



Mental Health Committee

Monday, May 4th, 2020, 2:00 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Tom Reed, Susan Fischer, Rose Steitz, Tedia Gamino, Kimberly Betzhold, Kaelin Deprez, Pete Koneazny, Susan Collyard, Beth Dodsworth, Cynthia Davis, Barbara Beckert, Stephanie Garbo, Susan Eckhart, Colleen Dublinski, Jim Feagles, Karen Vespalec, Justin Kuehl, Adam Oldenburg, Kent Lovern, Joyce Ellwanger, Mike Lappen, Dawn Rablin, Shannon McCoy, Pam Matthews, Christine Apple

Staff Present: Mandy Potapenko, Alyssa Doman, Erin Perkins

- 1) **Welcome and Open Meeting** - Chair Reed called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm and proceeded with introductions. There were 28 attendees in total. Director Potapenko reminded all present that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. She expressed recognition to those on the call and the difficult year all have faced due to COVID-19 and its implications.
- 2) **New Business**
 - a. **Operational Updates Related to COVID-19 Response** - Attendees provided operational updates on their agency's COVID-19 response. Mike Lappen and Dr. Justin Kuehl remind all participants that up to date mental health services and resources are available on the [County website](#). BHD remains open with few service disruptions, but at reduced capacity.
 - b. **Court Committee Update on Mental Health-Related Cases during COVID-19** – Judge Cynthia Davis provided an overview of the work she and her colleagues are doing to ensure court operations proceed at a steady pace despite the limitations caused by COVID-19. A special subcommittee has been convened by the courts to ensure active communication, problem-identification, and planning. Steps are being taken to get Competency cases moving or re-evaluated to remove individuals out of jail, where appropriate, to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
 - c. **Quarterly Forensic Team Meeting Report** – Adam Oldenburg reported that at the state level, operations are still open and running as mandated but intake has slowed. The current treatment waitlist remains in the 80s, which is down from last month, but still 20 or so higher than average.
 - d. **Discussion on Any Other Emerging Trends and Pressing Matters** - Chair Reed inquired and cited concerns over opioid overdoses based on reported data trends through the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office. The committee had a short discussion and will continue to monitor and discuss at future meetings.
- 3) **Standing Updates** – Standing updates were provided throughout the meeting. Most pressing are those issues tied to COVID-19 response. PPE is in need by all departments. The Unified Emergency Operations Center (UEOC) has created a number of committees to ensure uniform response and policy development for the County. Staffing at most agencies remains remote or greatly reduced, and operations continue to function largely through phone or virtual services. One member expressed concern over the potential surge in eviction actions following the Stay-At-Home order. Members were encouraged to share any information they may have at upcoming meetings.



- 4) **Other Business/Announcements** - Director Potapenko shared that the CJC intends to continue with virtual meetings for the foreseeable future. All attendees were encouraged to share thoughts, materials, and agenda items for dissemination and discussion.
- 5) **Adjourn** – Meeting was adjourned at 3:31 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 1, 2020, at 2pm via Zoom.