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State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health
mhc.wisconsin.gov

Meeting of the Legislative and Policy Committee
July 12, 2018, 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm
1 West Wilson Street, Conference Room 630, Madison, Wisconsin

Members of the Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) in Attendance: Crystal Hester, Justin Odulana, Joanne Juhnke, Shel Gross, Chris Wirth, Karen Iverson Riggers, Phil Robinson (via teleconference), Sheli Jo Metzger (via teleconference), Mike Lappen (via teleconference)

Guests in Attendance: Alice Sykora, Mishelle O'Shasky, Ali Maresh

Department of Health Services (DHS) Staff in Attendance: Heather Leach, Joyce Allen, Ryan Stachoviak

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) Meeting to Order

Review and approval of the minutes of June 14, 2018

C. Wirth moved to approve the minutes of June 14, 2018.

J. Odulana seconded the motion.

Motion carried, S. Gross abstained.

Announcements

C. Hester announced that Jessica Gruenich has been hired as the new NAMI Wisconsin Executive Director. NAMI Wisconsin will also be hiring a new communication and events director as Jamie Gurgul will be leaving the organization.

K. Iverson Riggers announced that she will be resigning from the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) and the LPC. Her last Council meeting will be July 18th and August 9th will be her last LPC meeting.

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health Updates

K. Iverson Riggers provided an update regarding the WCMH. At the upcoming July meeting the Council will continue to address strategic planning, specifically operations and orientation. The WCMH also plans to discuss the Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG).

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

2. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action

Budget Priority Planning

C. Hester provided a briefing. Some advocates met with DHS leadership prior to the LPC meeting to present the current form of the WCMH Budget and Policy Priorities document. Regarding areas to improve treatment services and psychiatric rates, discussions with DHS clarified that psychiatrist can utilize the Medicaid codes in question.

Members of the LPC discussed workforce development. A proposal was sent to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) to study workforce, however it was not selected. Members of the LPC expressed their hope to still address workforce development. J. Juhnke noted that the Children and Youth Committee (CYC) continues to work on workforce and the group hopes to soon have some proposals for consideration. While there is work being done on workforce there isn't one focused effort in many ways. The LPC expressed their hope that something more collaborative and multidisciplinary could be implemented. K. Iverson Riggers suggested one avenue may be to further develop training for employers for Certified Peer Specialists and Parent Peer Specialists. S. Gross suggested that a broader request may be for collaboration with stakeholders involved in this issue. Members agreed to continue developing more specific asks regarding workforce.

The LPC discussed improving access to inpatient mental health care. Members determined that more work was needed on the priority area. It may be more appropriate to identify less restrictive options rather than ask for more inpatient beds.

C. Hester provided a briefing on a meeting with DHS leadership that was held prior to the LPC meeting.

Members of the LPC walked through the budget priority document and assigned people to take the lead on various sections of the document. The Committee hopes to have representatives from the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) attend the September meeting. Discussions were held on the caveats of Peer Run Respite zoning and eating disorders as a concern for youth and young adults, and potential state legislation changes regarding the Mental Health Block Grant. S. Gross noted that limitations currently in place regarding the MHBG at the state level were put into place through the budget process, so it may be appropriate to do so through the budget process now. M. O'Shasky advocated for the inclusion of criminal justice relates items including trauma training, and peer support services. C. Hester suggested that the CJC take on these items and bring back some priorities for inclusion and consideration by the WCMH.

Members of the LPC agreed to continue developing the document including adding fiscal estimates. The group will consider removing policy items and items previously addressed from the document.

State Legislation and Review of LPC Bill Tracking and Bills to Review and Approve

J. Juhnke provided an update on Children's Long Term Care. There have been recent discussions regarding this at the Children's Long Term Care Council. Overall there are efforts and changes to eliminate the Children's Long Term Support Waitlist, however given the number of children being enrolled there are concerns regarding the future of the funding. DHS will be presenting information at public forums and public comment at the end of July regarding registries and changes to rates as a result of a CMS corrective action.

Federal Legislation, Executive Actions or other Federal matters

At the June meeting the LPC approved a motion to draft a letter to Congressman Duffy in regards to federal housing proposals that would have negative impacts on people with disabilities. The motion will be presented for consideration at the July WCMH meeting. J. Juhnke provided an update regarding the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Legislation to reduce CHIP funding passed in the House but failed in the Senate.

3. Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates

J. Allen provided a briefing on a draft proposal for the utilization of the increased MHBG dollars that Wisconsin unexpectedly received in Fiscal Year 2018. These funds must be expended by September 30th of 2019, as such the BPTR must be strategic in how they are utilized. Ideal efforts include areas in which work is already underway though which additional work could be done, or efforts that are low barrier in other means. A portion of the funds will be utilized for Early Intervention for First Episode Psychosis services as per the MHBG's 10% set aside guidelines.

Areas that are being proposed for one time funding utilizing the increase include: a mental health gaps analysis, suicide prevention, technical assistance (TA) for underserved populations, SOAR, Certified Peer Specialist Training and TA, Crisis system improvements, Smoking Cessation TA, Individualized Placement and Supports, TA for Evidence Based Practices, and State operations. These areas are still being considered, and the BPTR plans to bring a more complete plan to the WCMH at their July meeting for more feedback and discussion.

J. Allen announced that Wisconsin was eligible to receive roughly 11.1 million dollars through the new opioid treatment and prevention grants from the federal government. J. Allen provided updates on the Winnebago Mental Health Institute (WMHI). WMHI has begun addressing the findings from the recent CMS audit. Initial steps are to hire new positions, address concerns with the physical environment, and improve documentation.

4. Agenda Items for August 2018 Committee Meeting

The LPC plans to continue addressing the budget priority planning process.

5. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.