



Mental Health Committee

Monday, August 3, 2020, at 2:00pm, via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Tom Reed, Rose Stietz, Tedia Gamino, Joseph Ellwanger, Susan Fischer, Claire Starling, Kim Betzhold, Beth Dodsworth, Kim Lynch, Adam Oldenburg, Susan Eckhart, Jim Feagles, Kaelin Deprez, Katie Holtz, Christine Apple, Michael Lappen, Barbara Beckert, Kimberly Krawczyk, Sara Morgan, Peter Koneazny, Kasaundra Brown, Sheldyn Himle, Brain Michel, Jeremy Triblett, Regina Huerter

Staff Present: Alyssa Doman, Mandy Potapenko, Erin Perkins

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions** - Chair Reed called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Individuals were called upon to introduce themselves.
- 2) **Presentation on Jail-Based Competency Restoration Program** – Susan Fischer, with Behavioral Consultants, Inc., provided an overview of the newly implemented jail-based competency restoration program aimed at providing competency-related treatment while individuals await bed availability at the State hospital. Nineteen individuals have been served in Milwaukee County thus far. Wellpath staff added their support for the partnership and a positive experience thus far. The committee expressed interest in continuing to receive updates
- 3) **Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division Updates** – Mike Lappen provided an update on the transition and redesign process underway within the behavioral health division. The new inpatient hospital, to be run by Universal Health Services, is currently under construction and set to open by July 2021. They are currently in the process of hiring executive staff to run the hospital. There will be a transition and ramping up period to allow for a smooth transition and appropriate accreditation process to be completed. The current PCS will no longer be licensed to operate once all inpatient units are closed. The final plans for the future of PCS continue to be determined. Mike also noted that BHD and the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office are in the final stages of creating a co-responder Crisis Assessment Response Team (CART) that pairs a clinician with an officer to respond to calls related to mental illness and/or crisis. Lastly, Mike shared a brief update on the newly awarded funding to create a high-fidelity "Assisted Outpatient Treatment" program.
- 4) **Update on Mental Health Diversion Initiative (MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge)** – Erin Perkins, Claire Starling and others working on the mental health diversion project shared updates. COVID-19 has caused a shift in process and, in some ways, population due to misdemeanants no longer being booked into the jail. However, Claire indicated they still receive 7-8 mental health related referrals to the DA's office daily. Erin indicated the team is working on a sustainability (funding) application to the MacArthur Foundation, which is due on September 25, 2020.
- 5) **Attendee Roundtable Discussion – COVID's Impacts** – The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly altered operations for many agencies and has impacted persons with mental illness in the community. Chair Reed and Director Potapenko led a roundtable discussion with attendees to better understand perspectives and experiences from around the "table." Attendees shared a variety of concerns and opportunities to now do work differently.



- 6) **Any Other Business/Announcements/Requests** – Attendees were reminded of the upcoming budget presentation with the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force on August 11, 2020. Details will be sent via email to all attendees.
- 7) **Adjourn** – meeting adjourned at 3:31pm. Due to the Labor Day holiday, there will be NO meeting in September. The next meeting will occur on Monday, October 5, 2020, at 2pm, via Zoom.