- Members of the Council expressed interest in learning more about the specific treatments students are receiving.

*Northland Counseling Center*

- Member of the WCMH noted that they were pleased to see the organization investing in the community by building additional services and resources.
- The work being done to address crisis response in the community is a positive, in particular the operation of a five day crisis respite for youth.
- Members of the WCMH expressed that it was impressive that the organization had such success recruiting staff as needed.

**4. WCMH Committee Reports, Discussion, and Consideration of Motions**

*Executive Committee*

M. O'Shasky provided an update from the September 5 Executive Committee meeting. The meeting was devoted to planning the fall tour and planning for the November meeting. R. Stachoviak noted the group had discussed the upcoming block grant application in 2019, and suggested that members of the Council begin thinking about how the Council would like to coordinate providing input and feedback on the application in 2019.

*Children and Youth Committee (CYC)*

B. MacRitchie provided an update on the CYC. The committee continues to work on workforce development, which is hoped to lead to some recommendations for the Council's budget priorities and recommendations for the State.

**M. O'Shasky appointed Andrea Turtenwald to the CYC as a representative from the OCMH.**

*Legislative and Policy Committee*

R. Stachoviak provided an update on the LPC. The committee continues to refine the budget priorities document. The LPC hopes to have a new draft that can be presented to the WCMH at the November meeting.

**M. O'Shasky appointed Jessica Gruneich to the LPC as the alternate representative from NAMI Wisconsin.**

K. Coronado expressed her concern regarding the WCMH's lack of input and involvement on the recent school safety legislation and funding. K. Coronado noted disappointment that the Department of Justice and the Governor's office did not reach out to the WCMH to provide any input on the legislation. D. Kiernan suggested the group reassess the strength of the relationships that the WCMH has with the Governor's office and legislators and find avenues to ensure that the Council feels its voice is being heard.

**K. Coronado moved that the WCMH write a positive and collaborative letter to the Governor requesting additional involvement on issues of mental health, including updates on mental health related legislation, and other mental health related State business. The Council regrets not being consulted on recent legislation. In addition, the WCMH asks that the Governor provide additional support in terms of ensuring complete WCMH membership.**

**M. O'Shasky seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried, T. Engels abstained.**

#### *Criminal Justice Committee (CJC)*

M. O'Shasky provided a briefing. The CJC is crafting a motion to recommend a pilot program for a forensic peer specialist specialization. The CJC approved the motion, but has decided to rework and reword the motion. The CJC plans to bring the motion to an upcoming Council meeting for consideration by the Council. Members of the WCMH discussed opportunities for Certified Peer Specialist specializations.

#### **5. Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS) Briefing and Updates**

Joyce Allen announced that DCTS will not contract this coming year with Grassroots Empowerment Project (GEP) for the provision of a Peer Run Respite. GEP was not able to provide a workable budget or work plan and could not provide adequate documentation for expenditures and other required contract documentation. The DCTS has reached out to NAMI Fox Valley and SOAR in Madison regarding options for supporting another Peer Run Respite throughout the state. Updates will continue to be provided to the WCMH. The DCTS plans to reissue a Government Funding Opportunity (GFO) for a Veterans Peer Run Respite.

J. Allen provided the WCMH with a report of Certified Peer Specialists (CPS) and Certified Parent Peer Specialist Expansion. The report details the changes in moving from Wisconsin having just a Mental Health CPS to now having a certification for mental health, alcohol and other drugs abuse (AODA), and co-occurring. Now Wisconsin has developed a certification for the Certified Parent Peer Specialists. This was a transition that took a good deal of time. The State continues to support and provide trainings across the state, and the BPTR is working to fill in those gaps in training across areas the state where localities cannot afford to provide training. The BPTR internally are working to expand the team supporting the CPS efforts. An advisory committee is also in development, as recommended by the WCMH. An online committee application is in development and it is planned to be released later in September. The goal is to form a committee of 25 members, including a member of the WCMH.

**T. Engels moved to recommend Kim Coronado be the WCMH representative on the Certified Peer Specialist advisory council.**

**M. Strittmater seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

H. Audley provided updates on the Winnebago Mental Health Institute (WMHI). The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) conducted a return visit. The results were positive and several of the issues that were previously identified were improved. The DCTS expects a report from CMS in October. T. Engels noted that efforts are being made to recruit staff from the surrounding communities to be employed at the WMHI.

H. Audley announced that DCTS Administrator Pat Cork is retiring this fall. A retirement party will be held for him on October 11.

**6. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.