

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Wisconsin Council on Mental Health			Attending: Andrew Kennard- guest, Juliann Bliefnick-WCMH guest
Date: 11/19/2025	Time Started: 12:00 p.m.	Time Ended: 2:43 p.m.	DHS-Hannah Foley, Brenda Scheurer, Jason Cram, Leanne Delsart, Ann Kelley-Kuehmichel, Alison Glodowski, Monique Larson-Hicks, Holly Audley, Jessie Andrews, Joannette Robertson, Sarah Coyle, Gynger Steele
Location: Teams Meeting			Presiding Officers: Ana Winton and Nikyra McCann

Minutes

Members attendance: Membership: 18 Quorum: 10			
X	Ana Winton	X	Sheryl Smith
X	Chrissy Barnard	X	Lalena Lampe
X	Cheryl Johnson	X	Pam Lano
	Mary Madden	X	Karen Odegaard
X	Kristina Neyrinck	X	Sarah Salisott
X	Alicia Oczus	X	Kimberlee Coronado (Ex-Officio does not count towards quorum)
	Svea Erlandson (excused)		Matt MacLean
	McKenna Holman		Leana Nakielski Mesdjian
	Nikyra McCann		

1. Call the meeting to order

Winton called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. once quorum was established.

2. WCMH housekeeping

Read WCMH "Guidelines for Conduct of Meeting"

Madden read the guidelines.

Review and approve September 17, 2025, meeting minutes

Smith motioned to approve September 17, 2025, minutes.

Madden seconded.

Minutes approved unanimously.

Announcements: opportunity for council members to make general announcements

No announcements.

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

Foley created a survey for members who were present at the Fall Tour to share what they enjoyed about the two-day meeting and, for those who could not attend, what barriers were in place for their lack of attendance. Foley shared this survey with the group and held a discussion on the results.

Salisott shared that the Children and Youth Committee is testing out a new framework for members. Salisott asked CYC members to share their interest in joining a subcommittee as a requirement for serving on the CYC. The first subcommittee will gather data and information for the CYC and WCMH strategic plan. The second subcommittee will focus on drafting motions and draft packages, and the third will focus on CYC products (motions, etc.) and process improvement. Salisott shared that she hopes this change will increase report outs during CYC meetings where members

will share “what are you gathering? What are you working on? What are we doing so we can try and bring more motions forward.” The group echoed that there is a need for change within the council and committees to “reinvigorate and remind members why they joined the WCMH.”

Criminal Justice Committee

The CJC discussed the recommendations from the WCMH that were provided during the September full council meeting and worked on the clarification of language within the motion. Juli Bliefnick put together a one-pager for the modern best practices for solitary confinement. Juli Bliefnick updated the language to state that CJC moves for WCMH to take a stance to limit the use of solitary confinement within WI institutions.

Legislative and Policy Committee

The LPC discussed on committee effectiveness with the current structure at the November 13 meeting. Suggestions from LPC members on possible subcommittees included a subcommittee dedicated to identifying and inviting guest speakers, a subcommittee that looks at the state budget and legislative items and provides updates to the LPC, a committee membership subcommittee, and a specific strategic plan subcommittee. LPC members agreed to continue this discussion at future meetings

Access and Quality Committee

Barnard shared that Laura Gebhart, mental health data and evaluation specialist with BPTR, presented on mental health data.

Nominating Committee

Recommendation and approval of new WCMH members

Winton welcomed newly appointed member, McKenna Holman, and shared an overview of Holman’s expertise and experiences. McKenna joins the Council from Superior and serves as a Wisconsin State Public Defender. Previous to this position, McKenna also has experience working as a legal intern for the Community Integration Law Clinic in Madison and supported asylum clinics and assisted clients filing for asylum and U-Visas. Thank you for your willingness to serve on the WCMH, McKenna!

The WCMH has seven current vacancies. The Nominating Committee has discussed and approved the following five candidates for recommendation to the council and plans to discuss the final two vacancies at their next meeting.

Family Members Seats: Nicole Iuro Ravens, Keith Sirek, and Shayla Olson

Nicole is the Statewide Coordinator of Peer Recovery Centers for Independent Living Resources. She has served as co-chair for the Legislative and Policy Committee for the last three year. Nicole also has lived experience with mental health and substance use recovery and the criminal justice system. She has been a Certified Peer Specialist since 2019.

Keith is a student at Northwood Tech Collage in Rice Lake WI studying to become an EMT and Law Enforcement. He shared that he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder or PTSD in 2018. He has worked to help others understand PTSD and mental health issues better.

Shayla is the lead certified parent peer specialist and certified peer specialist with Kickapoo Counseling.

Aside from her professional experience and ongoing mental health training, Shayla noted in her application that her most valuable qualification is being the parent of a child with multiple severe mental health diagnoses. She shared that her son has been the driving force behind career path.

Advocate: J. Andrew Garr

J. Andrew Garr serves as the Program Director for Wisconsin Milkweed Alliance, Inc. and supports the day-to-day operations of Kaleidoscope, a low-barrier, participant-driven peer support center. In his application, he shared that he believes he is well-qualified to serve on the council because of his unique combination of lived experience, professional leadership, and deep commitment to systems change rooted in equity, dignity, and peer support values.

Provider: Octavia Manuel-Wright

Octavia is psychiatric nurse practitioner with Balanced Mental Health and Wellness, LLC in Brown Deer. In her application, Octavia shared that she is actively involved in community-based mental health initiatives and has organized

mental health education programs, conducted community-based depression and anxiety screenings and led restorative yoga sessions that promote mental and emotional well-being.

Winton motioned to hold a vote for all five recommended applicants.

Lano seconded.

13 Fors.

0 Nays.

0 Abstained.

All 5 applicants were approved and will be shared for recommendation for the WCMH.

Children and Youth Committee

S. Salisott and J. Chaffee gave an overview of a suggested structure to accomplish the plan and templates to complete the work. Suggested 3 workgroups:

- Research- gathering data, perspectives, stories
- Workshopping – synthesize information into engaging format, gather feedback, identifying additional data needs, pulling in recommendations
- Packaging- creating motion, letter, etc.

A motion to implement the workgroup structure and process outlined above utilizing templates provided passed unanimously.

4. Updates from the Department of Health Services

Updates from the Secretary's Office

Odegaard shared an update regarding the Rural Health Transformation grant. You can find links to the application summary, narrative, and a letter of endorsement from Governor Evers here:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/business/rhtp.htm>.

Odegaard also shared that, during the previous week, Congress passed a continuing resolution that the President then signed into law that ended the shutdown and reopened the federal government. The continuing resolution funds portions of the federal government through January, while providing full funding for some things for the remainder of the fiscal year federal, federal fiscal year, including full funding through September 2026 for the food Share Program and the Women Infants and Children program, otherwise known as WIC.

Updates from the Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS)

Steele shared staffing updates including the retirement of the director of Mendota Mental Health Institute, Greg Van Rybroek and Holly Audley. Audley serves as the Assistant Administrator with DCTS and is retiring with over 30 years of state work. Audley was joined by her replacement, Jessie Andrews, who joins DCTS from Winnebago Mental Health Institute.

Updates from the Bureau of Prevention and Treatment Services (BPTR)

Robertson shared an update on the new administrative rule, DHS 72. This rule will embed peer recovery support services into behavioral health and so peer recovery coaches and certified peer specialists and parent peer specialists will be able to be billed under Medicaid into certified programs.

Updates from the Division of Medicaid Services (DMS)

Lano shared that DMS presented at the Substance Use Recovery Conference in October regarding DHS 72 and 75 and shared brief updates regarding the newly published rule.

Lano shared that Wisconsin received a [10-year grant at the beginning of 2025](#) that focuses on maternal health system transformation project that aims on focusing on the whole person approach to pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period.

5. Reminder of 2026 dates

- February 18, 2026, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- May 20, 2026, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- August 19, 2026, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- September 2026: TBD-Fall Tour

- November 18, 2026, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

6. Call for agenda items for the February 18, 2026, meeting

- Create a task force to plan the fall tour for the May agenda so we can get information out ahead of time.
- Identify a local person where they may be able to serve as a champion and share relationships
- DHS 72 presentation

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Prepared by: Hannah Foley on 2/11/2026.

These minutes are in draft form and will be voted upon at the meeting on 02/18/2026.