

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH)		Attending: Guests – Rick Schultz	
Date: 02/18/2026	Time Started: 1:04 p.m.	Time Ended: 2:59 p.m.	DHS - Hannah Foley, Leanne Delsart, Monique Larson-Hicks, Jessie Andrews, Joannette Robertson, Brenda Scheurer, Katelyn Blatter
Location: Zoom Meeting		Presiding Officer: Ana Winton	
Minutes			

Members in attendance: 10 out of 17 council members must be present for quorum			
X	Ana Winton	X	Sheryl Smith
X	Chrissy Barnard	X	Lalena Lampe
X	Cheryl Johnson (in place of Trish Kilpin)	X	Pam Lano
X	Mary Madden	X	Karen Odegaard
X	Kristina (Krissy) Neyrinck	X	Sarah Salisott
X	Alicia Oczus	X	Nikyra McCann
X	Svea Erlandson	X	Matt MacLean
X	McKenna Holman	X	Leana Nakielski Mesdjian
X	Tim Peerenboom	X	Nicole Iuro-Ravens
X	Kimberlee Coronado (ex-Officio does not count towards quorum)		

1. Call the meeting to order

Winton called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. once quorum was established.

2. WCMH housekeeping

Read WCMH "Guidelines for Conduct of Meeting"
Smith read the guidelines.

Review and approve November 19, 2025, meeting minutes

Barnard motioned to approve November minutes. Madden seconded. 13 Fors. 0 Nays. 1 Abstention.

Announcements: opportunity for council members to make general announcements

Iuro-Ravens shared the [Wisconsin Peer Recovery Conference](#) will be held April 20-21, 2026, at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. Barnard shared the [NAMI Wisconsin Annual Conference](#) will be held April 10-11, 2026, at the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley in Appleton.

Public comment: the committee will accept comments from the public relating to committee business

No public comment.

3. WCMH committee and workgroup reports, discussion, and consideration of motions

Executive Committee

Winton shared she is looking for leadership assistance for the May WCMH meeting and beyond as she will be on temporary leave. Barnard, MacLean, and Neyrinck volunteered to support the council and will speak with Winton separately to determine roles and responsibilities of council leadership. MacLean offered to help as needed.

MacLean motioned for Winton, Barnard, and Neyrinck to serve as tri-chairs of the WCMH. Iuro-Ravens seconded. 14 Fors. 0 Nays. 0 Abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

Criminal Justice Committee (CJC)

The next CJC meeting will be held February 19, 2026.

Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC)

Iuro-Ravens shared the LPC is looking to restructure their committee and meeting structure. The LPC is interested in collaborating with other committees regarding Chapter 51 and requested any interested member/committee to contact Iuro-Ravens if interested in collaborating. Neyrinck shared she is interested and will reach out to Iuro-Ravens.

Access and Quality Committee (AQC)

Barnard shared that Amy Cottingham presented regarding the community support program (CSP). The AQC will meet in March 2026 to determine how the group can support funding and create a budget request for full funding for CSP. Madden shared she will retire from NAMI in June 2026 and will reach out to Foley regarding next steps with the WCMH. Smith shared that Rick Immler joined the group to share updates regarding the Mental Health Action Partnership.

Nominating Committee (NC)

Winton shared the NC discussed filling the remaining two vacancies for the WCMH. The NC will reach out to the two selected applicants to discuss continued interest in the council and will bring a motion to the May 2026 meeting.

Winton motioned to hold a WCMH orientation from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. Barnard seconded. 14 Fors. 0 Nays. 0 Abstentions. Motion passed unanimously. This orientation will be mandatory for new members and recommended for all members as a refresher. Foley will send a calendar invitation for all members for the orientation. Coronado encouraged all committee members to attend the orientation.

Children and Youth Committee (CYC)

Salisott shared the CYC recently created workgroups that meet every other month. These work groups supplement the work being done in the committee. She shared that CYC is looking for a co-chair and have meetings on the first Thursday of every other month from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Neyrinck shared she is interested in learning more about the CYC and will coordinate with Salisott.

4. Updates from the Department of Health Services

Updates from the Secretary's Office

Odegaard shared an overview of the Wisconsin Rural Health Transformation Program. To view the slide deck or watch a recorded presentation, please view <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/business/rhtp.htm>.

Updates from the Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS)

Robertson shared updates on behalf of DCTS including a leadership change at Mendota Mental Health Institute (MMHI). Director Greg Van Rybroek retired, and deputy director Javon Aliyisiri was hired for the director position at MMHI. Recruitment for the vacated deputy director position at MMHI will occur. Greg Van Rybroek will work with the Administrator's Office on DCTS strategic facility population planning. Lastly, Winnebago Mental Health Institute hired Maria Coonen, previous deputy director, as the director. Josh Zimmer has been hired as the WMHI deputy director.

Updates from the Bureau of Prevention and Treatment Services (BPTR)

Robertson shared the Behavioral Health Gaps Analysis is planned to be released in March 2026. BPTR is working on a new rule, DHS 45, regarding psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTFs). DHS 31, regarding crisis care facilities (CCFs), will provide voluntary and involuntary services. The final rule is expected to be published March 2026 with a funding opportunity following shortly after for roughly \$10 million. There are currently three [grant funding opportunities](#) accepting applications.

Updates from the Division of Medicaid Services (DMS)

Lano shared Medicaid director, Bill Hanna's, last day is Friday, February 20, 2026. Amanda Dreyer, deputy director of DMS, has been hired as the new director. Arielle Exner has been hired as the new deputy director. Lano echoed work on DHS 45 and DHS 31 in partnership with BPTR and shared revisions to DHS 75 will be concluded soon. DMS created [reimbursement rate changes](#) for the biennial budget that went into effect on January 1, 2026. Click the link to learn more about [continuing care and concurrent services](#) for behavioral health treatment. There is an update to [reimbursement for crisis stabilization services](#) specifically highlighting a tiered-interim rate reimbursement system to

provide more conclusive reimbursement for new services. Changes have been made to the [prior authorization process](#).

Lano shared the current non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) contract will expire on October 31, 2026. DHS is legally required to reprocur for a new NEMT vendor. The application was open for 60 days and a review team is currently reviewing vendor applications.

Coronado asked if there are current supports (presentations, forums, etc.) for individuals and families to learn more about updates regarding Medicaid services.

Barnard shared that Essentia Health in Duluth, MN, has announced that they will be eliminating nearly all their recreational therapist (RT) positions. The reasons cited are "budget cuts and scheduling." RT workers have created a petition they are asking folks to sign to try to save their department.

Lano shared she will take these concerns back and will respond at the next meeting.

5. Call for agenda items for the May 20, 2026, meeting

- NC may have recommendations for WCMH membership.
- AQC may have recommendations for budgetary items.
- Behavioral Health Gaps Analysis presentation by BPTR.
- Other state agencies who serve on the WCMH may provide updates.
- Salisott, Lampe, and Iuro-Ravens shared willingness to help plan the fall tour. They will propose a format, length, etc. for the fall tour at the May meeting.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Prepared by: Hannah Foley on 2/18/2026.

These minutes are in draft form and will be voted upon at the meeting on 05/20/2026.