

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: Wisconsin Council on Mental Health		Attending: WCMH members: Ana Winton, Nikyra McCann, Lalena Lampe, Pam Lano, Mary Madden, Kristina Neyrinck, Karen Odegaard, Sarah Salisott, Sheryl Smith, Chrissy Barnard, Cheryl Johnson, Matt Maclean	
Date: 9/17/2025	Time Started: 12:40 p.m.	Time Ended: 2:06 p.m.	Ex-officio members: Kimberlee Coronado Guests: Beth Collier, Jeanie Verschay, Juli Bliefnick, Nicole Iuro-Ravens DHS members: Holly Audley, Katelyn Blatter, Sarah Coyle, Brenda Scheurer, Ann Kelley-Kuehmicel, Joannette Robertson DHS staff support: Hannah Foley
Location: 1 West Wilson Room 550A, Teams		Presiding Officer: Ana Winton, Nikyra McCann	

Minutes

1. Call meeting to order

A. Winton called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. after quorum was confirmed.

2. WCMH housekeeping

L. Lampe read the WCMH "Guidelines for Conduct of Meeting"

Review and approve July 16, 2025, meeting minutes

K. Neyrinck moved to approve the July minutes.

M. Madden seconded.

C. Johnson abstained.

Motion carried; minutes approved.

Announcements: opportunity for council members to make general announcements

B. Collier provided State Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs (SCAODA) updates. The council met September 5, 2025, and discussed a bill that is under development by Wisconsin State Representative Donovan on hemp products.

B. Collier shared that Alcohol Age Compliance Checks (AACC) have been important work with the Wisconsin Alcohol Policy Project. The goal of compliance checks is to ensure youth are not able to buy alcohol. Increased frequency of checks is associated with lower rates of sales to individuals who are underage. Twenty-one communities are doing checks across the state. A new statewide database, the Wisconsin Alcohol Inspector, has been introduced to record compliance check results and serve as a central resource for statewide data. Upcoming are trainings on AACC with law enforcement in September. Beginning in October 2025, 'place of last drink' data will be incorporated into the BadgerTrack system, enabling law enforcement to record where individuals had been drinking and identify locations with potential patterns of over-service.

B. Collier shared that SCAODA and WCMH are partnering for a listening session at the upcoming [Mental Health and Substance Use Recovery Conference](#) on Thursday, October 17, 2025.

K. Coronado shared that September is Suicide Prevention Month.

M. Madden shared [NAMIWalks Southeast Wisconsin](#) is hosting an event on Saturday, October 4, 2025, at the Milwaukee County Zoo starting at 8:30 a.m. "We invite you to take the walk of your life - with NAMIWalks. Each participant will

stand by you and walk by your side, every step of the way. Together, we will make a powerful change in our community. 'Mental Health for All,' here we come."

Public comment: the committee will accept comments from the public relating to committee business (limited to three minutes per person)

No public comment.

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

Executive Committee (EC): A. Winton shared the September EC meeting was canceled in order to plan the Fall Tour.

Criminal Justice Committee (CJC): J. Bliefnick introduced a motion requesting the WCMH take a public stance advocating to end solitary confinement, administrative segregation, and restrictive housing within Wisconsin's jails and prisons. J. Bliefnick asked for opinions on the statement and recommended next steps.

K. Coronado recommended creating a white paper sharing the specific ask of the CJC. K. Coronado recommended the CJC find evidence-based practices and share what could be best practice on the topic to clarify the scope and ask.

A. Winton asked for clarification on the recipients of a proposed letter and asked the CJC to specify whom the letter/statement should be sent to once complete.

S. Salisott recommended the CJC conduct a comprehensive review of their ask to provide clarity of their stance and asks.

S. Salisott motioned to table the topic and put it on the November agenda. It was recommended the CJC consider clarifying the ask and the audience.

C. Barnard seconded.

K. Odegaard abstained.

Motion passed.

Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC): N. Iuro-Ravens shared updates from the September 11, 2025, meeting including a request to have a member from the Department of Corrections join the October meeting. The committee discussed a plan on how to achieve goals set in the LPC strategic plan and looked ahead towards 2026 planning.

Access and Quality Committee (AQC): L. Lampe shared the AQC is prepping a packet and hope to bring a formal motion to the November WCMH meeting.

Nominating Committee (NC): K. Coronado shared that the NC hopes to fill all vacant council positions by the end of 2025. The NC hopes to schedule an orientation for new members and WCMH members who wish to have a refresher in early 2026.

Children and Youth Committee (CYC): S. Salisott shared that the CYC is updating/creating standardized documents and focusing on the committee strategic plan. S. Salisott provided an update to the CYC motion that was brought to the July WCMH meeting. The CYC will continue to build relationships with the Department of Medicaid Services (DMS) and plans to send a letter once completed.

4. Updates from the Department of Health Services

Office of the Secretary: K. Odegaard shared the following updates:

The Rural Health Transformation (RHT) program released a funding opportunity of \$50 billion to be allocated to approved states over five fiscal years, with \$10 billion of funding available each fiscal year, beginning in fiscal year 2026 and ending in fiscal year 2030. 50% to be distributed equally among all approved states. 50% will be allocated by CMS based on a variety of factors including rural population, the proportion of rural health facilities in the state, the situation of certain

hospitals in the state, and other factors to be specified by CMS in the notice of funding opportunity. Each state must propose three options of the ten provided by the RHT. Wisconsin plans to apply with application due November 5.

The Interagency Council on Mental Health has concluded their focus groups and is now looking at how state agencies can work together.

Department of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS): H. Audley shared the following updates:

Jessie Andrews is joining the Administrator's Office as the assistant administrator responsible for supporting community-based services and secure treatment centers. She will step into this role October 5, 2025. Jessie has a long history working for DCTS, primarily as a clinical social worker, treatment director, and facility director at Winnebago Mental Health Institute. She will work alongside H. Audley to ensure a smooth transition until Holly's retirement November 21.

DCTS is hiring a third assistant administrator who will oversee the Clients Right Office and electronic health records.

The DHS name is now displayed at the front entrance of the GEF 1 building at 201 East Washington Avenue in Madison.

Bureau of Prevention and Treatment Services (BPTR): J. Robertson shared the following updates on behalf of BPTR:

Suicide Prevention Month: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Toolkit - [2025 Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Toolkit | SAMHSA](#)

Administrative Rule project updates:

1. DHS 72, reimbursement for peer recovery coaches, will be published and go into effect on November 1, with Medicaid policy going into effect around April 2026. Stay tuned for trainings as part of the rollout next fall.
2. The emergency rule order for DHS 31 went into effect on June 16. This new rule governs the certification and operation of crisis urgent care and observation facilities (CCFs). Providers can now obtain certification. CCFs will provide immediate, 24/7 support from a team of professionals trained to serve people experiencing increased stress or symptoms related to mental health and substance use concerns. Stays can be as short as a few hours to as long as five days. There is expected to be grant funding available. A public hearing on the proposed rule was on Sept. 9.
3. DHS is working on the new administrative rule DHS 33, crisis hostels. The emergency rule is expected to be published this fall.
4. The changes to DHS 75 went into effect on August 11. There will be a public hearing for the changes to DHS 75 on Sept. 29.
5. You can track DHS administrative rules projects here, including links to upcoming public hearings: [Administrative Rules | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

Gaps analysis: BPTR has been conducting a behavioral health gaps analysis this year with the help of UW PHI. The final data collection was done throughout August with a statewide survey. The results will be summarized in a report that will be made public at the end of this year and will help guide our bureau in making program and funding decisions for the behavioral health system.

Division of Medicaid Services (DMS): P. Lano shared that DMS continues to work alongside DHS regarding various Admin Rules, primarily DHS 72 and 75. DMS is currently updating their own scope of practice and creating coverage policy and coverage for Peer Recovery Coaches. This coverage is proposed to go live April 1, 2026.

P. Lano and DMS colleagues are presenting at the MH/SU Recovery Conference in conjunction with DCTS and encourage members to attend, if able.

5. Consideration of November 19, 2025, agenda items

- Fall Tour review
- Updated motion from the CJC
- MH/SU conference updates from C. Barnard.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Prepared by: Hannah Foley on 9/28/2025.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 11/19/2025