

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 MEETING

Thursday, December 11, 2025 - 8:00 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(*Virtual for Roll Call appeared during item #3), Jon Lehmann (appeared virtually), Staci O'Dell, Amy Ridley-Meyers, Joy Tapper, Mary Neubauer*
EXCUSED: *Dennise Lavrenz, LaNelle Ramey*

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

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

1.	<p>Welcome.</p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer welcomed everyone to the December 11, 2025 Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Meeting. Roll was taken and a quorum was established. There were 9 voting members and 1 non-voting member present.</p>
2.	<p>Approval of the Minutes from the October 23, 2025, Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Meeting.</p> <p>MOTION BY: <i>(Bottoni) Approve the Minutes from the October 23, 2025 Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Meeting. 9-0</i></p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: <i>(Forman)</i></p> <p>AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 9</p> <p>NOES: 0</p> <p>ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
3.	<p>Purchase of Service Agreements.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>MOTION BY: (Bottoni) Approve the two (2) Medical College of WI, Inc. Purchase of Service Agreements as Delineated in the Corresponding Report. 8-0-1</p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: (Tapper)</p> <p>AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Tapper, Neubauer - 8</p> <p>NOES: 0</p> <p>ABSTENTIONS: Ridley-Meyers – 1</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Bottoni) Approve the Wisconsin Community Services Purchase of Service Agreements as Delineated in the Corresponding Report. 8-0-1</p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: (Ridley-Meyers)</p> <p>AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 8</p> <p>NOES: 0</p> <p>ABSTENTIONS: Drake – 1</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Tapper) Approve the balance of the Purchase of Service Agreements including Corrections to Agency Names as Delineated in the Corresponding Report. 9-0</p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: (Bottoni)</p> <p>AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 9</p> <p>NOES: 0</p> <p>ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
4.	<p>Professional Service Agreements.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item.</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Tapper) Approve the Wisconsin Community Services Inc. Professional Service Agreements as Delineated in the Corresponding Report. 8-0-1</p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: (Bottoni)</p> <p>AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 8</p> <p>NOES: 0</p> <p>ABSTENTIONS: Drake – 1</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Tapper) Approve the Balance of Professional Services Agreements including Description Changes as Delineated in the Corresponding Report. 9-0</p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: (Ginlack)</p> <p>AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 9</p> <p>NOES: 0</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Fee for Service Agreements.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item.</p> <p>MOTION BY: <i>(Tapper) Approve the Balance of the Fee for Service agreements Excluding Wisconsin Community Services, Outreach Community Health Center, and Serenity Inns as Delineated in the Corresponding Report. 9-0</i></p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: <i>(Bottoni)</i></p> <p>AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 9</p> <p>NOES: 0</p> <p>ABSTENTIONS: 0</p> <p>MOTION BY: <i>(Tapper) Approve the Outreach Community Health Center Fee for Service Agreement as Delineated in the Corresponding Report. 8-0-1</i></p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: <i>(Ridley Meyer)</i></p> <p>AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 8</p> <p>NOES: 0</p> <p>ABSTENTIONS: O'Dell – 1</p> <p>MOTION BY: <i>(Forman) Approve the Serenity Inns Fee for Service Agreement as Delineated in the Corresponding Report. 8-0-1</i></p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: <i>(Drake)</i></p> <p>AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, O'Dell, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 8</p> <p>NOES: 0</p> <p>ABSTENTIONS: Ginlack – 1</p> <p>MOTION BY: <i>(Tapper) Approve all of the Wisconsin Community Services Fee for Service Agreements as Delineated in the Corresponding Report. 8-0-1</i></p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: <i>(Ridley Meyer)</i></p> <p>AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 8</p> <p>NOES: 0</p> <p>ABSTENTIONS: Drake – 1</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>2026 State / County Contract.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>MOTION BY: (Forman) Approve the 2026 State/County Contract as Delineated in the Corresponding Report. 9-0</p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: (Ginlack)</p> <p>AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 9</p> <p>NOES: 0</p> <p>ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
7.	<p>Behavioral Health Services 2026 Budget and Final Tax Levy Amount.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of this item.</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Tapper) Approve the Behavioral Health Services 2026 Budget and Final Tax Levy Amount as Delineated in the Corresponding Report. 9-0</p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: (Bottoni)</p> <p>AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 9</p> <p>NOES: 0</p> <p>ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
8.	<p>Board Retreat Planning.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the Governance Committee recommended this draft be presented and voted on by the full board.</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Ginlack) Approve the Board Retreat Agenda as Delineated in the Corresponding Report. 9-0</p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: (Drake)</p> <p>AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 9</p> <p>NOES: 0</p> <p>ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
9.	<p>Purchasing and Procurement Policy.</p> <p>Dennis Buesing, Contracts Administrator, was unable to attend the meeting but provided a printout of the changes in the policy. After reviewing, board members requested more time to review the policy.</p> <p>MOTION BY: (Neubauer) Table this item to a future Board Meeting. 9-0</p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: (Amoasi)</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 9</p> <p>NOES: 0</p> <p>ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
10.	<p>Granite Hills Governing Board Appointment Recommendation: BHS Treatment Director Justin Kuehl, PsyD.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the Governance Committee recommended approval of this item.</p> <p>MOTION BY: <i>(Tapper) Approve the Appointment of BHS Treatment Director Justin Kuehl, PsyD to the Granite Hills Governing Board. 9-0</i></p> <p>MOTION 2ND BY: <i>(Amoasi)</i></p> <p>AYES: Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 9</p> <p>NOES: 0</p> <p>ABSTENTIONS: 0</p>
11.	<p>County Budget Update. (This Item was taken out of order after Item #1.)</p> <p>Isaac Rowlett, Interim Director of Strategy Budget and Performance, introduced himself to the Board.</p> <p>Lindsey Peterson, Operating Budget Manager, presented the Milwaukee County 2026 Adopted Budget to the board. She provided an overview of the 2026 Adopted Budget Revenues and Expenses. She also provided an overview of the 2026 department tax levy allocations, the 2026 budget outlook, structural deficit sources, property tax levy funding for state mandated services, state aid revenues, history of savings and changes, 2026 operating budget impacts, 2026 capital budget, and the 2026 budget compensation/benefits.</p> <p>Questions and discussion ensued. Board Member Amoasi requested additional information regarding transit cuts/budget. Board Member Tapper requested additional information regarding BHS budget reduction compared to other departments.</p> <p>The powerpoint presented during the board meeting was uploaded to CLIC as Addendum Item #11.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
12.	<p>Behavioral Health Services SUD Services.</p> <p>Michael Lappen, Behavioral Health Services Administrator, provided an update as to the Behavioral Health Services SUD Services. He presented the report which included different services, description of the services, and the providers of these services. Questions and discussion ensued</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>about access clinics versus access points. Questions and discussion ensued regarding federal poverty level amounts. Fiscal Administrator Matt Fortman noted that there are certain grants that require this limit for eligibility. Questions and discussion ensued regarding the chart and definitions on page 4 of the report. Questions and discussion ensued regarding referral process for previous detox clients.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
13.	<p>Board Vacancy Updates and Recruitment Process.</p> <p>Kyle Ashley, Community Outreach Director, County Executive’s Office provided an update on the current Board Vacancies. Desilynn Smith will be replacing Dennise Lavrenz and Chairwoman Neubauer indicated that Dr. Christine Apple will be filling her seat as a board member once she vacates the board. Chairwoman Neubauer also indicated that she and Research Analyst Kate Flynn Post will meet with both new members to speak about board orientation. Board Member Amoasi made comments regarding both new board members and commended them as great additions to the board. Board Member Tapper suggested that the recruitment process and sourcing of nominees should be a continued topic discussed by this board. Discussion ensued regarding the UW seat that has been difficult to fill.</p> <p>This Item was informational.</p>
14.	<p>Administrator Report.</p> <p>Michael Lappen, Behavioral Health Services Administrator, presented his administrator report. He indicated that access north has been open for operation on Fridays, however the Fridays that have been open have not had any walk ins at this time. Data will continue to be monitored and presented to the finance committee and full board in the future. Board Member Tapper emphasized the need to set benchmarks and compare this data to other access sites. Questions and discussion ensued regarding future contracts and renewal of this lease/contract.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
15.	<p>Chair Updates.</p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer indicated that she is in the process of completing a report that includes the roles and responsibilities of the mental health board chairperson and the roles and responsibilities of mental health board members. She also noted that the County Board Audit Committee met on December 1 at which time they took up a resolution to conduct an audit of BHS regarding Ch. 971 cases. After discussion, the matter was tabled to the call of the chair. Administrator Lappen noted that he had a meeting with Supervisor Vincent and at this time she seems satisfied with the previous audit and discussion.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

16.	<p>2026 Board Election Documents.</p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer noted that the election documents were included in the packet. The election will take place on February 6, 2026 at the Board Retreat. Chairwoman Neubauer requested that if there is interest in any of the executive positions to please let her know. Chairwoman Neubauer intends to have her roles and responsibility document completed prior to the Board Retreat and will send out to the full board.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
17.	<p>Governance Committee Update from the November 12, 2025 Meeting.</p> <p>Vice-Chair Ginlack provided an update of the November 12, 2025 Governance Committee. He noted that many items have been taken up earlier in this meeting. He also indicated that Board Member Terms and an Expertise Matrix has been discussed in this committee and will continue to be discussed in the Governance Committee. He also emphasized that the Board Retreat must comply with open meeting laws. Questions and discussion ensued regarding Board Tracking document and term limits. Corporation Counsel Jennifer Rhodes made comments regarding Mental Health Board Statutes and ex-officio seats. Board Member Amoasi questioned president for removing Board Members. Vice Chair Ginlack noted that these discussions can be had at the Board Retreat.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
18.	<p>Quality Committee Update from the December 1, 2025 Meeting.</p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer provided the Quality Committee update from the December 1, 2025 Meeting. She noted that Granite Hills provided an update at the meeting and moving forward they will be utilizing a different way to collect patient surveys. She also noted that they will be changes in future dashboards and indicated there was a lengthy discussion held regarding sanctions on providers. Amy Lorenz, Deputy BHS Administrator, provided an update as to the CRISIS services audit and statement of deficiencies. Chairwoman Neubauer also noted that she is in the process of appointing a new Quality Committee Chair with Board Member Lavrenz' departure.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
19.	<p>Finance Committee Update from the December 4, 2025 Meeting.</p> <p>Board Member Tapper provided the Finance Committee update from the December 4, 2025, meeting. She noted many items were previously voted on in this meeting. She also noted that there were updates on reserve investment process and there is a return on these investments that flows back in a beneficial way to BHS. She also noted that there was a BHS Medicaid enrollment report that was discussed. She requested that this report be sent out to all board members for their review and encouraged BHS to continue to emphasize efforts to enroll customers into Medicaid.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>Discussion ensued regarding economic incentives of enrollment in Medicaid and opportunities to continue to enroll customers into Medicaid.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
20.	<p>Community Engagement Committee Update from the November 20, 2025 Meeting.</p> <p>Secretary Drake provided the update on the Community Engagement Committee Meeting from November 20, 2025. She noted that Jill Lintonen, Director of Communications, was present and recommended the committee establish SMART goals moving forward. Secretary Drake also noted that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 29, 2026.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
21.	<p>2026 Mental Health Board and Committees Final Meeting Schedules.</p> <p>Schedule included in the packet.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
22.	<p>Committee Listings and Vacancies.</p> <p>Listing included in the packet. Discussion held regarding community participation in committee meetings.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
23.	<p>Board Member Announcements.</p> <p>Board Member Amoasi voiced his appreciation for constructive disagreement on this Board and emphasized need to tighten up decorum in these meetings. Board Member Tapper acknowledged Chairwoman Neubauer, Dr. Owen, and Dr. Kuehl in their participation in the Wisconsin Health New Forum that was held a few weeks ago.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
24.	<p>Adjournment.</p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer adjourned the meeting.</p>

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

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: 8:04 a.m. to 11:04 a.m.

Adjourned,
Jessica Iggens

Jessica Iggens
Board Liaison
Milwaukee County Mental Health Board

**The next meeting for the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board is
Thursday, January 22, 2026, @ 4:30 p.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 December 11, 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
Milwaukee County Mental Health Board

Milwaukee County Mental Health Board
December 11, 2025