

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

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, December 4, 2025 – 1:30 P.M.
Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

PRESENT: *Joy Tapper, Mary Neubauer, Dennise Lavrenz, Jon Lehrmann*
EXCUSED: *Kweku Amoasi*

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

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

1.	<p>Welcome.</p> <p>Chairperson Tapper welcomed everyone to the December 4, 2025 Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Finance Committee Meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Approval of the Minutes from the October 23, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting.</p> <p>No comments, questions, or revisions. Minutes approved.</p>
3.	<p>Purchase of Service Agreements.</p> <p>Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator presented the correction to agency names and the nine (9) Contracts for Adult Services. Amy Lorenz, Deputy Administrator of Behavioral Health Services, provided an update as to the Hyatt pharmacy contract. Committee Member Lavrenz noted that Broadstep has been cited and discussed within the Quality Committee recently regarding some violations and a continuing audit. Behavioral Health Services Administrator Mike Lappen confirmed that there are separate group homes within Broadstep and he continues to advocate for the contract to be approved. Questions and discussion ensued regarding opioid settlement funds. Questions and discussion ensued regarding Trempealeau County contract.</p> <p>The Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item and the corresponding report to the Mental Health Board at their December 11, 2025 meeting. Dr. Jon Lehrmann abstained from recommending the two Medical College Contracts listed on page 3 of the corresponding report.</p>
4.	<p>Professional Service Agreements.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>Mike Lappen, Administrator of Behavioral Health Services, presented the professional service agreement requests. He noted the description change request and presented the two requests which included contracts for Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. and United Tax Service, LLC. Questions and discussion ensued regarding United Tax Service, LLC. Amy Lorenz, Deputy Administrator BHS, clarified United Tax Service, LLC's contract and noted they are essentially like a fiscal agent and require the salary of the employees to be paid to this entity. Dennis Buesing, Director of Contracts, clarified that United Tax Service, LLC handles all the payroll taxes as well as purchasing the workers comp insurance and paying the premium on the workers comp insurance and noted it is a relatively minor amount compared to the total expenditures.</p> <p>The Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item and the corresponding report to the Mental Health Board at their December 11, 2025 meeting.</p>
5.	<p>Fee for Service Agreements.</p> <p>Amy Lorenz, Deputy Administer of Behavioral Health Services presented the Fee for Service Agreement requests. She read on the record the correction to agency names requests. She provided the highlights of the contract requests for 2025 adult services, and youth services, and 2026 contracts.</p> <p>The Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item and the corresponding report to the Mental Health Board at their December 11, 2025 meeting.</p>
6.	<p>State County Contract.</p> <p>Mike Lappen, Administrator of Behavioral Health Services, presented the State – County Contract for 2026 and noted this is a procedural item that occurs every year.</p> <p>The Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item and the corresponding report to the Mental Health Board at their December 11, 2025 meeting.</p>
7.	<p>Behavioral Health Services and County Budget Update.</p> <p>Mike Lappen, Administrator of Behavioral Health Services presented the summary of the changes in the Behavioral Health Services Budget based on items such as the 1% cost of living adjust increase and approved amendments. He explained that because the BHS budget is approved in July, there are typically some changes based on what is approved by the county.</p> <p>Chairperson Tapper noted her appreciation for the update and the work that Fiscal Administrator Fortman provided regarding the budget changes.</p> <p>The Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item and the corresponding report to the Mental Health Board at their December 11, 2025 meeting.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

8.	<p>Update on the Lease for Access Clinic North (Laid over from the October 23, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting).</p> <p>Mike Lappen, Administrator of Behavioral Health Services, noted that after the last board meeting, his team met with Dr. Izard's team and adjustments were made to allow the clinic to open 5 days a week. He indicated that utilization will be monitored and presented to the board at a future meeting.</p> <p>This item was informational only.</p>
9.	<p>Reserve Investment Update. Item taken out of order after Item #3.</p> <p>Joe Lamers, Director of Strategy Budget and Performance provided an update on how Milwaukee County utilizes reserve funds and the investment budget. He noted that investment revenues are not displayed, however, they help stretch the tax levy further. The investments come into the county and then are allocated back to departments. Chairperson Tapper clarified that the current BHS reserve is invested, and Director Lamers indicated that both the county reserve and BHS reserve are invested. Committee Member Lehrmann inquired about liability of BHS and pension liabilities in the BHS budget. Director Lamers indicated that the BHS budget has a larger component of what is referred to as legacy pension based on costs of former employees. Questions and discussion ensued regarding best practices of reserves. Director Lamers noted that Milwaukee County adjusted the reserve minimum policy to be maintained at 10% of expenses which comes out to over 100 million for the County. He also cautioned using reserves to fund permanent programs and noted that the BHS budget relies heavily on state and federal funding and advised taking that into consideration when thinking about a reserve policy.</p> <p>This item was informational only.</p>
10.	<p>State and Federal Budget Updates. (Taken out of order after Item #7)</p> <p>Mike Lappen, Administrator of Behavioral Health Services presented the State and Federal Budget updates. He highlighted the 1915 (i) Housing Waiver and questions and discussion ensued regarding potential usage of the waiver funding. Amy Lorenz, Deputy Administrator of Behavioral Health Services, indicated that Housing Services has begun to use this waiver on a small population. Deputy Administrator Lorenz, Administrator Lappen, and housing services will be meeting to discuss other benefits of this waiver. Administrator Lappen also highlighted the crisis intervention per diem billing changes which could increase revenue in the future.</p> <p>This item was informational only.</p>
11.	<p>BHS Medicaid Enrollment Efforts.</p> <p>Amy Lorenz, Deputy Administer of Behavioral Health Services presented the BHS Medicaid Enrollment Efforts. She noted BHS continues to look for new ways to increase enrollment utilizing</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>current staff. Chairperson Tapper noted her concerns regarding Medicaid enrollment and indicated she is available to speak offline to discuss additional ideas to increase enrollment. Committee Member Lavrenz indicated that there may be technology available to assist including AI services.</p> <p>This item was informational only.</p>
12.	<p>Milwaukee County Wraparound Final Audit.</p> <p>Mike Lappen, Administrator of Behavioral Health Services presented the Milwaukee County Wraparound Final Audit. He indicated that this report is consistent with his understanding of the program, which has now sun-setted.</p> <p>This item was informational only.</p>
13.	<p>3rd Quarter 2025 Dashboard.</p> <p>Justin Heller, Budget and Management Coordinator, presented the 3rd Quarter 2025 Dashboard. He spoke about the financial highlights, major variances, and 2025 budget initiatives. He presented the BHS 2025 revenue by source (projected), BHS 2025 expenditures by type (projected), BHS Revenue by year (2022-2025), and BHS Expenses by year (2022-2025). He also spoke about inpatient services and highlighted the average census by setting costs. He presented the TCM/CCM dashboard and highlighted the write off trends.</p> <p>Pam Matthews, Senior Budget and Management Analyst presented the children's community mental health services dashboard. She spoke about the deficit, enrollment trends, children's CCS, and children's REACH Crisis.</p> <p>This item was informational only.</p>
14.	<p>3rd Quarter 2025 Reporting Package.</p> <p>Justin Heller, Budget and Management Coordinator, noted this item contains some detail of the revenue and expenses. No further questions or discussion.</p> <p>This item was informational only.</p>
15.	<p>Quarterly Fund Transfer Report.</p> <p>Mike Lappen, Administrator of Behavioral Health Services, noted this item is just for transparency and includes the funds transfers. No further questions or discussion.</p> <p>This item was informational only.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

16.	Quarterly Reserve Fund Overview. This item was included in the packet and there were no discussion or questions on this item. This item was informational only.
17.	Adjournment. Chairperson Tapper adjourned the meeting.

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: 1:31p.m. to 3:31 p.m.

Adjourned,

Jessica Iggens

Jessica Iggens
Committee Coordinator
Milwaukee County Mental Health Board

**The next meeting for the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Finance Committee is
February 26, 2026 @ 8:00 am**

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<https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/DHHS/About/Governance>**

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