



State of Wisconsin

**Wisconsin Council on Mental Health**  
mhc.wisconsin.gov

**Meeting of the Legislative and Policy Committee**  
**April 11, 2019**

**12:30 pm to 3:00 pm**

**1 West Wilson Street, Conference Room 630, Madison, Wisconsin and via Conference Call**

**Members of the Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) in Attendance:** Chris Wirth, Joanne Juhnke, Barbara Beckert, Kit Kerschensteiner, Crystal Hester, Alice Sykora, Mary Neubauer

**Members of the LPC in Attendance via Conference Call:** Mike Lappen, Kathie Knoble-Iverson, Brian Michel

**Department of Health Services (DHS) Staff in Attendance:** Ryan Stachoviak, Joyce Allen

**Guests in Attendance:** Natalie Diebel, Marc Herstand, Andrea Turtenwald, Lea Collins-Worachek, Linda Hall, Kimberlee Coronado

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Call Meeting of the LPC to Order**

*Review and approval of the minutes of March 14, 2019*

**K. Kerschensteiner moved to approve the minutes of March 14, 2019.**

**J. Juhnke seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried, M. Neubauer abstained.**

### *Announcements*

B. Beckert announced that the Milwaukee Mental Health Taskforce is hosting a panel discussion on reimagining justice for Wisconsinites with mental illness. The event will be held on April 29. C. Hester announced that registration for Action on the Square will soon be closed. More information is available on the NAMI Wisconsin website: <https://www.namiwisconsin.org/action-on-the-square>.

B. Michel announced that Mental Health America-Wisconsin was announced as the vendor for the Veterans Peer Run Respite in Milwaukee. M. Neubauer announced that there are now 1,011 Certified Peer Specialists in Wisconsin. Over 400 have been certified in the last year alone.

R. Stachoviak announced that the next Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) meeting will be held on May 15. The Council plans to discuss the Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) application. C. Hester announced that the next LPC meeting will be held a week later than normal, on May 16.

## *Public Comment*

M. Herstand discussed conversion therapy bills in the Wisconsin State Legislature. These bills are part of an effort to ban conversion therapy for youth. It is hoped that a group of mental health advocates can be brought together to attend an upcoming meeting of the Committee on Health to advocate on behalf of this legislation.

## **2. Discussion and Review of Committee Membership and Leadership**

DHS leadership is looking at the boards and councils that operate under DHS and is trying to revamp and rebuild membership on those groups, including the WCMH. In particular DHS leadership is looking to ensure these groups have a diverse membership. Considerations around health equity are very important in the process.

J. Juhnke announced that she will soon transition to the role of social media director at Wisconsin Family Ties and will need to resign from the LPC and the Children and Youth Committee (CYC). WFT is undergoing reorganization. Hugh Davis will likely be asking to be appointed to represent WFT on the LPC in the future. J. Juhnke announced that K. Coronado would like to be the CYC advocate on the LPC.

## **3. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action**

### *Budget Priority Planning*

Members of the LPC discussed advocacy that has been conducted thus far on budget related items. M. Neubauer discussed stressing the importance of Medicaid expansion. M. Neubauer has often advocated on the topic by discussing the importance of Medicaid expansion in supporting Comprehensive Community Services (CCS), increasing rate for providers, and crisis stabilization centers. Medicaid expansion, by supporting community based services, can also have an impact on those expenses incurred by police as they transport people to facilities. B. Beckert discussed themes that arose in Joint Finance Committee (JFC) hearings included special education funding, concerns regarding reforms in the criminal justice system, such as the incarceration of people with mental illness.

C. Hester noted that NAMI Wisconsin submitted testimony supporting BadgerCare expansion, addressing workforce shortages, funding for special education, youth mental health services in schools, criminal justice issues, supporting Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS) and Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD), First Episode Psychosis (FEP) programs, and suicide prevention. A speaker's taskforce on suicide prevention is also being brought together. The taskforce is hoping to gather information from across the state on suicide prevention and introducing a package of legislation in October. B. Beckert noted the importance of ensuring people's voices are heard at the JFC and it is important for advocates to encourage and support people to provide their perspectives and build broad grassroots involvement.

Members of the LPC discussed the benefits of Medicaid expansion. It is estimated that 82,000 people would be able to access affordable insurance in Wisconsin with expansion. This would include cost savings that could then be reinvested into the health system. Some of these people are currently eligible for insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA); however the cost may be prohibitive. For some people Medicaid expansion is more of addressing an affordability issue, rather than a coverage issue. Medicaid expansion would also increase the range of services that could be made available for many people. If Wisconsin were to join Medicaid expansion

the State could charge a higher Medicaid rate. DHS is looking to produce a fact sheet that would detail the impact of Medicaid expansion.

J. Juhnke provided a briefing on items from the recent CYC meeting. The CYC had discussions regarding the budget and passed a motion to support elements of AB 59, Governor Evers' state budget proposal. These elements being supported by the CYC are:

- Reverting jurisdiction of 17-year-old offenders from adult court to juvenile court for acts committed after 2021-01-01, and providing sum sufficient funding to cover county costs.
- Additional funding for juvenile justice programming related to secured residential care centers and youth aids staffing and training.
- Funding increase for Pyramid Model coordination.
- Ending the wait list for Children's Long Term Support.
- Expanding the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center.
- Repealing the sunset on the student mental health consultation benefit.
- Youth crisis stabilization facility funding.
- Moving the Office of School Safety to DPI.
- Freezing enrollment in the Special Needs Scholarship Program and undoing funding changes from the 2017/2019 state budget.

The CYC may need to ask the WCMH Executive Committee to hold a special rapid response meeting in order to ensure timely action can be taken to advocate for these budget items.

**K. Kerschensteiner moved that the LPC adopt the above motion developed by the CYC and request the WCMH to support it.**

**M. Neubauer seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

C. Wirth mentioned that he sent out a shortened version of the budget priority document.

#### *State Legislation and Review of LPC Bill Tracking and Bills to Review and Approve*

Members of the LPC reviewed legislation to review whether the group wanted to track the legislation further. Members discussed AB 50 regarding employing a dyslexia specialist at the Department of Public Instruction and making an appropriation. J. Juhnke and K. Coronado discussed the legislation and the companion bill AB 110 relating to developing a guidebook related to dyslexia and related conditions. There is a hearing scheduled on April 18. In order to provide testimony, this legislation may need to be addressed at a WCMH Executive Committee meeting rapid response session.

**M. Neubauer moved to ask the WCMH to support AB 50 and AB 110, and provide testimony at the April 18 hearing in support of these bills.**

**C. Wirth seconded.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

The LPC will continue to track both AB 50 and AB 110. B. Michel and C. Hester will track AB 111/SB 107 relating to prohibiting conversion therapy of youth. M. Neubauer will track AB 118/SB 113 relating to increasing funding

for the child psychiatry consultation program and making an appropriation. B. Michel will track AB 131/SB 414, legislation that provides funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to administer outreach and mental health services to veterans

Members of the LPC discussed LRB-2487/2648 relating to the requirement for stating name and address prior to voting.

**K. Kerschensteiner moved to ask that the WCMH support LRB-2487/2648.**

**M. Neubauer seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried, M. Lappen abstained.**

#### **4. Division of Care and Treatment Services Updates**

J. Allen provided information regarding Governor Evers' budget from the DHS website which details how the budget will impact behavioral health services. A large focus in the budget is on improving the crisis system. The budget also includes funding for the implementation of Electronic Health Records for smaller providers and would provide additional funding for the OARS program to increase it statewide.

#### **5. Agenda Items for the May 2019 Committee Meeting**

The LPC will continue to discuss the state budget and new legislation.

#### **6. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.