

Mental Health Committee

Monday, October 5, 2020, 2pm – via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

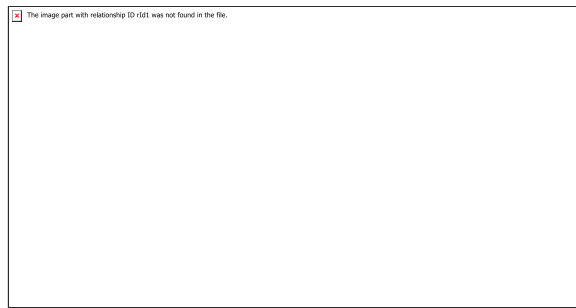
Attendees: Tom Reed, Dana Blake, Kevin Bolyard, Rose Stietz, Claire Starling, Crystal Reynolds, Stephanie Garbo, Katie Holtz, Barbara Beckert, Susan Eckhart, Kimberly Krawczyk, Christine Apple, Sara Morgan, Susan Fischer, Jim Feagles, Kent Lovern, Kelly Hedge, Karen Vespalec, Justin Kuehl, Jamie Reif, Susan Collyard, Regina Huerter, Pete Koneazny, Beth Dodsworth, Shelby Lunsford, Adam Oldenburg, Katie Lynch, Joseph Ellwanger

Staff Present: Alyssa Doman, Mandy Potapenko, Erin Perkins

- 1) **Welcome** - Chair Reed called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.
- 2) **Introductions and Participant Check-in** - Chair Reed welcomed attendee introductions and asked those present to share any notable challenges or accomplishments in the past month. The committee welcomed Dana Blake who is replacing Kaelin Deprez as the Criminal Justice Liaison for the Mental Health Diversion team. Dana has been in the CARS Division for the past two years and in targeted case management services prior. One attendee shared they are currently struggling with ensuring community members have access to technology to keep up with their court/justice mandated services and proceedings.
- 3) **Status Updates**
 - **Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division** - Updates were provided by multiple staff from the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division. Notably, the new County-contracted psychiatric hospital is under construction and a leadership team is being recruited. BHD also noted they have had positive conversations with the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office and plan to launch a countywide CART in the coming months. Lastly, BHD reported open positions for the Assisted Outpatient Treatment program, which will be a high-fidelity ACT team that serves 100 consumers who need significant supports in the community. Position links will be distributed and additional updates will be given as the program launches.
 - **MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge/MH Diversion Workgroup** – Erin Perkins and MH Diversion team partners provided an update on the current project underway. There was discussion on challenges of building relationships and trust with consumers in the times of COVID-19. Some individuals being offered the program (a mental health diversion) are skeptical and the team discussed potential ways to overcome these barriers. Suggestions were noted and will be explored further. Second, Erin is working with the Wisconsin Policy Forum and the DA's Office to analyze data related to the program and those findings will be reported at a future meeting. Lastly, Erin noted the SJC team applied for sustainability funding on 9/25 and will hear confirmation of the award in late December or January.
 - **CART/CIT** - MPD CART Officer Kevin Bolyard shared an update on their team's work. Officer Bolyard noted an increase in welfare checks, family-related disputes, and calls for suicidal ideation. Their team currently operates from 8am – midnight 7 days/week.
 - **Mental Health Treatment in Courts** – Kelly Hedge shared an update on the mental health treatment pilot court. There is currently a census of 10, which is the max at this time. A policy team continues to meet to discuss best practices in expanding of the court. Reverend Joe Ellwanger shared about his advocacy work with the Courts and County Board to advance the mental health court pilot into a full therapeutic court. He noted AB1006, which expands TAD to include mental health treatment and increases funding to \$10M statewide.
 - **Mental Health Treatment in Jail** – Wellpath staff shared an update on their current services and treatment protocols. Staff indicated it has been increasingly difficult to make warm referrals into the community upon reentry due to a number of treatment providers no longer providing in-person services. Susan Fisher, Behavioral Consultants, shared

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they are up to 9 patients in the jail-based competency restoration program. Participants have a varied level of needs. Overall, Susan reported feeling the program is running very well thus far. Beth Dodsworth (DHS) and Adam Oldenburg (WCS) indicated competency restoration needs have increased in the past few months with more courts (statewide) resuming operations. Beth noted all patients transferred to the State institution/hospital are subject to a 14-day quarantine upon admission to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- 4) **National Association of Counties - Stepping Up Initiative - Set, Measure, Achieve** ([website](#))- Mandy provided a brief refresher on the National Association of Counties Stepping Up Initiative, which just reached its five-year anniversary. Counties, including Milwaukee, have set a goal to reduce individuals with mental illness within the criminal justice system, specifically jails. NACo has many resources available for sites, the latest of which will be distributed to committee members. All are encouraged to review and raise any areas of interest with the group.
- 5) **Any Other Business/Announcements/Requests** - None at this time.
- 6) **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 2nd, 2020, 2:00 pm at 2pm via Zoom (same meeting ID and passcode).