



Mental Health Committee

Monday, April 5, 2021 – 2:00pm, [via Zoom](#)

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Tom Reed, Rose Stietz, Susan Eckhart, Alexander Paque, Jennifer Craig, Katie Holtz, Kimberly Betzhold, Beth Dodsworth, Susan Fischer, Kaelin Rapport, Kelly Hedge, Dana Blake, Barbara Beckert, Lisa Kaczmarek, Sarah Wang, Christine Apple, Cynthia Davis, Dawn Rablin, Susan Collyard, Cynthia Davis, Jordan Hoelscher, Stephanie Garbo, Kent Lovern, Michael Lappen, Joseph Ellwanger, Pete Koneazny, Pam Matthews, Joe Riepenhoff

Staff Present: Alyssa Doman, Mandy Potapenko, Erin Perkins

- 1) **Opening and Introductions** – Chair Reed called the meeting to order at 2:03pm.
- 2) **State Budget Updates and Funding Priorities Related to Mental Health Treatment** – Beth Dodsworth, DHS, and Barbara Beckert, Disability Rights of Wisconsin, both gave substantive updates on the State Budget priorities and the process ahead. The Governor focused funds to address immediate needs and make restorative investments to improve and expand access to healthcare and other health-related services. Medicaid will be expanded to cover 90,000 more Wisconsinites. Behavioral healthcare will also receive an expansion through the budget to provide more intensive long-term treatment options in the continuum of care. Milwaukee Mobile Crisis Team and Trauma Response Teams received grants of \$2.6 million to provide their services and expand resources and access. Additional funds will expand coverage to make the services available over nights and weekends. The budget is aimed to decrease hospitalization rates, provide additional trainings, jobs, and services, support individuals with substance abuse, and adequately help the state’s incarcerated populations. A detailed breakdown of budget items can be found [here](#).

There is no budget hearing in Milwaukee this year. A total of four hearings are scheduled and can be found on the Joint Finance Committee’s [website](#). Comments on the budget may be left on the website for the committee or emailed to budget.comments@legis.wisconsin.gov ahead of the hearings. Wednesday, April 28th is the virtual hearing. The governor has been hosting budget bounceback meetings that discuss specific topics, with the next scheduled for April 14th at 6 pm. Registration must be done in advance.
- 3) **Announcement: IMPACT Network partnership with Policy Research, Inc.** – The IMPACT Network proposal with Policy Research Inc. as part of the work under the Safety and Justice Challenge is to expand on the work as funding winds down from the MacArthur Foundation. The partnership will be working with 5 SJC sites including Milwaukee and introduce them to behavioral health advances and provide guidance on evidence-based practices for adoption in a collaborative effort across the sites. The goal is to decrease the number of individuals with behavioral health needs coming through the system. The partnership will additionally help Milwaukee identify opportunities to expand or improve efforts and services. There will be a kick-off meeting in April, date TBD. Individuals are encouraged to join the IMPACT Team.
- 4) **Treatment Court Updates and Overview/Basics of Treatment Courts** – Updates were provided on the Treatment Court. All hearings have been performed virtually out of court which has resulted in an increase of individuals attending their court appearance. The numbers have been low overall and efforts to raise them are underway to return to full capacity. The Treatment Courts are designed to provide a non-traditional approach to the justice system



and divert individuals out of the criminal courts. Depending on the treatment court they are in, the individual is undergoing a period of supervision to provide the necessary resources to the participant and focus on any AODA or mental health concerns. People are awarded for good behavior and meeting criteria through physical items, honors, phase advancements, and ultimately graduation. In some courts the case gets dismissed, charges reduced, or early termination from probation. Sanctions for noncompliance include jail sanctions, writing essays, community service, or additional court appearances. Treatment Court programs are available to eligible individuals who are moderate to high risk and need.

- 5) **Discussion and Updates Since Last Meeting** – The Mental Health Taskforce is meeting on April 15th at 3pm instead of the scheduled 13th to discuss the joint venture crisis emergency center. Zoning was approved last Friday for the Mental Health Emergency Center. Access Clinic South and East are both now open.
- 6) **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 3, 2021, at 2:00pm via Zoom.