

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

Name of Governmental Body: Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH)		Attending: Attending: Guests – Rick Schultz, Martina Gollin Graves, Quinn Margaret, Wisconsin Eye, Wyatt TPF, Beth Collier	
Date: 5/20/2026	Time Started: 1:06 p.m.	Time Ended: 4:26 p.m.	DHS - Hannah Foley, Leanne Delsart, Monique Larson-Hicks, Jessie Andrews, Joannette Robertson, Katelyn Blatter, Alison Glodowski, Sarah Coyle
Location: Virtual via Zoom		Presiding Officer: Chrissy Barnard	

**Minutes**

<b>Members in attendance:</b> 10 out of 17 council members must be present for quorum E= Excused, A= Absent, X= Present			
E	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
A	Kenna 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**

Barnard called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. once quorum was established.

**2. WCMH housekeeping**

Read WCMH "Guidelines for Conduct of Meeting"

Erlandson read the guidelines.

Review and approve February 18, 2026, meeting minutes

Lampe moved to approve the meeting minutes. Iuro seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Announcements: opportunity for council members to make general announcements

Barnard thanked Madden for her time on the council. Coronado shared that May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

Updates from the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA)

Collier shared the next meeting for SCAODA is June 5, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The meeting will have guest speaker, Kayla Neuman, Director of Forensic Toxicology from the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene to discuss the role of forensic toxicology in OWI cases. Michelle Haese from the Office of the Secretary will also gather feedback on the DHS substance use services strategic plan.

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

Barnard shared the EC met May 5, 2026. Committee updates were shared, and the orientation presentation was approved.

Criminal Justice Committee (CJC)

There was no quorum at the April 2026 meeting. The next meeting is Wednesday, June 10, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC)

Iuro shared that Jeanie Verschay is the new co-chair of the committee and that the LPC is considering creating subcommittees or workgroups and will continue this discussion at their next meeting. The LPC is interested in partnering with SCAODA and will continue to examine their strategic plan and how it can impact the work the committee does.

Access and Quality Committee (AQC)

Barnard shared the AQC created five motions including: community health workers, the consumer support program, dialectical behavior therapy, loan forgiveness, and the qualified treatment trainee program.

**Motion 1: Inclusion of Community Health Workers (CHW) funding in the Wisconsin state budget**

The AQC recommends that Wisconsin DHS funding should include sustained support for CHW services, including training that encompasses robust mental health and substance use training. Neyrinck moved for the approval of the motion. Smith seconded. 10 for, 4 abstentions, 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Motion 2: Full funding for Community Support Program (CSP)**

The AQC recommends fully funding statewide CSP and ensuring that all CSP services are delivered in accordance with Wisconsin Legislature Chapter DHS 63-established fidelity standards and evidence-based best practices. Neyrinck moved for the approval of the motion. Salisott seconded. 11 for, 3 abstentions, 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Motion 3: Creation of a Medicaid mental health outpatient benefit for dialectical behavior therapy (DBT)**

The AQC recommends the creation of a Medicaid mental health outpatient benefit for DBT to fidelity. Madden moved for the approval of the motion. Lampe seconded. 10 for, 4 abstentions, 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Motion 4: Loan forgiveness for behavioral health care professionals**

The AQC recommends behavioral health professionals to be included as eligible providers in loan forgiveness programs. Madden moved for the approval of the motion. Oczus seconded. 10 for, 4 abstentions, 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Motion 5: Increase in funding for the Qualified Treatment Trainee (QTT) program.**

The AQC recommends an increase in the general-purpose revenue (GPR) appropriation for the QTT program. Madden moved for the approval of the motion. Lampe seconded. 10 for, 4 abstentions, 0 nays. Motion passed.

The AQC agreed to create a list of individuals and organizations for the approved motions to be shared with.

Nominating Committee (NC)

Coronado shared the NC discussed and approved the orientation presentation and post-presentation survey during their May 18, 2026, meeting. Coronado shared that the NC will conduct WCMH interviews for open positions in the next weeks and will bring formal recommendations to the August 2026 council meeting.

Children and Youth Committee (CYC)

Salisott shared via email that three new committee members joined. It is hoped another co-chair will start soon. Coronado shared information about the CYCs sub-committees: research, structuring/motions, and finishing, which has been working well to move things forward. MHAP's structure is being followed as a guide.

Discussion on committee restructuring and meeting schedule

This agenda item will be moved to the August 19, 2026, meeting.

**4. WCMH in-person meeting**

Foley asked council members to consider replacing the in-person annual fall tour with an in-person meeting at the Mental Health and Substance Use Recovery Conference on October 21-23, 2026, in Wisconsin Dells.

## 5. Behavioral Health Gaps Analysis Presentation

Bryce Dorff, Research Analyst with the Office of Policy Initiatives and Budget, presented on the findings of the [Mental Health and Substance Use Services Gaps Analysis](#).

## 6. Updates from the Department of Health Services

### The Secretary's Office

Odegaard shared the Interagency Council on Mental Health's statewide action plan that provides recommendations including expanding access to quality and affordable care, increasing awareness, addressing prevention, reducing stigma, and building capacity among caregivers, providers, and community partners. The action plan prioritizes prevention efforts and ensures a united response to support comprehensive care at every level of need in all regions of the state.

Odegaard also shared an update on three rural health transformation grant projects, sharing that DHS is on track to release grant funding opportunities in early summer:

### **Care coordination grants**

These competitive grants will innovate care delivery across rural Wisconsin and will improve access to preventive services, primary and specialty care, dental services, and/or behavioral health services through team-based models of care delivered in trusted sites close to home. Successful grantees will implement multidisciplinary strategies that address health needs, increase the use of preventive care, provide care in lower-cost settings such as homes, and reduce preventable hospital admissions and emergency room visits.

### **Community health worker grants**

These competitive grants will seek to boost adoption of community health workers as an evidence-based model to improve outcomes for people with chronic health conditions, especially those who are low-income or underserved.

### **Dental provider grants**

DHS will provide competitive grants to dental clinics to adopt efficient cleaning technologies and expand routine dental services for rural Medicaid beneficiaries.

### The Division of Care and Treatment Services

Andrews shared the Mendota Mental Health Institute is completing interviews for a director for the facility. An announcement will be made regarding who was selected for that position. The Mendota Juvenile Treatment Facility is currently serving 35 youth with the hope to serve up to 55 youth by July 2026. The maximum capacity will be 65 youth.

### The Bureau of Prevention and Treatment and Recovery Services

Robertson shared Slalom was selected to assist with the [PPS redesign project](#). Local agencies should review specifications and align their data collection process, electronic health record (EHR) system, and submission process with new requirements. It is anticipated agencies will align their systems in 2027 and begin reporting to the new PPS system in 2028.

The Wisconsin's Children's System of Care Policy Academy is designed to support Tribal nations and counties in strengthening their local [children's system of care](#) through a structured assessment, cross-system collaboration, and guided learning sessions. Three counties and three Tribal nations have been selected to participate in the six-month process focused on family-driven and youth-guided practice and sustainable system change.

The [Wisconsin Substance Use Summit](#) is focused on actionable strategies to build healthy communities through substance use prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services and supports. This event will be held August 5-6, 2026, at the Onieda Conference Center. In-person registration closes July 22, 2026, and virtual registration closes August 5, 2026.

DHS was awarded about \$2.4 million from SAMHSA to assist individuals with crisis counseling following the flooding that occurred in the southeast region of the state in August 2025.

Robertson shared the development of DHS 45, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) for youth. A visual was developed about the children's behavioral health system of care. A youth crisis stabilization facility serves youth up to seven days and PRTFs serve youth based on medical necessity, which is often longer.

Peer recovery support services under DHS 72 is now fully in place. The administrative code was published last fall and the Medicaid benefit went into effect April 1, 2026. DMS reported providers are beginning to bill for these services. A peer employer toolkit will be published on the DHS website to assist employers with how to recruit, hire, supervise, and support peers in the workforce. There are 14 bureau staff who work on peer support initiatives and the work crosses all services and sections. A strategic roadmap has been developed that includes internal projects and also projects being developed in collaboration with the Recovery Implementation Task Force and Certified Peer Specialist Advisory Committee.

#### The Division of Medicaid Services

Lano shared an update on Act 233, the Reentry Act, that provides coverage for individuals who will leave an incarcerated setting and return to the community. The Act requires the Medicaid program to submit an 1115 waiver by January 1, 2027.

### **7. Call for agenda items for August 19, 2026, WCMH meeting**

- a. Coronado requested an update from DMS regarding IRIS
- b. Discussion on fall tour/in-person meeting in the fall
- c. Committee structure and meeting structure
- d. Interagency Council on Mental Health plan presentation

### **8. Meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.**

Prepared by: Hannah Foley on 6/10/2026.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 8/19/2026