



## **Mental Health Committee**

Monday, January 11, 2021 – 2:00pm, via Zoom

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** (31) Tom Reed, Adam Oldenburg, Rose Stietz, Kimberly Betzhold, Kent Lovern, Susan Fischer, Tedia Gamino, Sarah Wang, Lisa Procaccio, Claire Starling, Carolyn Parkinson, Kaelin Rapport, Christine Apple, Jim Feagles, Justin Kuehl, Susan Collyard, Joseph Ellwanger, Katie Holtz, Dana Blake, Pete Koneazny, Brian Michel, Stephanie Garbo, Scott Lesniewski, Kim Lynch, Cynthia Davis, Kelly Hedge, Barbara Beckert, Susan Eckhart

**Staff Present:** Mandy Potapenko, Alyssa Doman, Erin Perkins

**1) Opening and Introductions** – Chair Reed called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm. Those present provided introductions and were encouraged to share any priorities or pressing items to discuss during the meeting. Sarah Wang (swang@sironarecovery.org) joined the meeting for the first time. Ms. Wang is the new Program Director for Sirona Recovery, overseeing their supportive housing programs.

### **2) Discussion and Updates Since Last Meeting –**

- **Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division** - Dr. Justin Kuehl and Jim Feagles provided updates from Milwaukee County's Behavioral Health Division (BHD). Dr. Kuehl shared links to the [recent announcement](#) on BHD's partnership with the private hospital systems to embark on the creation of a new psychiatric crisis emergency room. This emergency center will be staffed in partnership with AdvocateAurora and located in proximity to Aurora Sinai Hospital. Milwaukee Healthcare Partnership representatives will be invited to provide updates as the project progresses.

Dr. Kuehl also shared updates on the [Granite Hills Hospital](#), which is a new 120-bed facility to be ran by [Universal Health Services](#). Dr. Kuehl anticipates Granite Hills will begin hiring staff soon to begin planning for their opening later in 2021 (September).

Jim Feagles provided an update on the newly SAMHSA-funded, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team. This multi-faceted team will provide community-based care to individuals experiencing serious mental illness that makes them susceptible to cycling through multiple systems and often not succeeding in other behavioral health services. The ACT team began taking referrals in December 2020 and will slowly ramp up caseloads as they feel comfortable. There are a few positions still open and can be found [here](#). Given the team is not a Forensic (F) ACT team, the committee discussed how the ACT team will interact or prevent admission to the jail and involvement with the criminal justice system. BHD staff anticipate admitting some individuals who have prior or current justice system involvement; however, the team was not designed to solely to serve individuals with forensic needs.

- **Forensic/Treatment to Competency Waitlist Update** – Adam Oldenburg reported there has been an increase in inpatient competency examinations over the past few months. The numbers appear to be stabilizing and the Institution is beginning to catch up from the backlog of cases. There has also been an increase in referrals for outpatient competency evaluations. Overall, waitlist numbers for treatment at the Institutions are down. It was indicated that there were eight individuals currently awaiting admission to the institution, with two scheduled for admission to Mendota. One is still waiting for a bed at Wisconsin Resource Center.



- 3) **MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge Updates** – Erin Perkins provided an update on the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge initiative. To support jail population analysis work, with grant-funding, the Sheriff’s Office is currently on-boarding a Jail Population Analyst who will be supporting the initiative for the next two years.
- 4) **Any Other Business or Appropriate Business** – Reverend Ellwanger requested an update on the status of the creation of a full mental health treatment court. Judge Cynthia Davis was on the call earlier, but was no longer present to be able to provide an update on the current mental health pilot. More discussion will be had at future meetings with the necessary partners present. Barbara Beckert reminded attendees that the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force Meeting is scheduled for (tomorrow) 1/12/2021 from 3-5pm – [info here](#).
- 5) **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 3:22 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2021 at 2:00 pm via Zoom.

**Items Noted for Follow-Up and/or Future Discussion:**

- *Wellpath was not represented during this meeting. There was a request for an update on current staffing and services*
- *Explore Opportunities to Improve Forensic and Treatment to Competency processes*
- *Request to discuss the expansion of a Mental Health Treatment court*