

**Chairperson:** Mary Neubauer  
**Vice-Chairperson:** Kathie Eilers  
**Secretary:** Shirley Drake  
**Research Analyst:** Kate Flynn Post, (414) 391-7845  
**Interim Board Liaison:** Jennifer Miles, (414) 257-7639

## MILWAUKEE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

**Thursday, April 25, 2024 - 9:00 A.M.**  
**Marcia P. Coggs Human Services Building**  
**1220 West Vliet Street, Room 104**

### MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Kathy Bottoni, Richard Canter, Shirley Drake, Rachel Forman, Dennise Lavrenz, Jon Lehrman, Mary Neubauer, Maria Perez, LaNelle Ramey, and Amy Ridley Meyers

**EXCUSED:** Kathie Eilers, Kenneth Ginlack

#### **SCHEDULED ITEMS:**

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

1. **Welcome.**

Chairwoman Neubauer welcomed everyone to the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board's April 25, 2024, meeting and roll call was taken.

2. **Approval of the Minutes from the February 22, 2024, and the March 21, 2024, Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Meeting and Public Comment Budget Hearing.**

No questions or adjustments were needed to the minutes for either meeting.

**MOTION BY:** (Perez) Approve the February 22, 2024, and the March 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes. 9-0

**MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:** (Lavrenz)

**AYES:** Bottoni, Canter, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, Neubauer, Perez, Ramey, and Ridley Meyers - 9

**NOES:** 0

**ABSTENTIONS:** 0

3. **Proclamations for Dr. Maria Perez, Jodi Mapp, Joy Tapper.**

Tim Schabo from the Office of the County Executive read and presented Proclamations for Dr. Maria Perez, Jodi Mapp, and Joy Tapper. Each recipient was in attendance for the honors.

This Item was Informational.

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Mental Health Board Member Appointments Update.</b></p> <p>Tim Schabo from the Office of the County Executive announced the appointments for the two openings on the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board (vacancies created by the resignation of Dr. Earlise Ward and Dr. Maria Perez). In the position for the adult psychologist/psychiatrist position, Dr. Ramel Smith was announced as the appointment to that role. Dr. Lynette Studer was announced as appointed to the professor in the mental health field role.</p> <p>There were no questions from the Board or public related to these appointments.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Finance Committee Professional Services Contracts Recommendation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contract Amendment(s)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Goodwill Industries of Southeast Wisconsin, Inc.</li><li>➤ Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals, Inc.</li><li>➤ Status Solutions, LLC</li></ul></li></ul> <p>The Board was informed the Finance Committee unanimously agreed to recommend approval of the Professional Services Contracts to the Board.</p> <p>Board Member Ridley Meyers requested an abstention for the Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals, Inc. agreement and separate votes for that contract and balance of the contracts.</p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Ramey) <i>Approve the Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals, Inc. Professional Services Contract. 8-0-1</i></p> <p><b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Lavrenz)</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Canter, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, Neubauer, Perez, Ramey - 8</p> <p><b>NOES:</b> 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> Ridley Meyers – 1</p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Canter) <i>Approve the balance of the Professional Services Contracts. 9-0</i></p> <p><b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Bottoni)</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Canter, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, Neubauer, Perez, Ramey, and Ridley Meyers - 9</p> <p><b>NOES:</b> 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Finance Committee Purchase-of-Service Agreements Recommendation.</b></p> <p>The Board was informed the Finance Committee unanimously agreed to recommend approval of the Purchase-of-Service Agreements to the Board.</p>

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

<p>Secretary Drake requested an abstention for the Wisconsin Community Services agreement and separate votes for that contract and the balance of the Purchase-of-Services Agreements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2024 Agreement(s)</li></ul> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Ramey) <i>Approve the Wisconsin Community Services (WCS) Purchase-of-Services Agreement. 8-0-1</i></p> <p><b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Lavrenz)</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Canter, Forman, Lavrenz, Neubauer, Perez, Ramey, and Ridley Meyers - 8</p> <p><b>NOES:</b> 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> Drake - 1</p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Forman) <i>Approve the balance of the Purchase-of-Services Agreements. 9-0</i></p> <p><b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Bottoni)</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Canter, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, Neubauer, Perez, Ramey, and Ridley Meyers - 9</p> <p><b>NOES:</b> 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p>
<p>7. <b>Finance Committee Fee-for-Service Contracts Recommendation.</b></p> <p>The Board was informed the Finance Committee unanimously agreed to recommend approval of the Fee-for-Service Agreements to the Board.</p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer asked for a brief re-cap of the Jefferson County Human Services YCSF contract and asked what transpired in Milwaukee with that YCSF to end that service locally. It was asked for explanation of the reasoning for needing this option outside of Milwaukee County. It was explained that purchasing beds per-use instead of paying for the entire operation of the facility will off-set expenses and be a good alternative to residential placement.</p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Lavrenz) <i>Approve Fee-for-Service Contracts. 9-0</i></p> <p><b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Bottoni)</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Canter, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, Neubauer, Perez, Ramey, and Ridley Meyers - 9</p> <p><b>NOES:</b> 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p>
<p>8. <b>Finance Committee Employment Agreement Recommendation.</b></p> <p>The Board was informed the Finance Committee unanimously agreed to recommend approval of the Employment Agreement to the Board.</p>

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

	<p>No questions were asked, and voting occurred.</p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Lavrenz) <i>Approve the Employment Agreement Recommendation. 9-0</i></p> <p><b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Canter)</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Canter, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, Neubauer, Perez, Ramey, and Ridley Meyers - 9</p> <p><b>NOES:</b> 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p>
9.	<p><b>Receipt of Revenue.</b></p> <p>The Board was informed the Finance Committee unanimously agreed to recommend approval of the Receipt of Revenue to the Board.</p> <p>No questions were asked, and voting occurred.</p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Perez) <i>Approve the Receipt of Revenue. 9-0</i></p> <p><b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Drake)</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Canter, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, Neubauer, Perez, Ramey, and Ridley Meyers - 9</p> <p><b>NOES:</b> 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p>
10.	<p><b>Governance Committee Update.</b></p> <p>Kate Flynn Post provided an update as Board Member Ginlack was excused from this meeting. She presented that the committee continues to work through the Board Survey results and have asked Committee members to bring their top five questions to the May 8, 2024, Governance Committee Meeting to further discuss.</p> <p>Having a virtual option for board meetings was also discussed in by the committee and with administrative support.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
11.	<p><b>Bylaws Update. (Board Member Ginlack/Action Item) (The Governance Committee, at its meeting on March 13, 2024, unanimously recommended approval of this Item.)</b></p> <p>Board Member Ginlack was excused from this meeting, therefore Research Analyst, Kate Flynn Post provided the update on this recommendation. There were three sections discussed in the Bylaws Update, but only two have been unanimously recommended for approval at this</p>

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

	<p>time for board. The update in Article 3 and Article 7 are the only items up for vote and the update in Article 4 should be disregarded. No questions were raised by the board and voting occurred.</p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Canter) Approve the Bylaws Updates in Article 3 and Article 7. 9-0 <b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Ramey) <b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Canter, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, Neubauer, Perez, Ramey, and Ridley Meyers - 9 <b>NOES:</b> 0 <b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p>
12.	<p><b>Member Expectations Document Update.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Forman) Approve the Member Expectations Document Recommendation under Section 2, Meetings/Events. 9-0 <b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Ridley Meyers) <b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Canter, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, Neubauer, Perez, Ramey, and Ridley Meyers - 9 <b>NOES:</b> 0 <b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p> <p>This was a recommendation from the Governance Committee. There were two items that were updated and voted upon that addresses attendance at meetings.</p>
13.	<p><b>Mental Health Emergency Center Joint Venture Board Representative.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Perez) Approve the representation of Chairwoman Neubauer to the Mental Health Emergency Center Joint Venture Board. 9-0 <b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Bottoni) <b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Canter, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, Neubauer, Perez, Ramey, and Ridley Meyers - 9 <b>NOES:</b> 0 <b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p> <p>The agreement with Mental Health Emergency Center Joint Venture states that the Chairperson of the Mental Health Board should also be a representative on the Mental Health Emergency Center Joint Venture Board. This was discussed at the Governance Committee meeting and there were no objections to Chairwoman Neubauer filling this role. The Mental Health Board unanimously approved the representation by Chairwoman Neubauer to that Board.</p>
14.	<p><b>Chairwoman Nicholson address to the Mental Health Board.</b></p> <p>Chairwoman Nicholson was unable to attend this meeting due to a scheduling conflict.</p>

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

	<p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Neubauer) <i>Approve this Item to be held over to a future meeting. 9-0</i> <b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Ridley Meyers) <b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Canter, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, Neubauer, Perez, Ramey, and Ridley Meyers - 9 <b>NOES:</b> 0 <b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p> <p>This Informational Item will be held over to a future meeting.</p>
15.	<p><b>Mental Health Board Presentation at the March 14, 2024, Mental Health Task Force Meeting.</b></p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer presented the PowerPoint presentation to the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board that was previously presented at the Mental Health Task Force Meeting on March 14, 2024.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
16.	<p><b>Follow-Up Discussions from the March 21, 2024, Public Comment Budget Hearing.</b></p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer asked the Board if anyone had any comments about the meeting and provided a brief recap of the minutes to refresh the Board members on discussions. An update about the Mental Health Liaison position was made and the Mental Health Liaison position was referenced. Representatives from Mental Health America and the newly hired Liaison attended the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting and made an introduction to the Board.</p> <p>Board member Lehrmann added comments from the March 21<sup>st</sup> Public Comment that the public has frustration with Chapter 51 which the Board doesn't have control over and it is a struggle to hear those concerns and not have much authority to make change. He suggested working with the County Board of Supervisors to address issues that are beyond the Mental Health Board's authority.</p> <p>Board member Lavrenz added that it is a pleasure to attend public comment hearings to be able to hear directly about issues. She added that the last speaker mentioned inpatient bed concerns and that should be addressed to ensure there is enough access for meeting the community's needs.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
17.	<p><b>Mental Health Board Meet and Greet at the June 11, 2024, Public Comment Meeting.</b></p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer provided notice to the Mental Health Board that the June 11, 2024, meeting will immediately follow the Mental Health Task Force Meeting and be a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet individuals involved in that group as well as the public who attends both meetings. Chairwoman Neubauer reviewed the timeline for those meetings and</p>

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

	<p>asked the Board to attend both meetings if possible or arrive at 4pm to be available for a meet and greet between meetings if they can't make both. It was also asked of the Board to stay an hour after the meeting to allow for the community to meet and greet everyone.</p> <p>Vice Chair Eilers mentioned that a newsletter would be a good way to create a bridge with the County Board of Supervisors.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
18.	<p><b>\$1M Budget Investment in Housing First.</b></p> <p>The Housing First investment provides housing navigation for unhoused individuals and Chairwoman Neubauer encourages continued investment in this area. Additionally, Chairwoman Neubauer stated she doesn't want to just rubber stamp items and wants to ensure the Board understands what they are approving and have solid understanding.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
19.	<p><b>Administrator Report.</b></p> <p>BHS Administrator Lappen provided updates about the Mental Health Emergency Center (MHEC), but shared that in the future, MHEC may provide updates to the Mental Health Board in a more formal manner.</p> <p>Of note, Milwaukee Police Department has progressive protocol in regard to mental health treatment. If detainees say they need mental health help and ask to be taken to MHEC, Milwaukee PD will do that.</p> <p>Updates on Granite Hills admission data was presented and there have been challenges with Granite Hills being able to fill the 120 beds that were expected to be utilized, effort is being made to add 20 more adult beds in 2024. At first, turnover in staff was high which is common, but has since stabilized.</p> <p>Harm reduction and prevention efforts being made are garnering national recognition which is something to celebrate and continue. It was reported that the State has made available the combination fentanyl and xylazine test strips and we are trying to get them. The expectation is that with the combination test strips, utilization of them will increase.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
20.	<p><b>Mental Health Board Staff Update.</b></p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer asked BHS Director, Mike Lappen to provide an update on the hiring of staff dedicated to MCMHB duties. Mike confirmed that recruitment continues and there have been interviews for both the Board Liaison and the Committee Coordinator roles. It is anticipated that hiring should occur in the next couple of weeks.</p>

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

	<p>This Item was Informational.</p>
21.	<p><b>DHHS Annual Report.</b></p> <p>DHHS Director, Shakita LaGrant-McClain and DHHS Deputy Director, David Muhammad, presented on division highlights. That presentation is included with these minutes. Some highlights from the last year are that Child Support Services has been added to the DHHS umbrella. Child Support Services initiated the FIRE program which assists fathers in the removal of birthing debts. This allows the father to begin supporting the child instead of being so far in debt right off the bat.</p> <p>The 2025-2027 Strategic Plan is being worked on now and continues the No Wrong Door Initiative to improve the customer experience and work towards population health and system change.</p> <p>Aging/Disability/Veterans Service help our community age safely in their home. 543,001 meals were served.</p> <p>Housing First helped reduce homelessness significantly by serving 90-100 individuals.</p> <p>Children’s Long-Term Support (CLTS) increased 45% for youth aged 3 and up.</p> <p>Investments in Equity were made; Access Clinic North location opened, harm reduction vending machines were installed throughout the county, prevention opportunities were marketed, and affordable housing is being built, and that will continue.</p> <p>Construction on the new DHHS building has begun and the timeline to move to that location remains the projected date of June 2025.</p> <p>Children, Youth, and Family Services began the renovations to the Secure Residential Care Center for Youth (SRCCY)</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
22.	<p><b>CARS Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Presentation.</b></p> <p>Susan Clark and Christine Schultz presented. Utilization data was shared for various parts of programming. Unique Clients served for the following areas of the program are:</p> <p>Detoxification: 1412 Access Points: 2253 Recovery Support Coordination: 1718 Bed-based Services: 964 Treatment: 409 Recovery Support Services (non-clinical): 33</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>



**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

23.	<p><b>Closed Session.</b> Discussion as to investigation of Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services financial expenditure.</p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Ramey) <i>Approve the Discussion as to investigation of Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services financial expenditure in Closed Session. 9-0</i></p> <p><b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Perez)</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Canter, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, Neubauer, Perez, Ramey, and Ridley Meyers - 9</p> <p><b>NOES:</b> 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p> <p>The Milwaukee County Mental Health Board went into closed session to discuss the investigation of Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services financial expenditure. The Board came out of closed session, and no action was taken.</p>
24.	<p><b>Re-convened Open Session.</b></p> <p><b>Quality Committee Update.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Drake) <i>Approve the Resuming of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Meeting in Open Session (resumed 12:33pm). 9-0</i></p> <p><b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Perez)</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Canter, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, Neubauer, Perez, Ramey, and Ridley Meyers - 9</p> <p><b>NOES:</b> 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p> <p>Secretary Drake provided an update from the Quality Committee meeting which included a notification that a quarter lag in reporting data was approved to allow all who provide data the opportunity to compile full quarters instead of partial which is burdensome and confusing.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
25.	<p><b>Finance Committee Update.</b></p> <p>Updates from Board Member Canter were given.</p> <p>The Finance Committee meeting on March 28, 2024, had 2023 statistics and financial performance.</p> <p>The Finance Committee meeting on April 25, 2024, had various agreements which have been heard and voted upon by the Board.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

<p>26. <b>Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance Quarterly Update on the State of Milwaukee County’s Interests and Matters Related to Behavioral Health Services.</b></p> <p>Joseph Lamers, Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance was unable to attend the 02/22/2024 and 04/25/2024 meetings due to a scheduling conflict.</p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Neubauer) <i>Approve this Item to be held over to a future meeting. 9-0</i> <b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Bottoni) <b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Canter, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, Neubauer, Perez, Ramey, and Ridley Meyers - 9 <b>NOES:</b> 0 <b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p> <p>This Item was held over for a future meeting.</p>
<p>27. Adjournment.</p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Neubauer) <i>Adjourn the April 25, 2024, Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Meeting. 9-0</i> <b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Ridley Meyers) <b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Canter, Drake, Forman, Lavrenz, Neubauer, Perez, Ramey, and Ridley Meyers - 9 <b>NOES:</b> 0 <b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p>

This meeting was recorded, however there were technical difficulties with the recordings, rendering the audio clips inaudible. The official copy of these minutes and subject reports 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: 9:03 a.m. to 12:36 p.m.

Adjourned,

*Jennifer Miles*

**Jennifer Miles**

Interim Board Liaison  
Milwaukee County Mental Health Board

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

**The next meeting for the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board will be on Thursday, June 20, 2024, @ 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>**

The April 25, 2024, 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