

**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, October 23, 2025 - 9:00 A.M.  
Marcia P. Coggs Human Services Center  
1230 West Cherry Street, Room 104/105  
Milwaukee, WI 53205

### MINUTES

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

**EXCUSED:** Kweku Amoasi

### SCHEDULED ITEMS:

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

1. **Welcome.**

Chairwoman Neubauer welcomed everyone to the October 23, 2025 Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Meeting. Roll was taken and a quorum was established. There were 10 voting members and 1 non-voting member present.

2. **Approval of the Minutes from the August 21, 2025, and September 25, 2025, Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Meeting and Public Comment Hearing.**

**MOTION BY:** (Ramey) Approve the Minutes from the August 21, 2025 Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Meeting and the September 25, 2025 Milwaukee County Public Comment Hearing. 10-0

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

**AYES:** Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, Lavrenz, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 10

**NOES:** 0

**ABSTENTIONS:** 0

3. **2025 and 2026 Professional Service Agreements.**

The Board was informed that the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item.

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

	<p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Tapper) Approve the 2025 and 2026 Professional Service Agreements as Delineated in the Corresponding Report. 9-0-1</p> <p><b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Forman)</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Forman, Ginlack, Lavrenz, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 9</p> <p><b>NOES:</b> 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> Drake – 1</p>
4.	<p><b>2025-2026 Purchase of Service Contracts.</b></p> <p>The Board was informed that the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item.</p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Bottoni) Approve the 2025-2026 Purchase of Service Contracts as Delineated in the Corresponding Report. 10-0</p> <p><b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Ridley-Meyer)</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, Lavrenz, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 10</p> <p><b>NOES:</b> 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p>
5.	<p><b>2026 Fee For Service Contract.</b></p> <p>The Board was informed that the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item and all members received the document titled Item #5 Revision #2.</p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> (Bottoni) Approve the 2026 Fee For Service Contracts as Delineated in the Corresponding Report "Revision #2". 10-0</p> <p><b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> (Forman)</p> <p><b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, Lavrenz, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 10</p> <p><b>NOES:</b> 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p>
6.	<p><b>Update on the Milwaukee Health Services Incorporated (MHSI) Lease Recommendation.</b></p> <p>The Board was informed that during the October 23, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting this item was Laid over until December 4, 2025; without objection this item is Laid over until the December 11, 2025 Board Meeting.</p>
7.	<p><b>Quality Committee Statement Regarding Audit Findings of BHS Responsibilities under Wis. Stats. 971.14(6)(c).</b></p>

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

	<p>The Board was informed that the Quality Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item.</p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> <i>(Neubauer) Approve the Quality Committee Statement Regarding Audit Findings of BHS Responsibilities under Wis. Stats. 971.14(6)(c) as Delineated in the Corresponding Report. 10-0</i></p> <p><b>AYES:</b> Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, Lavrenz, O’Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 10</p> <p><b>NOES:</b> 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p>
8.	<p><b>Board Vacancy Updates and Recruitment Process.</b></p> <p>Kyle Ashley, Community Outreach Director, County Executive’s Office, provided an update as to Board vacancies and the recruitment process. He stated that there is a current vacancy designated for a health care provider that is employed by an institution of higher education and recommended by the university of Wisconsin-Madison. He indicated that the County Executive is actively recruiting for this vacancy and noted that if anyone has any recommendations to please provide their name to the County Executive’s office. Michael Lappen, Administrator of BHS, explained the historical aspect of this position specifying the UW-Madison requirement. Shakita LaGrant, Director of DHHS stated that Desilyn Smith will be replacing Dennise Lavrenz as Chair of the Combined Community Services Board and therefore will be the ex-officio seat on this board. Statements made by Board Member Lavrenz and she reminded the Board that she will be leaving, and the Board will need a Chair of the Quality Committee as well as a member of the Finance Committee upon her departure. Board Member Tapper made statements regarding this Board taking a more active approach in recruiting Board Members. Chairperson Neubauer made statements regarding a board survey.</p> <p>This item was Informational.</p>
9.	<p><b>Youth Services Outreach and Partnerships.</b></p> <p>Board Member Ramey provided an update as to youth services outreach and partnership. He highlighted youth mental health data that was presented at the Board Retreat last year. He indicated that he wants BHS services to be proactive rather than reactive. He noted that this Board should take ownership in making sure the community knows which youth mental health services are available. Michael Lappen, BHS Administrator, noted that a very large number of MPS employees attended the CRISIS trainings that have recently been provided. Brian McBride, Wraparound Director, updated the Board as to MPS partnerships. He also emphasized that children often have big behavior and this is due to unmet need and we as adults have to do better at responding to the big behavior. Board Member Ramey indicated that the MPS structure has recently changed and offered his support to youth services. Board Member Dennise Lavrenz noted that in the Quality Committee, wraparound services presents a dashboard which includes contacts and outreach events. Director LaGrant-McClain made statements regarding the necessity of youth services. Vice-Chair Ginlack noted that more information needs to be provided to the community,</p>

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

	<p>and the board needs to take a harder look at this issue. Secretary Drake noted that PSL is involved with an outreach program with an MPS middle school. Questions and discussion ensued.</p> <p>This item was Informational.</p>
10.	<p><b>Treatment Director Roles and Responsibilities.</b></p> <p>Michael Lappen, BHS Administrator, updated the Board on the treatment director roles and responsibilities. He provided a brief history of the Behavioral health Services Chief Medical Officer, noting that this role was re-defined to specifically recruit Dr. Schneider into the role. He indicated that Dr. Justin Kuehl has been reclassified into the role of Chief Clinical Officer / Treatment Director and highlighted Dr. Julie Owen's role at MHEC, and Dr. Thrasher, Dr. Moasio, and Dr. Macherey's roles within BHS. Administrator Lappen also highlighted Dr. Drymalski's role within Quality as well as Linda Oszus' role within medical records.</p> <p>Board Member Joy Tapper requested a matrix outlining the county responsibilities under 51 and whom within BHS or outside of BHS through contracts are assigned these responsibilities. Administrator Lappen provided an overview of Chapter 51. He also provided an overview of detox services, SUD services, and different ways to access reimbursable services. He noted that there is a limited tax levy and mandated services that must be provided. Board Member Kathy Bottoni clarified that detox services are currently Medicaid reimbursable though a hospital setting but not through First Step. Administrator Lappen clarified services that are available within the community. Vice-Chair Ginlack made statements regarding licensed outpatient services and partnership with Milwaukee County.</p> <p>This item was Informational.</p>
11.	<p><b>Follow-Up Discussions from the September 25, 2025, Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Public Hearing.</b></p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer updated the Board on September 25, 2025 Public Comment meeting. She noted that the meeting was held at Wellpoint and included an educational aspect that was led by Lauren Hubbard, Community Crisis Center Director. Vice-Chair Ken Ginlack noted that the new format was successful, and Board Member Staci O'Dell agreed with his comments.</p> <p>This item was Informational.</p>
12.	<p><b>Chair Updates.</b></p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer noted that the board education retreat will be held on February 6, 2026 and this meeting will be noticed and proceed like all other meetings under open meeting laws. Board Member Tapper suggested Access Clincis as the topic of the January 22, 2026 Public Comment Meeting and Board Member O'Dell suggested Outreach to host the meeting. Chairwoman Neubauer noted that the all-provider meetings are scheduled the same day as Board Meetings and the County Board of Supervisors Meetings are also a conflict. Administrator Lappen noted that BHS sets the all-provider meetings and can be scheduled around Mental Health Board Meetings.</p>

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

	<p>This item was Informational.</p>
13.	<p><b>Finance Committee Update from the August 21, 2025 Contracts Meeting and the September 4, 2025 Quarterly Meeting.</b></p> <p>Board Member Tapper provided an update from the August 21, 2025 Contracts Meeting and the September 4, 2025 Quarterly Meeting. She noted that the minutes are included in the packet and highlighted that the access clinic item from today's meeting has been tabled. She requested a report at a future meeting as to what BHS and others are doing to secure Medicaid enrollment.</p> <p>This item was Informational.</p>
14.	<p><b>Quality Committee Update from the September 8, 2025 Meeting.</b></p> <p>Board Member Dennise Lavrenz provided an update from the September 8, 2025 Quality Committee Meeting. She noted that the quality committee reviews many dashboards at every meeting and directed Board Members to review the data that is presented at the meetings. She also noted that Dr. Drymalski is open to feedback as to what the Board would like to review. She also noted that yesterday was the NIATx quality improvement presentations.</p> <p>Board Member Tapper made statements regarding quality committee dashboards.</p> <p>This item was Informational.</p>
15.	<p><b>Governance Committee Update from the September 10, 2025 Meeting.</b></p> <p>Vice-Chair Ginlack provided an update from the September 10, 2026 Governance Committee Meeting. He noted there was a discussion on the retreat, noting the date for the retreat will be February 6. He also welcomed all board members to join the meeting on November 12, 2025.</p> <p>This item was Informational.</p>
16.	<p><b>2026 Mental Health Board and Committees Tentative Meeting Schedule and Posting of Board Materials.</b></p> <p>Tentative Board and Committee Dates were included in the packet.</p> <p>This item was Informational.</p>
17.	<p><b>Board Member Announcements.</b></p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer noted that the Community Engagement Committee members are: Secretary Drake, chair, Board member Ridley-Meyer, Board Member Amoasi, Board Member Ramey, Board Member Forman as well as Chairwoman Neubauer. Secretary Drake will be reaching out to committee members to schedule a meeting.</p>

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

	Board Member Forman requests a public comment meeting be held in Shorewood or Whitefish Bay.  This item was Informational.
18.	<b>Adjournment.</b>  Chairwoman Neubauer adjourned the meeting.

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: 9:11 a.m. to 11:21 a.m.

Adjourned,  
*Jessica Iggen*

Jessica Iggen  
Board Liaison  
Milwaukee County Mental Health Board

**The next meeting for the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board is  
Thursday, December 11, 2025, @ 8:00 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>**

***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 September October 23, 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.

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley Drake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shirley" being more prominent than the last name "Drake".

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Shirley Drake, Secretary  
Milwaukee County Mental Health Board