

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 MEETING**

Thursday, July 10, 2025 – 8:00 A.M.

MINUTES

**Marcia P. Coggs Human Services Center
1230 West Cherry Street, Room 104/105
Milwaukee, WI 53205**

PRESENT: *Joy Tapper, Mary Neubauer, Jon Lerhmann, Kweku Amoasi*

EXCUSED: *Dennise Lavrenz*

ALSO PRESENT: *Kenneth Ginlack (appeared during Item #5), Katharine Bottoni, Rachel Forman, Staci O'Dell, Shirley Drake*

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 July 10, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting and reviewed the members of the committee. Mary Neubauer, Chairperson of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board, indicated that Kweku Amoasi has been appointed and accepted filling the vacancy on the Finance Committee.</p> |
| 2. | <p>Minutes from the June 12, 2025, Committee Meeting and the June 26, 2025 Public Comment Meeting.</p> <p>No comments, questions, or revisions.</p> <p>Minutes approved.</p> |
| 3. | <p>2025 Financial Report/Budget Update.</p> <p>Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator, provided a summary of the 2025 budget. He indicated that currently the 2025 budget is at an \$8 million deficit and he believes that the deficit will be higher for 2025; which will impact the reserve.</p> <p>This item was informational.</p> |
| 4. | <p>Behavioral Health Services Reserve Update.</p> |

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator, indicated after working with the auditors, the reserve balance for year end in 2024 is \$45 million. He also indicated that the reserve does not generate interest. Questions and discussion ensued regarding investing the reserves. Matt Fortman indicated that investment provisions are not directly stated in the statutes. Board Member Amoasi inquired whether a certain percentage could be withdrawn and put into a separate investment account. Administrator Fortman indicated he does not believe that was ever pursued. Chairperson Tapper passed the gavel to Board Member Neubauer to assume the role of chair. Board Member Tapper made a motion that the Mental Health Board pursue the investment of the reserve to the amount allowable as soon as possible and requests a report back at the next Finance Committee and Mental Health Board Meetings.</p> <p>Administrator Fortman also explained the audit process for 2024 resulting in the additional reserves and indicated he will do a deeper dive at a future finance committee meeting.</p> <p>The Finance Committee Recommended that the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board at their July 10, 2025 meeting Approve the following action: Pursue the Investment of the Reserve to the Amount Allowable as Soon as Possible and that the Comptroller Report Back with the Results of this Request.</p> <p>Chairperson Tapper assumed the role of chair following the motion being passed.</p>
5.	<p>Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services 2026 Recommended Budget.</p> <p>Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator provided the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services 2026 Recommended Budget. He indicated the summary was cleaned up to make it more readable. He also indicated that interdepartmental charges have been updated in this version; this reflects no policy changes but rather a nuts-and-bolts change. He also indicated that a job title has been updated to reflect the appropriate position. This version also includes estimated base contract amounts for certain annual agreements. Mike Lappen, BHS Administrator, indicated that these contracts are best guesses and are subject to the RFP process. Administrator Fortman clarified that these listings do not require BHS enter a contract with these vendors but allows for the authority to enter into a contract up to the amount listed.</p> <p>Questions and discussions ensued regarding the updated summary.</p> <p>It was noted that Board Member Dennise Lavrenz was able to call in to the meeting but unable to speak; her attendance will continue to be marked as excused based on inability to participate.</p> <p>This item was informational.</p>
6.	<p>2026 Budget Amendments.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

Kate Flynn Post, Research Analyst provided an overview of the amendment process and indicated that this is not the only opportunity for board members to make amendments and board members can propose amendments to the board throughout the year. She indicated the three budget amendments that were submitted included requests for restoration of part or all funding for Our Space and Parachute House, Impact, and Grand Avenue Club. She provided a brief overview of the submitted amendments.

This first amendment that was discussed was Our Space and Parachute House. Board Member Neubauer, provided a summary of her rationale for the recommended amendment and indicated that she believes that using the reserve funds towards this amendment will be beneficial to the community and is a good use of the funds. Questions and discussion ensued. Board Member Lehrmann questioned the consistency of the amendments and inquired about any change to CSP funding within the state budget. He also highlighted that the amendments do include a limit to the funding. Mike Lappen, BHS Administrator indicated that there were not any changes to CSP funding included in the state budget. Board Member Amoasi made comments regarding costs that may occur to reopen compared to costs put in up front to remain open. Questions and discussion ensued regarding financial aspects of Our Space and Parachute House and current funding. Administrator Lappen made clarifying comments regarding the end of State Funding for Our Space and the opportunity to tie Parachute House funding to room and board. He also provided an update on peer run respite funding.

The Finance Committee Recommended the following amendment be approved by the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board at their July 10, 2025 Meeting and included in the 2026 Budget: Fund The Parachute House Peer-run Respite Service at \$100,000 for CY2026 for Room and Board Contingent on Ongoing Operation. Fund Our Space Drop-in Center at \$250,962 for CY2026 to provide Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR).

Board Member Neubauer assumed role of Chairperson for the remainder of this item.

Board Member Tapper provided a summary as to the Grand Avenue Club amendment. Questions and discussion ensued. Board Member Forman commended the Grand Avenue Club on their organization and positive impact to the community. She also indicated that she believes that Grand Avenue Club is active in soliciting philanthropic funds and will be successful in securing private sustainability funding. Questions and discussion ensued regarding step down amount and sources of funding.

The Finance Committee Recommended the following amendment be approved by the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board at their July 10, 2025 Meeting and included in the 2026 Budget: Fund Grand Avenue Club at \$100,000 for CY2026.

Board Member Tapper provided a summary as to the Impact amendment. Board Member Amoasi inquired about any mandates or policies regarding use of the reserves. It was noted that Agenda Item #7 covers this topic and it was suggested that a potential 2% cap be implemented. Chairperson Neubauer voiced concerns regarding the potential of people falling through the cracks with a transition away from Impact. Administrator Lappen responded to

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>these concerns and spoke to infrastructure in place within BHS. Questions and discussion ensued regarding crisis vs. Impact calls.</p> <p>The Finance Committee Recommended the following amendment be approved by the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board at their July 10, 2025 Meeting and included in the 2026 Budget: Fund Impact 211 for general information and referral support at \$150,000 and Impact at \$150,000 for CY2026 to support transition of Crisis calls back to Milwaukee County BHS.</p> <p>Following votes on the amendments, a discussion was held regarding letters of advocacy and the Board's role in these letters.</p>
7.	<p>The Finance Committee's 2026 Behavioral Health Services Budget Recommendation.</p> <p>Chairperson Tapper assumed role of chair and stated on the record the amendments that were approved in item #6 in this meeting. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Fund The Parachute House Peer-run Respite Service at \$100,000 for CY2026 for Room and Board Contingent on Ongoing Operation. Fund Our Space Drop-in Center at \$250,962 for CY2026 to provide Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR).(2) Fund Grand Avenue Club at \$100,000 for CY2026.(3) Fund Impact 211 for general information and referral support at \$150,000 and fund Impact at \$150,000 for CY2026 to support transition of Crisis calls as they move back to Milwaukee County BHS. <p>The Finance Committee Recommended the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board at their July 10, 2025 Meeting Approve the Amended 2026 Behavioral Health Services Budget Inclusive of the Amendments Approved in this Meeting.</p>
8.	<p>Finance Committee Reserve Recommendation.</p> <p>Chairperson Tapper discussed her memo regarding the reserve and indicated that she wasn't sure if she wanted this item as a recommendation or rather just a philosophical consideration for this committee and full board. Questions and discussion ensued regarding the advisability of having specific limits vs general guidelines related to the reserve. Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator, provided an update as to past reflections on reserve limits and a history of the reserves. He also noted that there is a lot of variability regarding the balance of the reserve. Board Member Lehrmann indicated he would only recommend guidelines as there are many complexities to the reserves. He also spoke to who has access to reserves outside of the Mental Health Board and impact of others accessing the reserves. He also cautioned the committee about future need of the reserves.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>Board Member Lehrmann clarified that the recommendation regarding investing the reserves discussed in Item #4 will be brought to the full board. Chairperson Tapper confirmed that recommendation will be heard by the full board at today's meeting.</p> <p>There was no action taken regarding the memo submitted by Chairperson Tapper and this item will be laid over to a future finance committee meeting, to be heard at the call of the chair.</p>
9.	<p>Adjournment.</p> <p>Chairperson Tapper adjourned the meeting.</p>
<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.</p> <p>Length of meeting: 8:01 a.m. to 9:37 a.m.</p> <p>Adjourned,</p> <p><i>Jessica Iggens</i> Jessica Iggens Committee Coordinator Milwaukee County Mental Health Board</p> <p>The next meeting of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board's Finance Committee will be on Thursday, August 21, 2025 @ 8:00am</p> <p>To View All Associated Meeting Materials, Visit the Milwaukee County Legislative Information Center at: Milwaukee County - Calendar (legistar.com)</p> <p>Visit the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Web Page at: https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/DHHS/About/Governance#MCMHBRecords</p>	
<p>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.</p>	