



## **Mental Health Committee**

Monday, February 1, 2021 – 2:00pm, via Zoom

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Tom Reed, Alexander Paque, Kevin Bolyard, Katie Holtz, Karen Vespalec, Kim Lynch, Adam Oldenburg, Rose Stietz, Susan Fischer, Kimberly Betzhold, Jim Feagles, Cynthia Davis, Claire Starling, Jordan Hoelscher, Kaelin Rapport, Lisa Procaccio, Michael Lappen, Brian Michel, Lars Brown, Susan Eckhart, Liz Hallman, Susan Collyard, Jamie Reif, Stephanie Garbo, Beth Dodsworth, Sarah Wang, Kelly Hedge, Joseph Ellwanger, Jeremy Triblett, Barbara Beckert, Christine Apple

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

- 1) **Opening and Introductions** – Committee Chair Reed called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm. Attendees present provided introductions and were welcomed to share priorities or concerns for discussion during the meeting.
- 2) **Discussion and Updates Since Last Meeting** – Mike Lappen and other members from BHD provided a number of updates to kick off the discussion. A letter of intent has been approved by the Mental Health Board to establish a new psychiatric crisis center, allowing for the transition of care and closure of BHD's PCS facility. Mike and others envision this as a robust opportunity to transform crisis care as we currently know it. Mike indicated there have been conversations with law enforcement to ensure a smooth transition process and allow for individuals requiring care to quickly be transitioned from police custody, reducing wait times for law enforcement. With the new building, the BHD is also hoping to serve people quicker and reduce overall wait times. The new center will have a separate, private entrance for law enforcement and a separate space for children, two major improvements from the existing facility.

Key staff have been hired for the ACT team. About one consumer is being added to the team per week, with the goal of improving care through high-fidelity services. A recently acquired million-dollar grant will allow the ACT team to achieve its goal of treating 100 participants who are at risk or have had entanglements with the justice system.

It was noted that Crisis Mobile services completed 2,888 adult visits last year. Youth visits did trend downward, which is likely attributed to school closures during the pandemic, as many calls used to come from schools. There is a planned expansion for the mobile teams and the BHD has been in talks for community-based mobile services that are not staffed by law enforcement and would be supported by the mobile team. CART teams are also operating as usual, with juvenile numbers similarly decreased from the school closures.

Adam Oldenburg, WCS, provided an update on DHS Forensic Treatment waitlists. There were fewer than average discharges from the institutions during the month of January 2021; there were 20 discharges, when there are typically around 30. The admission list remains stable, relative to discharges and admission. Susan Fischer added the jail-based competency restoration (JBCR) census declined last month, compared to the end of 2020. The outpatient competency-restoration program is busier, but things continue to move along. The JBCR program administration has joined a national cohort of jurisdictions to discuss best-practices and outcomes linked to jail-based competency throughout the country, with meetings planned quarterly. The Wisconsin program is different, as most programs are run by the state DHS and WI uses a contractor to provide treatment services.



- 3) **MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge Updates** – Erin Perkins shared an update from the Mental Health Diversion Team who met last week. They are currently working with staff from the Wisconsin Policy Forum and BHD to better understand the population served and adjust the process parameters to ensure the appropriate persons are being served and diverted. The SJC team continues to pursue the creation of a Forensic Discharge Planner position. Erin has been working with BHD and others to craft a final job description. One major goal of this position is to support individuals who often cycle through the competency process, and prevent their further involvement in forensic treatment services.
- 4) **Any Other Business or Appropriate Business** – Barbara Beckert reminded the group that the next Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force Meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday 2/9 from 3 to 5 pm – and will feature guest speakers from CAHOOTS – more [info here](#).
- 5) **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 3:27 pm. The next Mental Health Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 1, 2021 at 2:00 pm via Zoom.