

**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  
BUDGET MEETING**

**Thursday, July 10, 2025 - 9:30 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Marcia P. Coggs Human Services Center  
1230 West Cherry Street, Room 104/105  
Milwaukee, WI 53205**

**PRESENT:** *Kweku Amoasi, Katharine Bottoni, Shirley Drake, Rachel Forman, Kenneth Ginlack, Jon Lehrmann, Staci O'Dell, LaNelle Ramey, Amy Ridley-Meyers (Appeared Virtually), Joy Tapper, Mary Neubauer*  
**EXCUSED:** *Dennise Lavrenz*

**SCHEDULED ITEMS:**

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

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| 1. | <p><b>Welcome.</b></p> <p>Chairperson Neubauer welcomed everyone to the July 10, 2025 Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Meeting. Roll was taken and a quorum was established. There were 10 voting members present (including 1 virtual) and 1 non-voting member present.</p>  |
| 2. | <p><b>Approval of the Minutes from the June 12, 2025 Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Meeting.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b>           <i>(Ginlack) Approve the Minutes from the June 12, 2025 Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Meeting. 10-0</i></p> <p><b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> <i>(Ramey)</i></p> <p><b>AYES:</b>                 Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 10</p> <p><b>NOES:</b>                 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>     0</p> |
| 3. | <p><b>Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services 2026 Recommended Budget Narrative Presentation.</b></p>   |

## **SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

	<p>Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator provided the 2026 Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services Recommended Budget Narrative. He noted that this proposed budget includes service cuts for 2026 and advised that 2027 may continue to be difficult.</p> <p>This item was informational.</p>
4.	<p><b>Finance Committee Reserve Recommendation.</b></p> <p>It was noted that the memo included in the packet was not taken to vote in the finance committee meeting this morning and has been laid over to a future finance committee meeting.</p> <p>Board Member Tapper provided an update to the reserve that was discussed in the finance committee this morning. She indicated that a recommendation was made by the finance committee relative to pursuing the investments of the reserve.</p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> <i>(Tapper) Pursue the Investment of the Reserve to the Amount Allowable as Soon as Possible and that the Comptroller Report Back with the Results of this Request. 10-0</i></p> <p><b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> <i>(Amoasi)</i></p> <p><b>AYES:</b> Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 10</p> <p><b>NOES:</b> 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p>
5.	<p><b>Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services 2026 Recommended Budget Consideration</b></p> <p>Board Member Tapper provided a summary of the approved amendments on the record. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) Fund The Parachute House Peer-run Respite Service at \$100,000 for CY2026 for Room and Board Contingent on Ongoing Operation. Fund Our Space Drop-in Center at \$250,962 for CY2026 to provide Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR).</li><li>(2) Fund Grand Avenue Club at \$100,000 for CY2026.</li><li>(3) Fund Impact 211 for general information and referral support at \$150,000 plus Fund Impact at \$150,000 for CY2026 to support transition of Crisis calls as they move back to Milwaukee County.</li></ul> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> <i>(Tapper) Approve the Amended 2026 Behavioral Health Services Budget Inclusive of the Amendments Approved in the Finance Committee on July 10, 2025. 10-0</i></p> <p><b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> <i>(Forman)</i></p>

## **SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

	<p><b>AYES:</b> Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 10</p> <p><b>NOES:</b> 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p>
6.	<p><b>Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Discussion of Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Reference File # 25-480.</b></p> <p>Chairperson Neubauer read the Resolution in Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors' File No. 25-480 on the record.</p> <p>Mike Lappen, BHS Administrator provided an update as to Wis. Stats. 971 Civil Commitment Cases. He noted he could not discuss a particular case's information but rather will keep comments general. He provided an update as to criminal proceedings that convert to civil commitments. He indicated that a 14-day notice was required in the statutes and specific to this case; the department does not dispute that the DA did not receive a 14-day notice. He highlighted that there is not a requirement to provide a notice specifically to the public. He provided an update of the procedures that are in place to provide the required oversight of 971 conversion cases. He also noted that there are 15 current chapter 51 cases that originated from 971 cases, and they are all in good standing.</p> <p>Questions and discussion ensued. Board Member Bottoni made comments regarding the proposed statute changes. Board Member Lehrmann spoke to the complexity of the legal system specific to mental health cases. He indicated that in his opinion that the care and support of the individual in this case was managed appropriately. Board Member Tapper requested that cases like these be brought before the Mental Health Board Quality Committee rather than being reviewed by the County Board of Supervisors.</p> <p><b>MOTION BY:</b> <i>(Neubauer) For Administrator Lappen to Compile and Present a Report at the September 8, 2025 MHB Quality Committee Meeting that Includes an Overview of the Systems Involved in the 971 Commitment Cases Including BHS, DHHS, Corporation Counsel, and the DA. 10-0</i></p> <p><b>MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> BY:</b> <i>(Bottoni)</i></p> <p><b>AYES:</b> Amoasi, Bottoni, Drake, Forman, Ginlack, O'Dell, Ramey, Ridley-Meyers, Tapper, Neubauer - 10</p> <p><b>NOES:</b> 0</p> <p><b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 0</p> <p>Board Member Forman indicated that she was contacted by a reporter and urged Board Members to defer comments to appropriate entities. Update provided by Administrator Lappen as to coverage due to Dr. Schneider's resignation.</p>
7.	<p><b>Chair Updates</b></p> <p>This Item was Laid over from June 12, 2025 Board Meeting.</p>

## **SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

	<p>Chairperson Neubauer updated the Board as to the County Supervisors' prison audit and indicated Board Member Bottoni has met with some of the County Supervisors to discuss the audit in relation to mental health aspects.</p> <p>Chairperson Neubauer indicated that she was recognized by the County Supervisors for Mental Health Awareness Month and received a plaque.</p> <p>Chairperson Neubauer provided some dates for the 2026 Board Retreat: Friday, January 16, 2026 and Friday, January 30, 2026. She requested that board members provide an update as to their availability within the next couple weeks. Board Member Ginlack made comments regarding Governance Committee input in the process of the board retreat.</p> <p>Chairperson Neubauer provided an update as to Board Member Amoasi's radio show on WNOV Radio: Nyumba Upendo. She indicated that the show is on Wednesdays at 11-12 and the Mental Health Board has a designated spot on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month starting August 20, 2025. Board Member Lehrmann thanked and commended Board Member Amoasi for the opportunity to use this platform.</p> <p>This item was informational.</p>
8.	<p><b>Governance Committee Update from the May 14, 2025 Meeting.</b></p> <p>This Item was Laid over from June 12, 2025 Board Meeting.</p> <p>Board Member Ginlack provided an update of the May 14, 2025 Governance Committee Meeting. He reported that the Board voted to cut the Governance Committee Meetings from 6 to 4. He also noted that the new Corp. Counsel was present at the Governance Committee meeting and introduced herself. He indicated that Board Member Bottoni has attended mental health court meetings. He discussed the remaining vacancy on the board. Administrator Lappen provided an update on the board vacancy which fills the UW Seat. Board Member Lehrmann provided an update as to the UW Seat.</p> <p>This item was informational.</p>
9.	<p><b>Quality Committee Update from the June 4, 2025 Meeting.</b></p> <p>This item was Laid over from June 12, 2025 Board Meeting.</p> <p>Chairperson Neubauer provided an update of the June 4, 2025 Quality Committee Meeting on behalf of Board Member Lavrenz. She highlighted the various reports and updates that were provided as well as an update on the NIATX participation for 2024-2025.</p> <p>This item was informational.</p>

## **SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

10.	<p><b>Finance Committee Update from June 12, 2025 Contracts Meeting</b></p> <p>This item was Laid over from June 12, 2025 Board Meeting.</p> <p>Board Member Tapper provided an update of the June 12, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting. She indicated the items were all put forth for Board vote following the meeting.</p> <p>This item was informational.</p>
11.	<p><b>Board Member Announcement</b></p> <p>This item was Laid over from June 12, 2025 Board Meeting.</p> <p>Board Member Ginlack indicated referrals can be sent to the Serenity Inns Drop-in clinic which is open M-F 8-4.</p> <p>Board Member O'Dell noted that Outreach Community Health Center is having a health fair and will provide the flyer for distribution.</p> <p>Chairperson Neubauer indicated Suicide Prevention is having a workshop on September 15-16 and a save the date will be forthcoming.</p> <p>Board Member Tapper spoke about state and federal budgets that were recently passed. She indicated that Wisconsin Health News is having a luncheon with the Medicaid director and may be beneficial for understand changes happening in Wisconsin. She also requested a summary of the state and federal impacts to Milwaukee County to be provided at a future meeting.</p> <p>This item was informational.</p>
12.	<p><b>Adjournment.</b></p> <p>Chairperson Neubauer commended the board for completing the budget and noted the next meeting is August 21, 2025.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>Length of meeting: 9:49 a.m. to 11:08 a.m.</p> <p>Adjourned,</p> <p><i>Jessica Iggen</i> Jessica Iggen Board Liaison Milwaukee County Mental Health Board</p>	

**SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

**The next regular meeting for the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board is  
Thursday, August 21, 2025 @ 9:00am**

**To View All Associated Meeting Materials,  
Visit the Milwaukee County Legislative Information Center at:  
[Milwaukee County - Calendar \(legistar.com\)](https://legistar.com/locations/milwaukee-county-legislative-information-center/)**

**Visit the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Web Page at:  
<https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/DHHS/About/Governance>**

The July 10, 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.



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Shirley Drake, Secretary