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Date: May 18, 2015

To: Madam Chair and Honorable Supervisors

cc: County Clerk Czarnecki

From: Paul Bargren *PB*
Corporation Counsel

Re: Matter Referred to Corporation Counsel

At its meeting of April 23, 2015, the County Board considered File 15-261, providing the Annual review for the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services. During the discussion of that file, Supervisor Broderick requested a formal written opinion from Corporation Counsel regarding “the mechanism by which grievances on the part of taxpayers might be addressed by BHD.”¹

- The Mental Health Board has provided or will provide opportunities for public comment on the budget or other matters:
 - The draft 2016 BHD budget will be published by mid-June and public comment will be invited at the June 25, 2015, Mental Health Board Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Washington Park Senior Center in the afternoon and evening in order to accommodate the public. The exact start time has not been set.
 - Public comment on 2016 BHD budget recommendations was noticed as an agenda item at the March 26, 2015 meeting of the Finance Committee of the Mental Health Board and was received accordingly.
 - Last year’s MHB budget process – its first ever – encouraged those interested to submit written comment.²
 - MHB held its November 2014 meeting at the MPS auditorium and invited public comment on any topic. The public comment session lasted more than 45 minutes.

¹ Meeting video at 03:12:06.

² Due to the timing of the enacting legislation, MHB had only one meeting before addressing its first budget a month later.

- Mental Health Board members are listed under the Mental Health Board tab on that web page, along with meeting schedules, agendas and minutes. Members are in the process of pursuing county email addresses, i.e. “@milwaukeecountywi.gov” addresses.

- State statute makes clear that the County Executive, the director of the County Department of Health and Human Services, and the BHD administrator all have administrative responsibility for BHD and mental health services. *See, e.g.*, Wis. Stat. §§ 51.41(4), (9); 51.42(3); 51.42(6m). Taxpayers or others may contact these individuals.
 - The administrator’s email and phone are published (257-5202, patricia.schroeder@milwaukeecountywi.gov available on the Milwaukee County website on the DH&HS Administration page).
 - A number of administrator email addresses and phone numbers are listed on tabs under the BHD heading on that webpage, *see* <http://county.milwaukee.gov/BehavioralHealthDivi7762.htm>
 - An “Administrative Contact” is provided at the same site (Jodi Mapp, jodi.mapp@milwaukeecountywi.gov 414-257-5202)
 - Per the administration, hard-copy and emailed material sent to BHD administrators or to the County Executive and directed to the Mental Health Board is copied and distributed to Board Members.