

Chairperson: Mary Neubauer
Vice-Chairperson: Ken Ginlack
Secretary: Shirley Drake
Research Analyst: Kate Flynn Post, (414) 257-7473
Board Liaison: Jessica Iggens, (414) 257-7606

MILWAUKEE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Thursday, April 24, 2025 - 9:00 A.M.
Marcia P. Coggs Human Services Building
1220 West Vliet Street, Room 101

MINUTES

PRESENT: *Katharine Bottoni, Shirley Drake*, Rachel Forman, Ken Ginlack, Dennise Lavrenz (virtual), Staci O'Dell, LaNelle Ramey (virtual), Amy Ridley-Meyers, Mary Neubauer*

EXCUSED: *Kweku Amoasi, Jon Lerhmann*

**Not present at roll call but arrived during item #2*

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

NOTE: All Informational Items are Informational Only Unless Otherwise Directed by the Board.

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| 1. | Welcome.

Chairwoman Neubauer welcomed everyone to the April 24, 2025 Milwaukee Mental Health Board Meeting and Roll was taken to establish a quorum. |
| 2. | Welcome New Board Member: Staci O'Dell.

Chairwoman Neubauer welcomed new Board Member Staci O'Dell. Board Member O'Dell made statements. |
| 3. | Approval of the Minutes from the February 20, 2025, and March 20, 2025, Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Meeting and Public Comment Meeting.

MOTION BY: <i>(Ginlack) Approve February 20, 2025 and March 20, 2025 Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Minutes. 9-0</i>
MOTION 2ND BY: <i>(Bottoni)</i>
AYES: <i>Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, Lavrenz, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Neubauer - 9</i>
NOES: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 0 |
| 4. | 2025 Professional Services Agreement. |

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>The Board was informed the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item to the Board.</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Bottoni) Approve 2025 Professional Services Agreement. 9-0 MOTION 2ND BY: (Ginlack) AYES: Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, Lavrenz, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Neubauer - 9 NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
5.	<p>2025 Purchase of Service Agreement.</p> <p>The Board was informed the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item to the Board.</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Bottoni) Approve 2025 Purchase of Service Agreement for Wisconsin Community Services Inc. 8-0-1 MOTION 2ND BY: (Forman) AYES: Bottoni, Forman, Ginlack, Lavrenz, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Neubauer - 8 NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: Drake – 1</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Bottoni) Approve the balance of the 2025 Purchase of Service Agreement. 9-0 MOTION 2ND BY: (Ginlack) AYES: Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, Lavrenz, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Neubauer - 9 NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
6.	<p>2025 Fee for Service Agreements.</p> <p>The Board was informed the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item to the Board.</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Drake) Approve 2025 Fee for Service Agreements. 9-0 MOTION 2ND BY: (Ridley-Meyers) AYES: Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, Lavrenz, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Neubauer - 9 NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
7.	<p>Employment Agreement.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>The Board was informed the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item to the Board.</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Ginlack) Approve Employment Agreement. 9-0 MOTION 2ND BY: (Bottoni) AYES: Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, Lavrenz, O’Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Neubauer - 9 NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
8.	<p>Community Engagement Standing Committee Next Steps.</p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer presented the Community Engagement Standing Committee Next Steps report. Questions and Discussion ensued.</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Bottoni) Approve Community Engagement Standing Committee and Direct Governance Committee to Amend Bylaws. 9-0 MOTION 2ND BY: (Drake) AYES: Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, Lavrenz, O’Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Neubauer - 9 NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
9.	<p>BHS Quality Improvement Policy.</p> <p>Dr. Matt Drymalski, Clinical Program Director of Quality and Compliance presented the BHS Quality Improvement Policy. He explained the scope of the policy that was internally approved and went over a timeline of next steps. Questions and discussion ensued. Matt Drymalski explained that BHS is available for technical assistance and that often times what is required in this policy is also required in other areas such as state statute. He also spoke about the variety of projects that agencies can submit. Chair of the Quality Committee, Dennise Lavrenz, made statements commending the work that Dr. Drymalski has done taking different data metrics and presenting them to the Quality Committee.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
10.	<p>Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Update.</p> <p>Dr. Tony Thrasher, D.O., MBA, CPE, DFAPA, Medical Director of Crisis Services, Behavioral Health Services provided an update on CIT. He spoke about the history of CIT, different types of practices, and current training. Questions and discussion ensued. Dr. Thrasher indicated it is still best practice to ask specifically for a CIT officer.</p> <p>Dr. Thrasher provided a written report of his verbal remarks given and the report is attached to the Meeting Packet and available on CLIC.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>This Item was Informational.</p>
11.	<p>Friendship Circle Overview.</p> <p>Rabbi Levi Stein, President and CEO of The Friendship Circle of WI, presented the safeTALK training powerpoint. He spoke about the benefits of different suicide prevention trainings, how trainings can benefit Milwaukee County, and different trainings that he provides to the community. He emphasized a strong, local network and benefits of a partnership with Milwaukee County. Questions and discussion ensued.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
12.	<p>Housing Insecurity of High Acuity Populations.</p> <p>Mary Zorn, Community Advocates, AWSH Care Coordinator; Mike Gardner, Community Advocates, AWSH Operations Manager presented the information on Autumn West Safe Haven. They spoke about their mission, goals, operation procedures, and program principles. They also spoke about their impact in the community, staffing specifics, and provided testimonials of residents. Questions and discussion ensued.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
13.	<p>Mental Health Awareness Month.</p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer provided verbal updates as to different events occurring during Mental Health Awareness Month. She provided an overview of events happening next month including a panel that Mike Lappen will be moderating regarding Chapter 51 Commitments on May 21st, an event at Owen’s Place on May 8th highlighting Children’s Mental Health, and an event through the Aging and Disability Resource Center which the Mental Health Board will have a table.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
14.	<p>DHHS Strategic Plan Update.</p> <p>Emily Kenney, Strategic Initiatives and Transformation provided an update on the DHHS 2025-2027 Strategic Plan. She spoke about the plan structure, strategy one goals, strategy two goals, and different ways to accomplish the goals. Questions and discussion ensued.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
15.	<p>Parachute House Update.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>Chairwoman Neubauer indicated that the presenter for this item, Nora Hitchcock, was unable to attend this meeting and this item is laid over until the June 12th, 2025 Mental Health Board Meeting without objection.</p> <p>BHS Administrator Michael Lappen indicated that Nora Hitchcock emailed the board members and others with information. He requested the email be included in the minutes. The email and the attachments have been added to the Meeting Packet available on CLIC.</p>
16.	<p>Executive Committee Update from April 3, 2025 Meeting.</p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer provided an update of the April 3, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting that was called to address the ARPA funds being stopped. She spoke about the press conference that was held and indicated that there may continue to be decisions that affect funding and requested additional information regarding funding issues. She also discussed the lawsuit that is addressing ARPA funding.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
17.	<p>Finance Committee Update from March 27, 2025 Quarterly Meeting.</p> <p>Matt Fortman BHS Fiscal Administrator provided an update as to the March 27, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting. He spoke about themes of the public comment meeting as well as the WIMCR deficit. He reviewed why there is a deficit and future plans regarding the deficit.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
18.	<p>Governance Committee Update from March 12, 2025 Meeting.</p> <p>Ken Ginlack, Chair of Governance Committee provided an update of the March 12, 2025 Governance Committee Meeting. He spoke about public comment restructure, mental health court update, and the administrator evaluation process.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
19.	<p>Quality Committee Update from March 3, 2025 Meeting.</p> <p>Dennise Lavrenz, Chair of Quality Committee provided an update of the March 3, 2025 Quality Committee Meeting. She spoke about different standing agenda items and different community report dashboards. She also spoke about the DHHS Strategic Plan and continuing a culture of commitment with the different dashboards.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
20.	<p>Chairwoman Neubauer Updates.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>Chairwoman Neubauer provided a few updates including key points of the County Supervisor’s state of the county address, continued work with the County Supervisors, the Health Equity Human Needs and Strategic Planning Committee, and the prison audit. She also spoke about the Vision 2025 events.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
<p>CLOSED SESSION:</p> <p><i>Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 19.85(1)(c), the Board may adjourn into Closed Session for the purpose of considering employment or performance evaluation data for public employees over which the Board has jurisdiction and exercises responsibility.</i></p>	
21.	<p>BHS Administrator Evaluation Survey Results.</p> <p>This item was laid over to the June 12th, 2025 Mental Health Board Meeting without objection.</p>
<p><i>At the conclusion of the closed session, the Board may reconvene in open session to take whatever action(s) it may deem necessary on the aforesaid matter(s).</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * * * *</p>	
22.	<p>Board Member Announcement.</p> <p>Board Member Lavrenz spoke about her work with the Combined Community Services Board. Board Member Ginlack indicated the drop in clinic is open on 19th Street.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
23.	<p>Adjournment.</p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer Adjourned the meeting.</p>

This meeting was recorded. The official copy of these minutes and subject reports, along with the audio recording of this meeting, are available on Milwaukee County’s Legislative Information Center website, which can be accessed by clicking the link below.

Length of meeting: 9:06 a.m. to 11:42 a.m.

Adjourned,
Jessica Iggens

Jessica Iggens
Board Liaison
Milwaukee County Mental Health Board

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

**The next meeting for the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board is
Thursday, June 12, 2025, @ 9:00 a.m.**

**To View All Associated Meeting Materials,
Visit the Milwaukee County Legislative Information Center at:
[Milwaukee County - Calendar \(legistar.com\)](https://legistar.com)**

**Visit the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Web Page at:
<https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/DHHS/About/Governance>**

ADA accommodation requests should be filed with the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, 278-3932 (voice) or 711 (TRS), upon receipt of this notice.

The April 24, 2025, meeting minutes of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board are hereby submitted for approval at the next scheduled regular meeting of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board.



Shirley Drake, Secretary
Milwaukee County Mental Health Board