

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: Wisconsin Council on Mental Health		Attending: WCMH Members: Svea Erlandson, Alicia Oczus, Ana Winton, Lalena Lampe, Pam Lano, Mary Madden, Kristina Neyrinck, Nikyra McCann, Karen Odegaard, Timothy Peerenboom, Sarah Salisott, Sheryl Smith, Chrissy Barnard Ex-Officio Members: Kimberlee Coronado DHS Members: Holly Audley, Katelyn Blatter, Sarah Coyle, Leanne Delsart, Brenda Scheurer, Monique Larson-Hicks, Jason Cram Guests: Rick Schultz
Date: 7/16/2025	Time Started: 10:05 a.m.	Time Ended: 2:33 p.m.
Location: Teams		Presiding Officer: Ana Winton
<b>Minutes</b>		

**Meeting of the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH)  
July 16, 2025  
10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Meeting to be held via Teams at:  
[Join the meeting now](#)**

**Call meeting to order**

Ana Winton called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. after quorum was established.

**Council housekeeping**

*Read WCMH "Guidelines for Conduct of Meeting"*

Svea Erlandson read the "Guidelines for Conduct of Meeting".

*Review and approval of the minutes of the May 21, 2025, meeting*

Kristina Neyrinck motioned to approve the meeting minutes.

Mary Madden seconded.

Minutes approved unanimously.

*Announcements: opportunity for council members to make general announcements*

Chrissy Barnard shared that [Hope Haven Peer Run Respite officially opened](#) after more than three years of fundraising, construction, and advocating.

State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA) updates

Hannah Foley shared SCAODA updates on behalf of Kevin Florek, SCAODA chairperson. At the June 6 meeting, SCAODA welcomed guest speaker, Dr. Cody J. Wenthur, a pharmacist at UW Madison with the Wisconsin Opioid Overdose Recovery Center (WOORC). WOORCs goal is to increase patient access to treatment for opioid use disorder, as well as opioid overdose emergency medicine, through pharmacies and pharmacists. The center is coordinating with community pharmacies across urban and rural Wisconsin to provide pharmacists with naloxone, fentanyl test strips, educational resources, long-term injectables used to treat opioid use disorder, and more. WOORC is also researching and developing new treatments for overdoses ([Getting to WOORC - School of Pharmacy, 2024](#)).

*Public Comment: the council will accept comments from the public relating to any WCMH business*

No public comment.

### **WCMH committee and workgroup reports, discussion, and consideration of motions**

#### *Executive Committee (EC)*

A. Winton shared that a rapid response executive committee meeting was held on June 24 at the request of the Access and Quality Committee. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the threatened cuts to Medicaid and food share in Wisconsin and discuss actions of advocacy the WCMH could send to policymakers. EC members agreed to create two letters, one to federal congresspersons, asking them to vote against the "Big, Beautiful Bill," and the other letter to state leaders, asking them to help fill in any gaps left by cuts should the bill pass.

#### **Survey on WCMH meeting preferences and discussion on changing the meeting duration and annual occurrences**

H. Foley led a discussion regarding changing the meeting times and frequency of future WCMH meetings. Foley shared a Google Form survey with the WCMH members and asked for meeting preferences.

**After discussion, M. Madden motioned to have 2026 WCMH meetings occur on the third Wednesday of the following months, February, May, August, to discuss the Mental Health Block Grant, and November, with a separate one day fall tour occurring in September at a later chosen date. These meetings will also occur from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on again, the third Wednesday of those specific months.**

C. Barnard seconded.

A vote occurred to pass the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The WCMH agreed to keep the September and November 2025 meetings in with changes in meeting frequency and length beginning in 2026. H. Foley shared that she would send out calendar holds and update the WCMH website later in 2025.

#### **Fall tour discussion**

H. Foley shared a fall tour Google Forms survey with the WCMH to gain the opinion on topics, times, and meeting location for the September 16 and 17 fall tour.

**After discussion, M. Madden motioned for the fall tour to be held hybrid in Madison on September 16, with an encouragement to council members to come in person. The tour will try to incorporate the three topics of interest agreed upon (school based mental health, treatment courts, and peer run respites) to the best extent possible.**

#### *Nominating Committee*

Nikyra McCann introduced herself to the council and shared that she is interested in becoming a WCMH co-chairperson alongside A. Winton.

M. Madden motioned to nominate N. McCann as the new co-chair for the WCMH.

Sheryl Smith seconded.

**After a unanimous vote from the WCMH, N. McCann will now serve as co-chairperson of the WCMH.**

A. Winton thanked Kimberlee Coronado for her years of service and asked for a motion to induct her as an ex-officio member on the WCMH.

Sarah Salisott motioned to nominate K. Coronado as ex-officio member.

M. Madden seconded.

The vote was unanimous.

**Kimberlee Coronado has officially been voted in as an ex-officio member on the council.**

*Legislative and Policy Committee*

No updates.

*Criminal Justice Committee*

No updates.

*Children and Youth Committee (CYC)*

**Motion to discuss and approve recommendations on equitable workforce reimbursements.**

S. Salisott brought forward a workforce motion from the CYC. Salisott gave an overview to the motion including the desire to support fair reimbursement rates and practices. Details on the motion include:

In 2023, the CYC again took up the mantle of the mental health workforce shortage to identify discrete policy proposals. Today's motion presents recommendations in the first of five areas:

1. Ensure fair reimbursement rates and practices
2. Extend/expand the mental health workforce
3. Strengthen the mental health workforce
4. Reduce administrative burden
5. Incentivize participation in Wisconsin's mental health workforce

**Motion: ensure fair reimbursement rates and practices**

The CYC recommends the WCMH take the following actions to help ensure fair reimbursement rates and practices for Wisconsin's mental health workforce:

1. Advise the Division of Medicaid Services (DMS) to issue guidance to help counties cultivate developmentally informed provider rates.
2. Advise DHS to identify the top 20% most used behavioral health (mental health and substance use) procedure codes in Medicaid billing in Wisconsin, track the reimbursement rates of those codes in the upper Midwest compared to the usual and customary rates in private practice, maintain the data on an ongoing basis, and publish the results periodically (i.e., annually).
3. Recommend legislation to automatically raise reimbursement rates for the most common procedure codes to the average rate for upper Midwest states, ensuring that rates are passed to providers that contract with Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs).
4. Recommend legislation to ensure that psychiatrists receive the same Medicaid reimbursement as primary care providers for similar services.

Relation to WCMH 2023-28 Strategic Plan:

This set of recommendations addresses the following goal/objective in the WCMH strategic plan.

- Goal #1: Individuals will have equitable access to high quality, culturally responsive, community-based services.

- Objective #4: There will be sufficient qualified behavioral health professionals to provide high quality, sustainable integrated services" (CYC).

Salisott clarified that she intends to collaborate with the Legislative and Policy Committee who can make recommendations on whom to send letters and recommendations regarding the motion. Salisott hopes to have reciprocal conversations with Medicaid regarding the motion of the CYC to have actionable movement rather than restricted wishes.

**Salisott motioned that the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health take the following actions (seen above) to ensure fair reimbursement rates and practices. Due to the motion being passed in the CYC meeting, a second is not needed.**

*For: 10 council members.*

*Against: 0 council members.*

*Pam Lano abstained.*

Motion passed.

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

*Access and Quality Committee (AQC)*

Lalena Lampe shared that the AQC spent most of their meeting drafting the letter that was sent out after the EC rapid response meeting. Lampe added that the AQC is also looking to recruit new members and to connect with Lalena or Chrissy if interested in learning more.

## **Updates from the Department of Health Services**

*Updates from the Secretary's Office - Karen Odegaard*

K. Odegaard shared an update on the timing of the Wisconsin state budget, which was signed early in the morning on Thursday, July 3. This was to make some changes to how WI plans to fund hospitals, largely through Medicaid, and being able to take advantage of some opportunities through Medicaid.

On July 15, DHS issued an updated analysis detailing how the federal budget reconciliation bill will impact Wisconsinites. There have been estimates that have come out from the US Congress Joint Economic Committee that estimates over 276,000 Wisconsinites could lose, or are likely to lose, health care coverage under both the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid under this new law over the next decade.

Odegaard shared that the Interagency Council on Mental Health concluded their surveys and listening sessions. The group is analyzing the input and the ideas collected, with the hope to use collected feedback to inform the recommendations that they will include in the action plan.

*Updates from the Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS) – Holly Audley*

H. Audley shared an update on the DCTS strategic planning effort that will support the division of over 4200 staff. Many of those staff existing in our seven care and treatment centers out state, and about 100 staff in central office. In collaboration with UW Madison School of Business, with Jeff Chan, a consultant who does strategic planning there, DCTS leadership are working to complete the final stages of the plan. The hope is to share the full implementation, in late August and September of this year.

Audley also announced her retirement after 30 years of state service on November 21. Audley shared that her position will be posted shortly with her intention to onboard the new hire and support them before her departure.

*Updates from the Bureau of Prevention and Treatment Services (BPTR) – Holly Audley*

H. Audley, on behalf of Joannette Robertson, shared the following updates from BPTR:

State budget

The 2025-27 state budget includes the following items that impact mental health and substance use services.

1. \$7M in GPR is designated for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in Wisconsin for the biennium. When combined with other federal grants, this maintains an in-state answer rate of 80%.
2. \$10M in GPR is appropriated for Crisis Care Facilities (CCF) grants. CCFs are a new facility type that will provide triage, stabilization, and inpatient services for individuals experiencing a crisis in mental health or substance use. The facility will accept both voluntary and involuntary individuals.
3. \$1M in GPR is provided for DHS to provide a grant to Lutheran Social Services for the purchase and renovation of Libertas Treatment Center in Chippewa Falls to provide a 50-bed treatment center to men with substance use disorders in need of services.
4. A new bill was passed, 2025 WI Act 10, to DHS to fund grant to WISHIN to create and maintain an online portal where safety plans for minors in crisis may be accessed by law enforcement, schools, medical professionals, and others. \$819,200 in GPR is allocated over the biennium.  
[2025 Wisconsin Act 10](#) (PDF: ) - Relating to: sharing minors' safety plans.
5. A new bill, 2025 WI Act 9, was passed that allows emergency rule making to develop Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF) for youth. These facilities will assist youth who have complex needs and need a higher level of care than a residential care center can provide. \$1.79M in GPR is appropriated to support grants for the PRTFs.  
[2025 Wisconsin Act 9](#) (PDF: ) - Relating to: psychiatric residential treatment facilities, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, and granting rule-making authority.

#### Administrative rules

1. DHS 72 will provide reimbursement for peer recovery coaches in behavioral health. Peer recovery coaches provide support to individuals who are in treatment or recovery from MI and/or a SUD. The rule is in the final stages of approval with the Legislature.
2. DHS 31 Crisis Care Facilities. The emergency rule was published last month. A public hearing for the permanent rule is upcoming in September.  
[DHS 31 Emergency Rule](#)
3. DHS 33 Crisis Hostels. This is a new service that is an extension of DHS 34 Crisis Intervention Services. Crisis hostels can provide short term crisis observation and stabilization services for less than 24 hours. The emergency rule will be published in 2025.
4. Revisions to DHS 75 Substance Use Standards. DHS 75 was revised and implemented in 2022, DHS has been tracking a variety of changes that providers asked for to improve service provision. These edits have been drafted with an advisory committee and the draft is under review at DHS.

#### **Behavioral Health Gaps Analysis**

BPTR is conducting a behavioral health gaps analysis this year. The last gaps analysis was done in 2019. The results will be summarized in a report that will be made public at the end of this year and will help guide decision making at DHS for the behavioral health system. We are contracting with UWPPI to conduct the research. They completed over 20 interviews with key informants in May and are conducting focus groups during July. In early to mid-August, a statewide survey will be broadly distributed as the final step. The survey will be sent out to the WCMH members.

#### **Updates from the Division of Medicaid Services (DMS) - Pam Lano**

P. Lano gave an update on the below topics and provided links for council awareness.

- Act 9: [Wisconsin Legislature: 2025 Wisconsin Act 9](#)

- [Wisconsin Made at Least \\$18.5 Million in Improper Fee-For-Service Medicaid Payments for Applied Behavior Analysis Provided to Children Diagnoses With Autism | Office of Inspector General | Government Oversight | U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#)

## **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

If you need meeting accommodations because of a disability, if you need an interpreter or translator, or if you need this material in another language or in alternative format, you may request assistance to participate by contacting Hannah Foley at [hannah.foley@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:hannah.foley@dhs.wisconsin.gov) or at (608) 261-8334 no fewer than five days prior to the meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to conduct the governmental business outlined in the above agenda. The Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) is legislatively mandated under Wis. Stat. § 15.197(1), as the mental health planning council for the state. It was created to advise the Governor, the Legislature, and the Department of Health Services (DHS). The WCMH evaluates and reviews the mental health system's progress towards achieving improved client outcomes and the adequacy of mental health services in the state. The council duties are specified in Wis. Stat. § 51.02. The council oversees state compliance with federal Public Law 102-321.

Prepared by: Hannah Foley on 8/5/2025.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 9/17/2025