

Mental Health Redesign and Implementation Task Force

DATE: March 7, 2012

TO: Peggy Romo West, Chairperson, Committee on Health and Human Needs
Lee Holloway, Chairperson, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Mental Health Redesign and Implementation Task Force (MHRITF) Executive Committee and Action Team Co-Chairs

SUBJECT: Status Report on the Behavioral Health Division New Facility Options

We, the undersigned leaders in the ongoing mental health redesign efforts, write in support of the Status Report on the Behavioral Health Division New Facility Options submitted on February 8 by Mr. Héctor Colón, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services. The report rightly asserts that redesign implementation plans need to be formalized by stakeholders, subjected to fiscal analysis, and reviewed by policymakers before the County government undertakes consideration of proposals for new construction or significant reconfiguration of Behavioral Health Division facilities. It would be premature and potentially reckless to push forward with facility planning while the public deliberations about the future of person-centered, recovery-oriented services are still very much underway.

The Mental Health Redesign Summit on February 14 marked a point of transition for the Task Force, the five Action Teams, and the multitude of public and private entities represented therein who have invested in these efforts since last summer. With support and advice from national consultants in conjunction with the Summit activities, all parties are now eager to act upon the visions and affirmed recommendations that were presented and warmly received at the January meeting of the Committee on Health and Human Needs. Future discussions on facility planning and potential construction projects should be responsive – rather than instructive – to forthcoming activities of the Action Teams and Task Force.

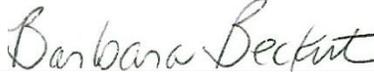
Respectfully Submitted:



Karen Avery
IndependenceFirst
MHRITF Executive Committee
Co-Chair, Quality Action Team



Beth Ann Burazin
Our Space
Co-Chair, Person-Centered Care Action Team



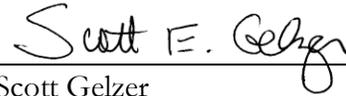
Barbara Beckert
Disability Rights Wisconsin
MHRITF Executive Committee



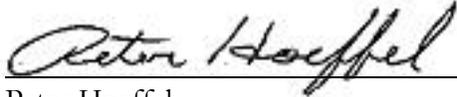
Lee Carroll
Outreach Community Health Center
MHRITF Executive Committee
Co-Chair, Continuum of Care Action Team



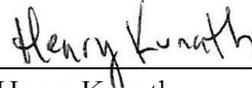
Kristina Finnel
Mental Health America of Wisconsin
Co-Chair, Community Linkages Action Team



Scott Gelzer
Co-Chair, Workforce Action Team



Peter Hoeffel
NAMI of Greater Milwaukee
Co-Chair, Person-Centered Care Action Team



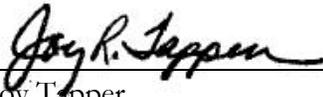
Henry Kunath
Phoenix Care Systems
Co-Chair, Quality Action Team



Mary Neubauer
Community Advocates
Co-Chair, Continuum of Care Action Team



Tom Nowak
Midwest Community Services
MHRITF Executive Committee



Joy Tapper
Milwaukee Health Care Partnership
MHRITF Executive Committee

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Supervisor Joe Sanfelippo
Terrence Cooley, County Board
Patrick Farley, Director, DAS
Pam Bryant, Interim Fiscal & Budget Administrator, DAS
Jerry Heer, Department of Audit
CJ Pahl, Assistant Fiscal & Budget Administrator, DAS
Antionette Thomas-Bailey, Fiscal & Management Analyst
Jennifer Collins, Analyst, County Board Staff
Jodi Mapp, Committee Clerk, County Board Staff