



State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health

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Meeting of the Legislative and Policy Committee

October 10, 2019

12:30 pm to 3:00 pm

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

MINUTES

Member of the Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) in Attendance: Alice Sykora, Hugh Davis, Justin Odulana, Kit Kerschensteiner, Brian Michel, Mary Neubauer, Chris Wirth

Members of the LPC in Attendance via Conference Call: Barbara Beckert, Mike Lappen, Kathie Knoble-Iverson, Kimberlee Coronado

Department of Health Services (DHS) Staff in Attendance: Joannette Robertson, Mike Christopherson, Lalena Lampe, Teresa Steinmetz

Guests in Attendance: Amanda Anderson (Wisconsin Association for Marriage and Family Therapy), Marc Herstand (National Association-Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter), Linda Hall (Office of Children's Mental Health)

1. Call Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC) Meeting to Order

Review and approval of the minutes of September 12, 2019

K. Kerschensteiner moved to approve the minutes.

A. Sykora seconded the motion.

Motion carried, minutes approved.

Announcements

Upcoming conferences include the Mental Health and Substance Use Recovery Training Conference, the Children Come First Conference, and the 2019 Wisconsin Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Conference, in October. A. Sykora asked if there was any information available about the emergency placement summit? C. Hester sent out the save the date but there have not been any updates for registration. Other upcoming events include a Warriors Summit in Fond du Lac Oct 18th, a Milwaukee Mental Health Taskforce event on Pathways to Employment on November 12th. The group is also accepting nominations for the

Karen Avery Award and the Rising Leader award for youth advocates. The Healing Arts Show is currently happening as well, the opening reception on October 5th in Madison. The University of Wisconsin is hosting a summit on Emergency Detentions. C. Hester will share information with the group. M. Herstand announced that the NASW Conference will be held October 23-25 in Milwaukee.

A. Sykora discussed a colleague who is a hard of hearing person who is a psychologist who is retired from Mendota and is interested in joining the LPC. C. Hester noted that there are vacancies on the committee. The LPC recommends that people who are interested attend a meeting or two to see if it's a good match.

2. Discussion and Review of Committee Membership and Leadership

There continue to be some vacancies on the LPC, no other updates were made.

3. Legislative and Policy Updates, Discussion, and Action

Suicide prevention task force bills were released as the Speakers Taskforce on suicide was wrapped up. There is a 13 page document as a result of it. The bill would require 6-8 professions to do extra ongoing education that others may not have previously participate in. The NASW conference has breakouts of suicide prevention. NASW does not agree with the mandatory suicide prevention requirement as many Social Workers do not work in an area where the training is necessary. The legislature should not micro-manage professions. The field needs to wrestle with these issues as they pertain to their fields. Advocates recommend that professional boards should consider this and set standards for their field.

B. Michel discussed a public statement from Mental Health America Wisconsin regarding these recommendations. Some are good but others are not well thought out and they are not funded. Copies of this were distributed. Brian also discussed the crisis intervention bill. Members of the LPC agreed to add this legislation to the bill tracking document.

B. Beckert discussed a recent call with DHS leadership that other advocates were also present for. The discussion was in regards to CCS follow-up on concerns, inconsistencies, and codes directed around adult participants. The group also discussed strategies around a big picture, looking at systems to inform budget recommendations. There could perhaps be a proposal for a short term task force to look at CCS gaps and opportunities across the state. How can we bring together what's working and what could be improved by building connections between counties. This effort could lead to a budget recommendation.

M. Herstand discussed that NASW is looking at a ban on conversion therapy among MH professionals for LGBTQ persons. While it can't necessarily ban it in faith communities it could in the mental health profession. Conversion therapy is extremely psychologically damaging to people.

H. Davis discussed a bill draft being circulated for sponsors related to updating the state statute on seclusion and restraint in schools. Wisconsin Family Ties has published data related to school practice on this. The goal is for law enforcement participation in seclusion and restraint to be reported by mandate. The proposal would require schools to report to parents any seclusion or restraint in a clear and meaningful way so parents understand what happened.

M. Neubauer discussed a bill on harm to a nurse. The testimony that was provided to the senate was widely heard from the nurses association. Discussions moved into bodily harm to a healthcare worker as opposed to only nurses. K. Kerschensteiner suggested the use of the definitions in DHS mental health code 51.01. The Nurses Association supports this broadening of the definition. This proposal is an enhancer to an existing crime. It is not the intent to over punish person with mental illness, substance use disorder, or developmental disability. H. Davis expressed concerned for kids who are not yet diagnosed getting this enhancement. K. Kerschensteiner discussed that people must meet the definition, not already have a diagnosis to have this caveat. The amendment is completed but not yet introduced or passed.

Funding for the grants incentive for suicide prevention, the Hopeline, is tied up with the suicide task force report. In regards to the Extreme risk legislation there are some concerns that this bill can unfairly target some consumers. A mental health diagnosis by itself is not enough to bring up a petition. Guidance is being written for judges, however there it is not expected that there will be much traction this year on this legislation. There needs to be targeted effort to explain these bills. The media does not understand what these bills are and there is stigma being attached.

Members of the LPC discussed the task force on adoption recommendations. Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) had weighed in due to impact on parents with mental illness and other disabilities, as well as kids with disabilities. B. Beckert will share additional information with the group.

Members of the LPC discussed federal legislation. C. Hester briefed the group on a proposal to enact a national three digit suicide hotline. Tammy Baldwin is interested in being a lead on the initiative. Mental Health America national has voiced support for the legislation. There is some controversy on which three digits should be used.

4. Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS) Updates

The DCTS new Assistant Division Administrator Gynger Steele will be joining the DCTS in mid-October. Jason Cram has been appointed as the new Children Youth and Families Section Chief. Scott Stokes will be leaving the Bureau as the Substance Use Section Chief at the end of October.

DCTS continues to revise the DHS 75 Substance Use Treatment rule. An advisory committee has started meeting. Also, being revised is the DHS 40 Child and Adolescent Day Treatment rule.

This is in the final stages of review and will then be sent to the Governor's office. The Youth Crisis Stabilization Facility rule, DHS 50, should be published by November 1st.

5. Agenda Items for the November 2019 Committee Meeting

Agenda items that were noted:

- Request a task force for making budget recommendations.
- An introduction to the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health Interim Chair, Vice-Chair, and Second Vice-Chair.
- Discussion on concerns regarding continuing education requirements from the suicide prevention taskforce and the financial ramifications of these requirements.
- Follow-up discussion on a national suicide prevention three digit number.
- Identifying a new Children and Youth Committee representative on the LPC.

6. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.