

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, August 21, 2025 - 9:00 A.M.
Marcia P. Coggs Human Services Center
1230 West Cherry Street, Room 104/105
Milwaukee, WI 53205

MINUTES

PRESENT: *Kweku Amoasi, Katharine Bottoni, Shirley Drake, Rachel Forman, Ken Ginlack*, Dennise Lavrenz, Jon Lehrmann, Staci O'Dell, LaNelle Ramey, Amy Ridley-Meyers, Joy Tapper, Mary Neubauer*

*Board Member Ginlack was present virtually for Roll Call, however, he was not available for any votes and his vote was not recorded.

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

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

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| 1. | <p>Welcome.</p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer welcomed everyone to the August 21, 2025 Mental Health Board Meeting. Roll was taken and a quorum was established.</p> |
| 2. | <p>Approval of the Minutes from the July 10, 2025 Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Meeting.</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Amoasi) <i>Approve the Minutes from the July 10, 2025 Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Meeting. 10-0</i></p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: (Forman)</p> <p>AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 10</p> <p>NOES: 0</p> <p>ABSTENTIONS: 0</p> |
| 3. | <p>2025 Fee for Service Agreements.</p> |

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>The Board was informed that the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item.</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Amoasi) <i>Approve the 2025 Fee for Service Agreements. 9-0-1</i> MOTION 2ND BY: (Ramey) AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Forman, Lavrenz, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 9 NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: Drake - 1</p> <p>Board Member Drake noted that she should have abstained from this vote. No objection to her vote being changed from AYE to ABSTENTION.</p>
4.	<p>2025 Purchase of Service Agreements.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item.</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Lavrenz) <i>Approve the 2025 Purchase of Service Agreements. 10-0</i> MOTION 2ND BY: (Bottoni) AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 10 NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
5.	<p>2026 Requested Budget Amendments.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item.</p> <p>Chair Neubauer made statements as to the Revised Item.</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Tapper) <i>Approve the 2026 Budget Amendment as Revised (Revised Item #5). 10-0</i> MOTION 2ND BY: (Bottoni) AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 10 NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
6.	<p>Receipt of Revenue.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item.</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Bottoni) <i>Approve the Receipt of Revenue requests. 10-0</i> MOTION 2ND BY: (Tapper) AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 10</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
7.	<p>Request for Change of Address for Behavioral Health Services.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item.</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Ramey) Approve the Request for Change of Address for Behavioral Health Services as follows: Current address: COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE Doing Business As: Milwaukee County – DHHS 1220 W. Vliet ST Milwaukee, WI 53205-2117</p> <p>Change to:</p> <p>COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE Doing Business As: Milwaukee County – DHHS 1230 W. Cherry Street, 3rd Floor Milwaukee, WI 53205-2110". 10-0</p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: (Amoasi) AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, O’Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer – 10 NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
8.	<p>Lease Agreement Outreach Community Health Center.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item.</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Tapper) Approve the Lease Agreement for Outreach Community Health Center. 9-0-1 MOTION 2ND BY: (Amoasi) AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 9 NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: O’Dell - 1</p>
9.	<p>Lease Agreement Sixteenth Street Community Health Center.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>MOTION BY: (Ramey) <i>Approve the 2025 Purchase of Service Agreements. 10-0</i> MOTION 2ND BY: (Tapper) AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 10 NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
10.	<p>2026 Board Retreat Planning Timeline.</p> <p>Chair Neubauer reminded board members to provide their availability for the retreat. She also reminded board members to complete the survey. A draft timeline was provided, and this timeline was presented on the record.</p> <p>This item was informational.</p>
11.	<p>Administrator Update.</p> <p>Michael Lappen, BHS Administrator, provided an updated as to the 971.14 conversation cases. He indicated there will be an audit presented at the September 8, 2025 Quality Committee meeting. He spoke about changes that were made to ensure that timely notices are provided. He noted that all cases are currently in compliance. Questions and discussion ensued regarding responsibility for reporting, the 971 policy, and future updates as to number of commitment cases. Board Member Lavrenz made statements commending Administrator Lappen's work on this policy. Board Member Tapper requested clarification as to what policies are approved by the board versus the BHS Administrator. She also requested an update as to continuing education on this matter, and what liabilities the mental health board has regarding policies.</p> <p>Administrator Lappen provided an update as to a recent Journal Sentinel story regarding a community partner agency mishandling funds. He indicated that mishandling of Social Security Funds would be investigated by the Social Security Administration and BHS would cooperate with any investigation. If BHS were to receive complaints, BHS would also investigate.</p> <p>He also provided an update as to the Treatment Director Role following Dr. Schneider's departure. Dr. Justin Kuehl will be acting as treatment director, with support from Dr. Thrasher and Dr. Mosio. Board Member Tapper requested an update as to the functions and roles/responsibilities of the treatment director. Board Member Bottoni asked clarifying questions about how all of Dr. Schneider's job duties are being divided amongst staff. Administrator Lappen will provide an update on these questions at a future meeting. Board Member O'Dell requested information on trainings available to the community and community partners and how to access it. Administrator Lappen indicated this is a work in progress and continue to try to better access to these trainings including using HealthStream. Board Member Lavrenz made statements regarding recent legislation that was passed that broadened the scope of practice of psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>Administrator Lappen provided data as to current Milwaukee County Practices utilizing nurse practitioners.</p> <p>Administrator Lappen provided an update as to questions that were forwarded to him by the County Board Supervisors. These questions were BHS related, and written responses were included within his corresponding report.</p> <p>He also provided an update as to Granite Hills and recent staffing changes. Linda Oczus, Chief Risk Officer, has recently done site visits in response to community concerns on discharge planning. More information on these visits will be provided at future meetings.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
12.	<p>Chair Updates.</p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer provided verbal updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Comment in September will be held at Wellpoint. Board Member Bottoni spoke about a suggested format for the September meeting which will include an educational presentation, followed the public comments. She noted that this process could be followed for all future public comments. 2026 Public Comments meeting is an agenda item for the September Governance Committee Meeting.• WNOV Radio: Nyumba Upendo—Board Member Amoasi indicated that he continues to have a spot on his show that is reserved for mental health board members. The next date is September 17, 2025. Chairwoman Neubauer indicated she is in the process of putting a schedule together.• County Board Communication—Chairwoman Neubauer indicated that she will be meeting with Administrator Lappen following the September 8, 2025 Quality Committee Meeting to discuss any necessary communication to the County Board regarding the 971.14 Audit.• County Executive –Chairwoman Neubauer made statements regarding communications with the County Executive. Questions and discussion ensued regarding ways to communicate.• Community Engagement Community—Chairwoman Neubauer to set up meeting with assigned committee members and chair to determine what day is best for these meetings. <p>This item was informational.</p>
13.	<p>Board Member Dennise Lavrenz Departure.</p> <p>Board Member Lavrenz noted that she will be leaving both the Combined Community Services Board as well as the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board effective the end of her term in December 2025. She commended Dr. Drymalski and his work leading quality within BHS. Board Members expressed their appreciation for Board Member Lavrenz’ contribution to both boards.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>This item was informational.</p>
14.	<p>Finance Committee Update from August 21, 2025 Contracts Meeting.</p> <p>Board Member Tapper provided an update from the August 21, 2025 Finance Committee Contracts Meeting. She highlighted the discussion held on moving forward on investing the reserve, the ongoing nature of the 2026 budget, and the analysis on impacts from the state and federal budget including what additional advocacy may need to be done.</p> <p>This item was informational.</p>
15.	<p>Board Member Announcement.</p> <p>Board Member Tapper indicated that there are changes in Medicaid and Covering Wisconsin is a resource regarding this matter.</p> <p>Chairperson Neubauer indicated that Kathie Eilers sent a card thanking the Mental Health Board.</p> <p>Board Member Lavrenz noted that Wisconsin has been awarded a grant to support the health care workforce, and she will be learning more and will keep the board updated.</p> <p>Administrator Lappen will speak at the next Taskforce Meeting.</p> <p>Board Member Lehrmann suggested something be done to honor Dr. Schneider.</p> <p>This item was informational.</p>
16.	<p>Adjournment.</p> <p>Chairperson 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: 9:12 a.m. to 11:04 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, September 25, 2025, @ 4:30 p.m. Public Comment at Wellpoint**

**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 August 21, 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