

Chairperson: Joy Tapper
Research Analyst: Kate Flynn Post, (414) 257-7473
Committee Coordinator: Jessica Iggens, (414) 257-7606

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET HEARING**

Thursday, June 26, 2025 – 1:30 P.M.
Washington Park Senior Center
4420 W Vliet St

MINUTES

PRESENT: *Joy Tapper, Mary Neubauer, Dennise Lavrenz (appeared virtually)*

EXCUSED: *Jon Lerhmann*

Also Present: *Kenneth Ginlack, Katharine Bottoni*

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

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

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| 1. | <p>Welcome.</p> <p>Chairperson Tapper welcomed everyone to the June 26, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting.</p> |
| 2. | <p>Minutes from the June 10, 2025, Public Comment Meeting.</p> <p>No comments, questions, or revisions.</p> <p>Minutes approved.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Summary Comments about the Budget from June 10, 2025 Public Comment Meeting, June 12, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting and the June 12, 2025 Board Meeting.</p> <p>Chairperson Tapper provided verbal summary comments from the June 10, 2025 Public Comment meeting and the June 12, 2025 Finance and Board Meetings. She provided a timeline of events regarding the budget. Based on the information that was previously shared, the finance committee requested additional data regarding the budget reduction as well as on the BHS reserve policy. She indicated it does not seem that this is a one-year issue, and the burdens of current financial situations will be multi year issue. She also noted that there may be state and federal decisions that impact the BHS budget in the future.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p> |

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

4.	<p>Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services 2026 Recommended Budget Presentation.</p> <p>Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator, reviewed the previously presented 2026 Budget Narrative. He highlighted four (4) aspects that are working against this budget including a decreased local tax levy which is used to fund services, reduction in Medicaid revenue, sunset of grants and no new opportunities for grants, and structural issues with Wisconsin Medicaid cost report revenue. He also highlighted positives of the budget which include increased rates for Comprehensive Community Services, increased rates for crisis intervention services, and reducing budget for inpatient service costs based on less utilization. He indicated that these cuts were extremely hard decisions, and the recommended decreases do not indicate any value of service. He read the recommended reductions into the record.</p> <p>Chairperson Tapper noted the floor and ceiling of tax levy that BHS is statutorily required to receive and noted the tax levy that BHS is receiving does fall within these limits. Mike Lappen, BHS Administrator, noted that there is still uncertainty in the State budget that may affect the BHS budget. Kate Flynn Post, Research Analyst, noted that an additional vendor submitted data within the last hour and she will add this data to the report.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
5.	<p>Public Comment on the 2026 Behavioral Health Services Recommended Budget.</p> <p>The following individuals appeared and provided comments:</p> <p>John Hyatt, IMPACT Bob Waite, IMPACT, Jasmine Window, IMPACT Anna Ocasio, IMPACT Cha Lor, IMPACT Mel Brostowitz, IMPACT Tim Busalacchi, IMPACT Patricia Puccinelli, IMPACT Kisha Hallberg, Grand Avenue Club Deb Love, Grand Avenue Club Lanessa Smith, Grand Avenue Club Scott Schroeder, Grand Avenue Club Hugh Swofford, Grand Avenue Club Ben Holt, Grand Avenue Club Phil Connelly, Grand Avenue Club Scott Terhune, Grand Avenue Club Serge Blasberg, Grand Avenue Club Thomas Glomski, Grand Avenue Club Patrick Hallberg, Grand Avenue Club</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

6.	<p>The Finance Committee 2026 Behavioral Health Services Budget Discussion.</p> <p>Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator, answered clarifying questions regarding IMPACT cuts. Mike Lappen, BHS Administrator, answered questions regarding how services will be absorbed through Milwaukee County BHS. Additional questions and discussion ensued regarding IMPACT. John Hyatt, IMPACT, made statements to the committee in response to questions about IMPACT data and services.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
7.	<p>Review of Reserve Policy and History. Items #7 and #8 were heard together.</p>
8.	<p>Review of Amendment Process and Next Steps. Items #7 and #8 were heard together.</p> <p>Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator, provided a review of the BHS reserve policy and history. He reviewed the statutory requirements regarding the reserve and the 10-million-dollar threshold. He noted that the 2024 numbers have not yet been finalized and the final audit is in process. He indicated he should have more information at the July 10th meeting. Mike Lappen, BHS Administrator, indicated that the board has the ability to access reserves throughout the year and not just during budget season.</p> <p>Chairperson Tapper provided a review of the amendment process and the next steps. She noted that the finance committee will hear proposed amendments on July 10th, with the full board meeting to be held following the finance committee meeting. Mary Neubauer, Chairperson of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board, clarified that all current contracts are valid through 2025.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
9.	<p>Adjournment.</p> <p>Chairperson Tapper 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, is available on the Milwaukee County's Legislative Information Center website, which can be accessed by clicking the associated link.

Length of meeting: 1:31 p.m. to 3:06 p.m.

Adjourned,

Jessica Tappens

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

Jessica Iggens
Committee Coordinator
Milwaukee County Mental Health Board

**The next meeting of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board's Finance Committee
will be on Thursday, July 10, 2025**

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

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