

June 2017

RE: Wisconsin History of Advocacy and Mental Health Services

We are pleased to share the enclosed document with you. Wisconsin History of Advocacy and Mental Health Services was developed as part of the 25th anniversary celebration of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Wisconsin ADA Partnership/ADA Legacy Project authorized the creation of a work group to document the history of the development of mental health services in Wisconsin and the role that various organizations played in that process. The mental health work group, consisting of representatives of state and county government, advocates, consumers, family members, and service providers, produced the document.

This document includes developments prior to the passage of the ADA. As you know, Wisconsin has been a leader in the development of community mental health services since the mid-1970's when its unique state/county partnership for the delivery of mental health services was created. Wisconsin was also an early leader in the consumer and family advocacy movements. Our state has long recognized the rights of persons receiving mental health services and was a leader in developing recovery oriented services and trauma informed care.

However, challenges remain. We hope you and your organization will use this document to help guide future actions to ensure that all persons with mental illness in Wisconsin have access to prompt and adequate treatment and services that truly meet the needs identified by consumers and their service providers.

Additional copies of this document may be obtained through the website of the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health. <https://mhc.wisconsin.gov/resources.htm>

On behalf of the Mental Health ADA Legacy Work Group,  
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