



Mental Health Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Attendees: Tom Reed, Pete Koneazny, Susan Fischer, Alexander Paque, Adam Oldenburg, Kim Lynch, Karen Vespalec, Jim Feagles, Cynthia Davis, Joe Riepenhoff, Christine Apple, Justin Kuehl, Susan Collyard, Beth Dodsworth, Claire Starling, Lisa Procaccio, Kaelin Rapport, Dana Blake, Sarah Wang, Stephanie Garbo, Katie Holtz, Susan Eckhart, Kim Betzhold, Michael Lappen, Dawn Rablin, Jordan Hoelscher, Rose Stietz

Staff Present: Mandy Potapenko, Alyssa Doman, Erin Perkins

- 1) Opening and Introductions** - Chair Reed called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm. All present provided introductions.
- 2) Discussion and Updates Since Last Meeting** – Members of the SJC team provided updates on the local MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge efforts. The mental health diversion team had staff from the Wisconsin Policy Forum prepare data on those being served and jail population. The new grant is focusing on sustainability and going forward the focus will be on how to shift different positions and their funding sources away from grant funding. The funds will staff two paid internship positions within the BHD with staffing planned for Fall 2021.

Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division provided updates on its hospitals and teams. The UHS Hospital in WestAllis is still on track and will receive its occupancy permit in August with the first patient expected to be admitted in early September. The 16th street facility is now open. The Mental Health Design Team is pushing towards the final zoning permit and other completions will meet before the Mental Health Board on March 17th. The Mobile Teams have seen a significant reduction in youth service demands in response to school closures but are preparing in readiness for when the demand for services increases with reopening. The city budget did include \$300,000 in provisions to expand the CART teams. Recruiting efforts are underway with seven CART positions currently open. The BHD noted that substance abuse has been increasing. OEM reported limited overlap in their services and found that many completed suicides were from individuals who had no prior contact with the BHD. The final numbers of non- natural deaths in 2020 are up overall.

Wellpath noted an acute need for their services but the ratio of staff to patients is not fully allowing for individual therapy. An impact from COVID-19 on the special needs population has also been noted. DHS' Treatment to Competency Program is reporting 7 individuals undergoing the assessment process. 2 individuals have been determined not competent and the court is working to get them in custody. There are currently 5 individuals awaiting hearings and potential discharge, which will then allow additional individuals to enter the facility. Numbers are trending lower than usual with 26 individuals discharged in February. The DHS still has a slightly higher number of individuals in need of a competency examination. Individuals are mostly too symptomatic or unwilling to cooperate. Programmatic numbers for Milwaukee are beginning to increase.

- 3) Planning for Future Meetings – Learning Series, Featured Themes, and Relevant Policy Discussions** - Prior discussions prompted a revisit to the way meetings are run, particularly as they have exclusively moved to Zoom. The CJC is looking for feedback to the way meetings are handled and any presentations, discussions, or other topics of interest to include. A common theme discussed and brought up as a suggestion were youth services and education to end the school-to-prison pipeline. Any additional thoughts or ideas should be sent to Mandy.
- 4) Any Other Business Items** – Tomorrow, Tuesday March 2nd from 3 to 5 pm there is a Milwaukee Mental Health TaskForce Meeting - [info here](#). Medicare suspension. and the recently proposed budget will be major points of discussion. The DOC is vaccinating people in its care over age 65. A lot of the clients are denying the vaccine.
- 5) Adjourn** - Meeting adjourned at 3:23 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 5, 2021, at 2:00 pm via Zoom.