



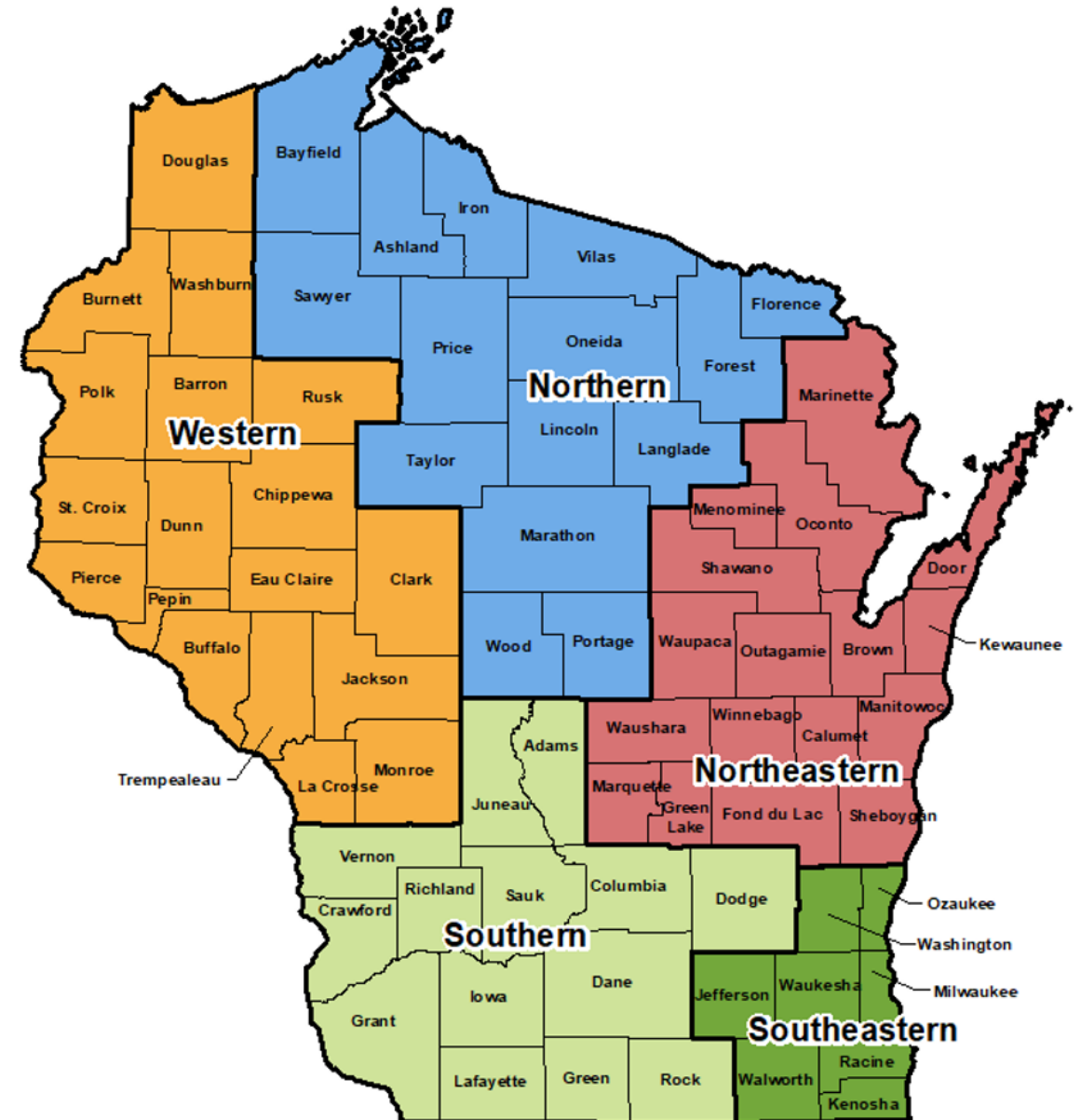
Wisconsin Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health (IDD-MH) System Improvement

Community of Practice Annual Update

December 11, 2025

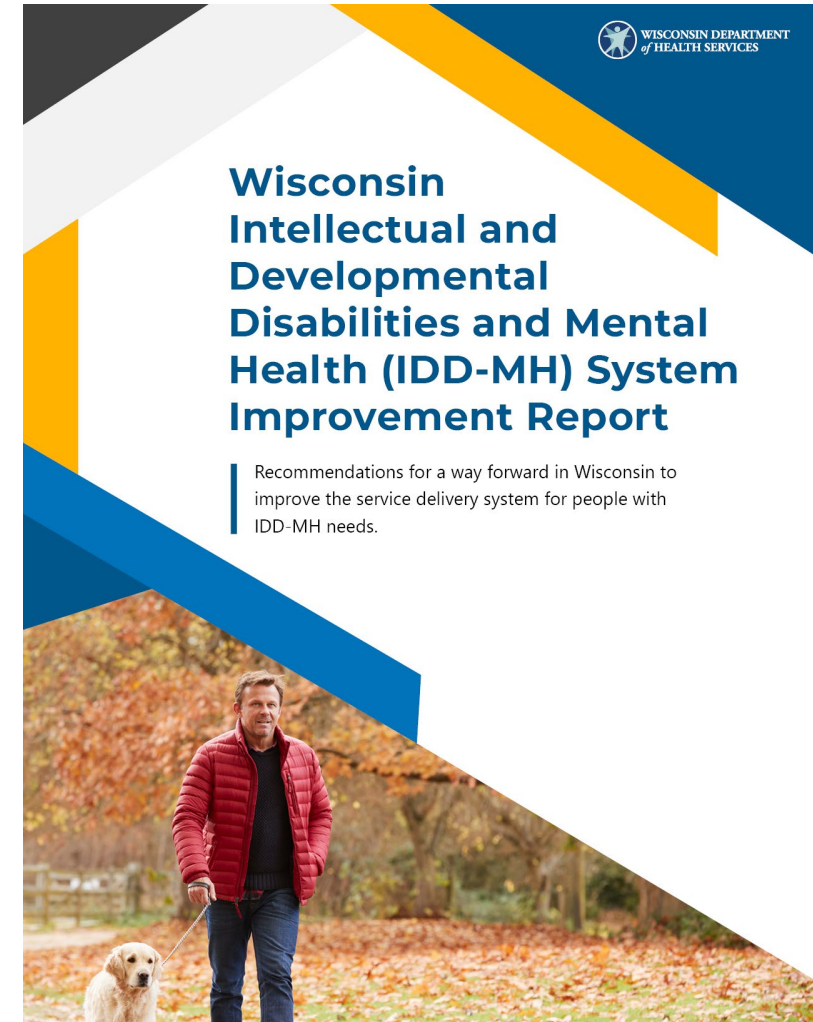
Welcome!

What part of
Wisconsin
are you from?



Welcome!

Did you attend our project team briefing in December 2024 or read the Wisconsin IDD-MH System Improvement Report?



Welcome!

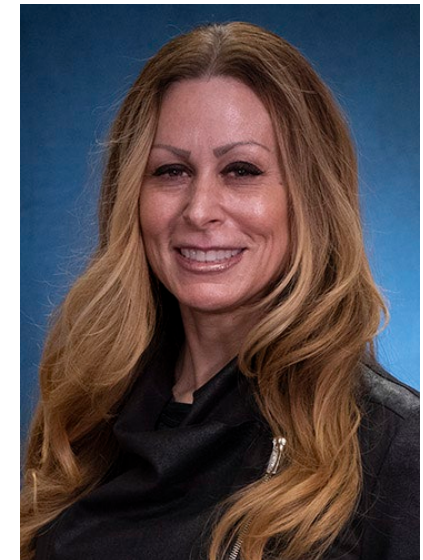
Bill Hanna

Medicaid Director
DMS



Gynger Steele

Administrator
DCTS



Agenda

- Project overview
- Report and recommendations
- Project momentum
- Phase 3 updates
- Next steps



Project Overview



How we got here

Overarching goal

Wisconsin IDD-MH System Improvement aims to improve systems and services for people who have IDD-MH needs.



Why is this work needed?



Affects people every day



Statewide problem



Complex systems and issues

Project overview



Not created
or owned by
DHS



Solutions
must be
owned by all
of us



We can't do it
all at once

Project phases

Phase 1

- Evaluation Phase
- Deliverable: [START Scan](#)

Phase 2

- Recommendation Phase
- Deliverable: [Wisconsin IDD-MH System Improvement Report](#)

Phase 3

- Implementation Phase
- Deliverables: Implement selected recommendations

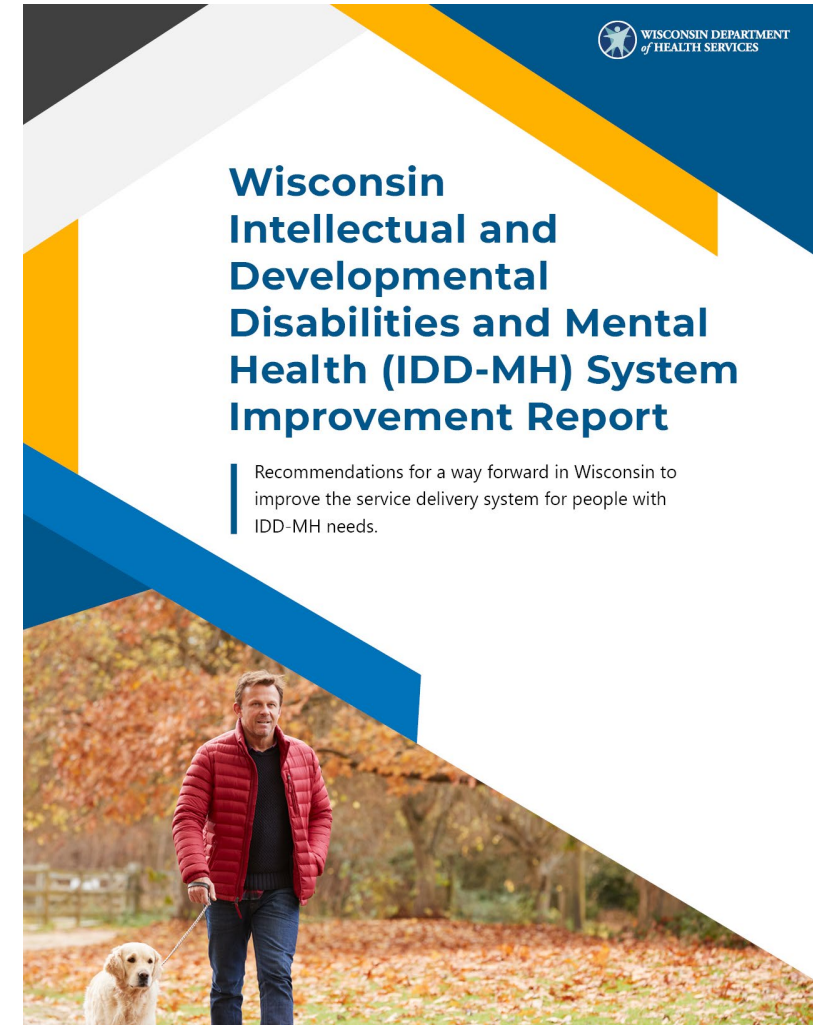
Report, Recommendations and Structure

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Project momentum

Wisconsin IDD-MH System Improvement Report

- DHS worked with 1,300 self-advocates, partners, providers, and others
- 37 specific recommendations
- Organized into eight focus areas



Eight focus areas



**Regional
Supports**



**Expand Access to
Psychiatric and
Behavioral Health
Services**



**Rate and Billing
Code
Improvements**



**Technology
Related**



**IDD-MH Specific
Training**



**System
Review**



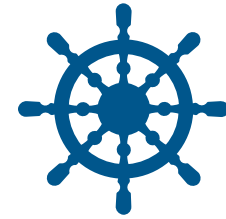
**System
Navigation**



**Oversight and
Process
Improvement**

A community of ownership


- The **steering committee** includes county workers, providers, advocates, provider agencies, DHS staff, and more. They're responsible for making decisions and guiding this work.
- The **subcommittees** are small groups of subject matter experts working on implementing and advising on recommendations.
- The **community of practice** is anyone interested in improving IDD-MH in Wisconsin. They offer feedback, ideas and knowledge.



First success

Recommendation 8.2

- 4000+ members
- Anyone interested in improving the IDD-MH system
- Complete surveys and offer feedback, ideas, and knowledge

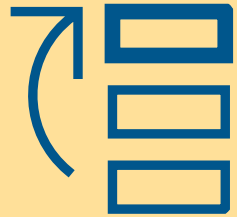


**Creating a
community of
practice for
Phase 3
and beyond**

Phase 3

Turning more recommendations into actions

Phase 3: Subcommittee Recruitment



**Steering Committee
voted on which
recommendations to
begin with first.**



**A survey was sent to the
Community of Practice
requesting subject
matter expert
volunteers for
subcommittees.**



**Steering Committee
reviewed survey results
and extended
invitations to
participate.**



**Subcommittee members
were welcomed with an
informational packet
and kick off meetings
held in July 2025.**



Recommendation 1.2



Focuses

- Keeping people in the community or returning them to a community setting as soon as possible
- Adults first, then children

Current work

- Understanding how many people are in need and what resources are needed to keep people close to home
- Looking at current resources

Timeline

Complete work by end of March

Goal: Create a way for people to “step-down” from a crisis stay for up to 180 days.

Recommendation 2.1



Focus

- Prescribing professionals who are already practicing
- Help more prescribers feel comfortable and confident in serving people with IDD-MH needs

Current work

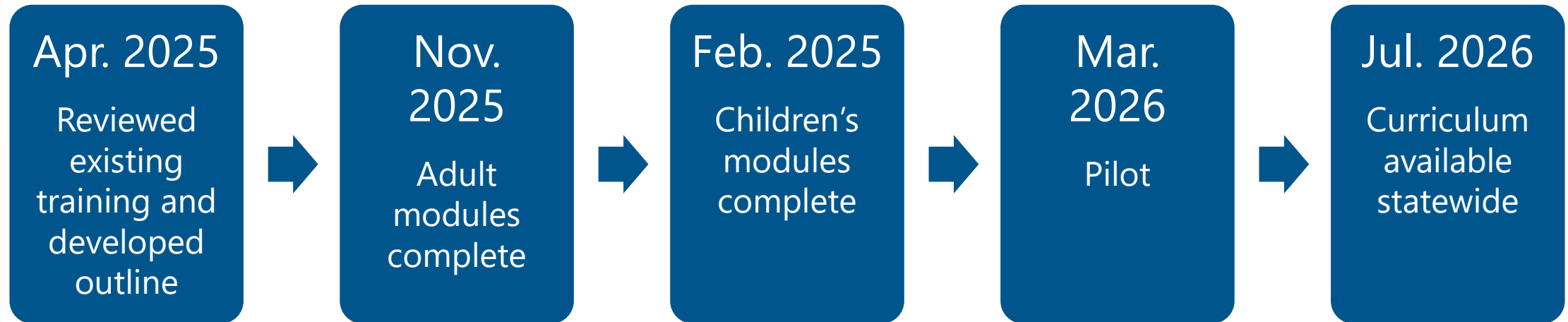
- Survey to see what resources current prescribers would find most useful to help them serve people with IDD-MH needs (open Nov. 25-Dec. 9, sent to 48,000 people)
- Reviewing and assembling training materials that could be made available to prescribers on demand.

Goal: Provide training, mentoring, and ongoing collaboration between current professionals.

Recommendation 5.7



➔ Expand the DHS Certified Direct Care Professional (CDCP) training program to include modules related to IDD-MH.



Next Steps


Where we go from here

Phase 3: A flexible model



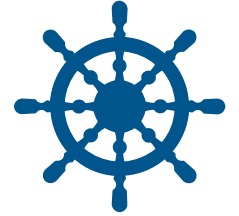
What's next: Subcommittees

- **Current** subcommittees continue their work.
- The Steering Committee will set up **new** subcommittees to work on the next recommendations.
- Recruitment will start in the new year—watch your email and the project webpage.
- The Steering Committee will provide subcommittees info about roles and parameters around their specific projects.
- Roles will vary based needs.
- Members will be recruited based on the expertise needed for specific recommendations.



**We're ready
to add more
subcommittees!**

What's next: Steering Committee



- The Steering Committee has reviewed the 37 recommendations to determine which to begin implementing next.
- The recommendations were weighed and prioritized based on factors including:
 - Benefit to the IDD-MH community
 - Benefit across groups, including geography
 - Feasibility
 - Funding

What's next: Community of Practice



We want your input to determine which recommendation to begin next

- DHS will share a survey via email
- Vote and get involved
- Watch for quarterly updates

Increase the number of providers skilled in serving people with IDD-MH Needs who can offer services via telehealth

2.4



Increase the number of peer support specialists and access to peer supports while waiting for mental health services

2.6



Create a standardized crisis plan template to be used statewide

4.2



Wrap Up

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This is all possible thanks to you



Visit our webpage

dhs.wi.gov/dms/imsi.htm



Read the report

dhs.wi.gov/dms/imsi-report.pdf



Email us with questions

DHSDMSIMSI@dhs.wisconsin.gov



Thank
you!