

# Wisconsin Council on Mental Health Information for Members - 2021

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## About the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health

### Background

Welcome to the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH). The WCMH is a long-standing advisory Council which discusses and makes decisions on the mental health system in Wisconsin. The WCMH's duties include advocating for those living with mental health challenges by providing guidance and recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Members of the Council are appointed by the Governor to three year terms. Council members include consumers, advocates, family members, parents, and providers. Also serving on the Council are representatives from various State agencies that have a role in providing mental health in Wisconsin:

- Department of Health Services (DHS) - Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS) and Division of Medicaid Services (DMS)
- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Department of Public Instruction (DPI)
- Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)
- Department of Workforce Development (DWD) - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
- Department of Children and Families (DCF)

There are 25 available seats on the WCMH. The WCMH is led by a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Second Vice-Chair who are elected by the Council members. Based on Federal law at least half of the Council members must be neither providers nor state staff. This ensures that people with lived experience such as consumers, family members, advocates and parents have a voice at the table.

Additional information on Council structure and duties can be found on the WCMH website:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wcmh>.

### Council Meetings

Meetings of the WCMH are held six times a year, typically the third Wednesday of every other month. Meetings are generally held in Madison or virtually via Zoom. However, most Septembers the Council holds a two day tour and meeting in other parts of the State, picking a different place or program each year. Most Council meetings are held from 10:00 AM – 3:30PM. Meetings are planned by the WCMH Executive Committee (outlined below) in collaboration with Council members and the WCMH sub-committees. The WCMH staff person helps coordinate meetings. Lunches are provided for members at each Council meeting. WCMH meetings have set agendas, frequently involving presentations,

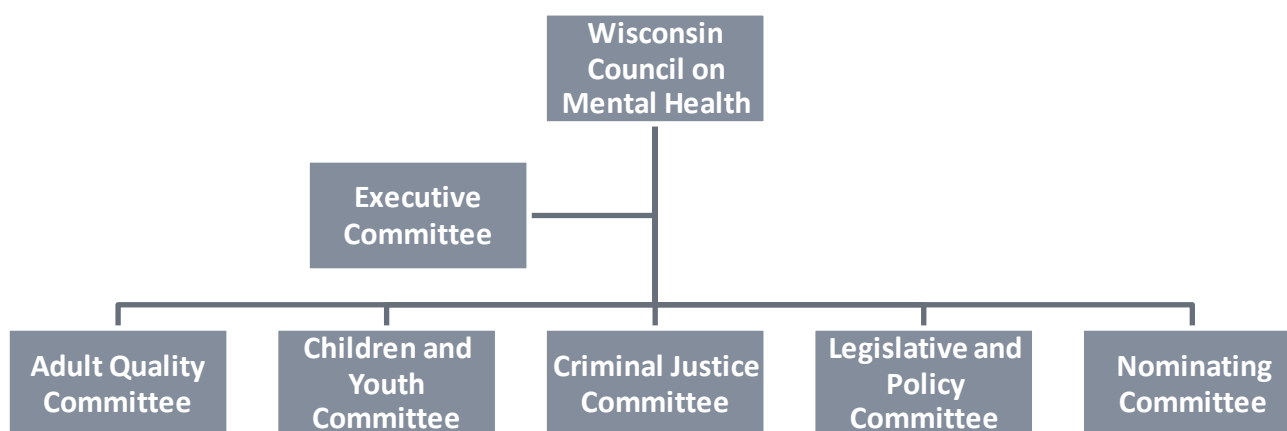
discussions, and the voting on motions. Each member is entitled to one vote on any matters that come before the Council for a vote.

### **Council Committees**

The WCMH also has six subcommittees: the Executive Committee, the Adult Quality Committee, the Children and Youth Committee, the Criminal Justice Committee, the Legislative and Policy Committee, and the Nominating Committee. Each committee focuses on a specific area. Committees may make recommendations to the Council and perform other duties as designated by the Council. These committees may not act on behalf of the Council except when given such authority with respect to a specific matter and within specific limitations designated by the full Council.

Members of the WCMH serve on one or more committees based on their interests and Council’s needs. Committees also have members who are advocates, parents, consumers, providers, and state staff, who may or may not be members of the WCMH. Committee members are appointed by the WCMH Chair based on need, interest, expertise and discussion. Each committee is provided staff support by the DHS. The Executive Committee is comprised of the WCMH Chair, Vice-Chair, Second-Vice Chair, and the chairs from each committee. The Executive Committee plans WCMH meetings, addresses WCMH and committee operations, and conducts WCMH business at times when the entire WCMH cannot meet. Committee schedules vary; most committees meet every other month, and some meet every month. Additional information about the committees can be found on the WCMH website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wcmh>.

*Wisconsin Council on Mental Health Organization Chart*



### **Mission of the Council**

- Create partnerships that develop, coordinate, and provide a full range of mental health resources.
- Emphasize hope and optimism in all interactions.
- Implement a comprehensive strategy to eradicate stigma and discrimination.

- Involve consumers, their families, and communities as equal stakeholders in service system governance, planning, and delivery.
- Acknowledge the abundance and limitation of human and financial resources and commit to responsible stewardship of these resources.

### **Duties of the Council**

- Advise the Department of Health Services (DHS), the Legislature, and the Governor on the use of state and federal resources and on the provision and administration of mental health programs for groups who are not adequately served by the mental health system, for the prevention of mental health problems and for other mental health related purposes.
- Provide recommendations to the DHS on the expenditure of federal funds received under the Mental Health Block Grant.
- Participate in developing, monitoring, and evaluating the implementation of the Mental Health Block Grant Plan for adults and children.
- Review all DHS plans for services affecting persons living with mental health challenges and monitor the implementation of the plans.
- Serve as an advocate for persons of all ages with mental illness.
- Review all departmental plans for services affecting persons with mental illness and monitor the implementation of the plans.

### **WCMH Legal Background**

The Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH) is legislatively mandated under section 15.197 (1), Wisconsin Statutes, as the mental health planning Council for the State. It was created to advise the Governor, the Legislature and the Department of Health Services (DHS) on the allocation of Mental Health Block Grant funds. The Council has 20 to 25 members appointed by the Governor, meeting bi-monthly. At least 50 percent of the members must be consumers and/or family members. Other members represent state agencies, mental health providers, and other organizations or groups. The WCMH evaluates and reviews the mental health system's progress towards achieving improved client outcomes and the adequacy of mental health services in the State. The Council duties are specified in section 51.02, Wisconsin Statutes. The Council oversees state compliance with federal Public Law 102-321.

### **Vision and Mission**

The vision and mission statements are adapted from the Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Mental Health.

#### **Vision of the Council**

We envision the time when all persons in need of mental health services across Wisconsin have equal access to resources that strengthen self-determination and self-sufficiency by promoting health and wellness, improvement and recovery, quality of life, and dignity.

## **WCMH Leadership**

**Council Chair:** Rick Immler

**Council Vice-Chair:** Kimberlee Coronado

**Council Second Vice-Chair:** Ana Winton

## **Staff to the Council**

The WCMH is supported by staff from the Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS). Staff members provide logistical support for the Council and committees such as scheduling meetings, taking meeting minutes, and developing meeting materials. Staff members also provide guidance and technical support during meetings. Members of the Council and committees are welcome to reach out to staff members with any questions, or Council-related needs.

### **Staff to the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health:**

#### **Maddie Johnson, MPH**

Mental Health Planner

Performance Management Section

Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery

Division of Care and Treatment Services

Department of Health Services

1 W. Wilson Street

Madison, WI 53707

Mobile: 608-381-8328

[madeline.johnson@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:madeline.johnson@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

## **Committees of the Council**

### **1. Executive Committee**

*Chair:* Rick Immler, Council Chair

*Staff:* Maddie Johnson ([madeline.johnson@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:madeline.johnson@dhs.wisconsin.gov))

*Membership:* Council Officers (Chairs and Co-Chairs of each Standing Committee)

*Meeting Schedule:* Generally bi-monthly

### **2. Legislative and Policy Committee**

*Chair:* Crystal Hester

*Co-Chair:* Vacant

*Staff:* Maddie Johnson ([madeline.johnson@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:madeline.johnson@dhs.wisconsin.gov))

*Membership:* Council members, mental health advocates, and other members of the public

*Meeting Schedule:* Generally monthly

### **3. Children and Youth Committee**

*Co-Chair:* Phyllis Greenberg

*Co-Chair:* Amy Polsin

*Staff:* Monique Hicks ([monique.larsonhicks@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:monique.larsonhicks@dhs.wisconsin.gov))

*Membership:* Council members and other stakeholders

*Meeting Schedule:* Generally bi-monthly

#### **4. Criminal Justice Committee**

*Co-Chair:* Karen Breit

*Co-Chair:* Tamra Oman

*Staff:* Jamie McCarville ([Jamie.McCarville@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jamie.McCarville@dhs.wisconsin.gov))

*Membership:* Council members, Department of Corrections staff, and other stakeholders

*Meeting Schedule:* Generally quarterly

#### **5. Adult Quality Committee:**

*Co-Chair:* Lynn Harrigan

*Co-Chair:* Kristin Welch

*Staff:* Alexa Nobis ([alexa.nobis@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:alexa.nobis@dhs.wisconsin.gov))

*Membership:* Council members and other stakeholders

*Meeting Schedule:* Bimonthly

#### **Nominating Committee**

*Chair:* Kimberlee Coronado

*Staff:* Maddie Johnson ([madeline.johnson@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:madeline.johnson@dhs.wisconsin.gov))

*Membership:* Interested Council members

*Meeting Schedule:* Monthly

### **Travel Reimbursement**

Members of the public or members of the Council who are not reimbursed for Council travel through their employer can be reimbursed for travel. Members of the Council who wish to be reimbursed for travel should work with their Council or Committee staff person to file the necessary paperwork with the Department of Health Services.

Council members should submit completed Travel Reimbursement Requests to Council staff. Please see the State of Wisconsin Pocket Travel Guide for information on reimbursable expenses or visit the DHS Travel Reimbursement website at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/app/travel-reimbursement.htm>. Please contact Council staff if you have any questions regarding travel reimbursement.