



State of Wisconsin

**Wisconsin Council on Mental Health**  
mhc.wisconsin.gov

**Meeting of the Legislative and Policy Committee**

**August 9, 2018**

**12:30 pm to 3:00 pm**

**1 West Wilson Street, Conference Room 630, Madison, Wisconsin and Via Conference Call**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Members of the Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) Meeting in Attendance:** Elizabeth Viera, Shel Gross, Chris Wirth, Karen Iverson-Riggers, Crystal Hester, Alice Sykora, Joanne Juhnke, Mary Neubauer, Justin Odulana, K. Kerschensteiner, Sheli Jo Metzger (via teleconference)

**Department of Health Services (DHS):** Ryan Stachoviak, Caroline Crehan-Neumann, Kenya Bright, Chris Keenan

**Guests in Attendance:** Mishelle O'Shasky, Karen Katz

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

*Review and approval of the minutes of July 12, 2018*

**S. Gross moved to approve the minutes of July 12, 2018.**

**J. Juhnke seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried, M. Neubauer abstained.**

*Announcements: Opportunity for committee members to make general announcements*

S. Gross announced that he is retiring at the end of the year and will be leaving the (LPC). M. Neubauer announced that the Milwaukee Mental Health Taskforce will award the Karen Avery Award on September 11. E. Viera announced that the Recovery Implementation Taskforce will be participating in listening sessions across the state. C. Hester announced the Annual Healing Arts Show is currently accepting submissions until August 23. The exhibition will be held September 28 through November 9.

*Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) Updates*

K. Iverson Riggers provided an update on the WCMH. The Council devoted much of the recent meeting to strategic planning and discussion of the Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG). The Council's next meeting will be the fall tour in Ashland. M. O'Shasky discussed a motion that was passed at the most recent Criminal Justice Committee (CJC) meeting regarding the development of Criminal Justice Related Certified Peer Specialist training.

*Public Comment: The committee will accept comments from the public relating to any committee business*

No public comment was made.

## **2. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action**

### *Budget Priority Planning*

C. Hester provided a briefing on the budget priority planning document. Members of the LPC agreed to remove “Improve access to inpatient mental health care access” as a priority area. An area on housing will be added to section B “Strengthen Community Living Services and Supports.” C. Wirth discussed means for better coordinating the budget priority document. Creating a template for members to follow may help facilitate the process.

S. Gross discussed suicide prevention budget priorities. There has been some interest in the legislature regarding school based suicide prevention. This could be an area for ongoing support if the LPC and WCMH approve its inclusion in the budget priorities. J. Juhnke provided updates on the Department of Public Instruction’s (DPI) budget request. The Children and Youth Committee (CYC) has made motion asking that the WCMH support the DPI’s proposal.

In this motion the CYC supports the following DPI state budget requests:

- \$10 million to fully fund and expand grants for collaboration between schools and community providers (previously funded at \$3.25 million),
- \$44 million to extend a categorical aid that matches district funds when hiring pupil services staff. The previous program focused solely on social workers (with \$3 million of state support),
- \$5 million statewide training and support, including two additional programs focused on preventing youth suicide; and a new state program to fund parent peer specialists in context of family-run organizations, to help empower and assist families in overcoming emotional and mental health challenges.
- An additional \$600 million to support students with disabilities through the special education categorical aid, bringing the state’s reimbursement rate to 60% by the end of 2019 and moving Wisconsin closer to the national average.

The CYC hopes to include these in the budget priority document for presentation to the WCMH. Members of the LPC discussed proposals regarding new institutes for juvenile offenders that are proposed to replace Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake. A committee has been in discussion regarding the proposal. C. Hester asked that members send their budget priority information and updates to C. Wirth by August 31<sup>st</sup>.

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

C. Hester discussed \$45 million in grant funding available for school safety from the Department of Justice (DOJ). Funds are to be utilized for training, a school safety risk assessment team, and a requirement to report assessments to the Department of Justice. Some advocates question what the program requirements mean for people with mental illness or disabilities, and what the DOJ would do with the information that is collected. Another area of concerns is that there is not a list of trainings that could be utilized with the funding. The

training that is being promoted would be delivered by school resource officers, so it has a juvenile justice focus and does not appear to have been designed for teachers or counselors. This could be an area for advocacy to ensure the various concerns are addressed. The intent to apply is on August 13 and applications are due August 30.

#### *Federal Legislation, Executive Actions or other Federal matters*

WCMH did approve the LPC motion to WCMH that the Council write letters expressing concerns regarding the HUD proposal and the potential legislation drafted by Representative Ross. A letter can be drafted based on this approved motion and presented to the Council Chair for consideration.

### **3. Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates**

J. Allen provided updates. The BPTR plans to issue a funding opportunity for crisis system improvement grants. Counties will propose areas of improvement and then BPTR, in collaboration with Area Administration, will provide coaching through the process. The BPTR Children Youth and Families team will be providing trainings across the state. Regarding the Now is the Time grant, the two project counties Jefferson and Outagamie are hoping to expand their efforts outward and to provide regional trainings across the state.

R. Stachowiak provided updates regarding the utilization of the 2018 MHBG allocation, including carryover dollars to be utilized in 2019.

K. Bright provided updates regarding Certified Peer Specialist training. The BPTR is in the process of forming an advisory group. The BPTR is also looking to bring a group together as well in September to address current concerns, and the BPTR is hoping to find an independent facilitator for this meeting.

### **4. Agenda Items for the September 2018 Committee Meeting**

Members of the LPC noted the following ideas for future agenda items:

1. Identifying a temporary co-chair
2. Follow up on school safety grants
3. Juvenile justice reform
4. Budget priorities

### **5. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.