Chairperson: Ken Ginlack

Research Analyst: Kate Flynn Post, (414) 391-7845

Committee Coordinator: Dairionne Washington, (414) 257-7606

# MILWAUKEE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 – 1:30 P.M.
Microsoft Teams Meeting

# **MINUTES**

PRESENT: Ken Ginlack, Rachel Forman, Mary Neubauer, and Kathy Bottoni

**EXCUSED:** Maria Perez

#### **SCHEDULED ITEMS:**

1. Welcome.

Chairman Ginlack welcomed everyone to the January 10, 2024, Mental Health Board Governance Committee's remote/virtual meeting.

2. Minutes from the November 8, 2023, Committee Meeting.

The minutes were reviewed, acknowledged, and accepted by the Committee.

This Item was informational.

3. Board Survey Results Follow-Up Discussion from the December 14, 2023, Board Meeting.

Chairman Ginlack stated the survey was comprised of a total of 36 questions. Five questions, in particular, stood out to him due to the varying responses. Those questions were 4, 9, 13, 14, and 17. The Committee agreed the disparity in responses could be partially due to the way questions were interpreted by Board Members. Chairman Ginlack also asked Committee Members to identify questions they would like to discuss further. The Committee was informed the survey questions were pulled directly from State Statutes. The survey is a self-assessment and should assist with gauging how the Board is doing with its responsibilities. As the items in the survey are being addressed, it will be important to determine if more information is required, additional policies are needed, supportive training should be directed, or action should be requested of the full Board.

Question #4 related to the Board's ability to reallocate funds, which State Statutes say is within the Board's responsibility. Discussion unfolded as to what it means to reallocate funds and how the Board accomplishes this duty in its normal course of business. The Board receives financial reports regularly reflecting how the budget is allocated.

Question #9 related to the importance of institutional services. Again, Committee Members defined the word "institutional" differently. Some felt it meant and in-patient stay as others felt it was meant in the sense of long-term and rehabilitative care. Committee Members alluded to the

# **SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

Granite Hills contract and requested a review be scheduled at a future meeting. The importance of taking a proactive stance was expressed. Granite Hills conversations occurred at the last Board meeting. Further discussion was slated to take place with the Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Administrator to obtain more insight. In conclusion, institutional services will continue to be part of the mental health program design.

Question #13 related to early intervention. The Coordinated Opportunities for Recovery and Empowerment (CORE) program offered through Wraparound and First Episode Psychosis programming were given as examples. A recommendation was made for the Board to be presented with more information about youth services.

Question #14 related to diverting individuals experiencing mental illness from the criminal justice system. There is a mental health specialty court, however, there isn't an equivalent national model. There is also a struggle for resources. BHS' financial support comes in the form of liaison positions. Chief Judge Ashley has done presentations on the various specialty courts including mental health court. Chairman Ginlack stated he would reach out to Chief Judge Ashley for a potential presentation to the Mental Health Board.

Question #17 related to cost savings achieved in the provision of mental health services. The Quality Committee receives a dashboard reflecting cost data compared to outcomes. The redesign is modeled to address issues early on, so they don't become more frequent and more costly resulting in clients ending up in higher cost situations. The Fiscal Administrator could also speak to the Board on the topic of cost savings.

Chairman Ginlack wrapped up discussions by stating the retreat was a success. Follow-up done on the survey by this Committee will draw out needs the Board can address as a whole.

This Item was informational.

# 4. Board Member Expectations Updates.

- Attendance Policy
- On-Screen Requirements

Edits were made to the document. More robust language was added to the Meetings and Events section under #2 regarding the attendance policy. When it comes to attendance, it is essential to have all Board Members attend every meeting to meet quorum requirements. It becomes problematic to condone Board Members missing a certain number of meetings. Committee Members were reminded only the nominating authority has the power to remove individuals from the Board for cause. The language was reviewed. This document is provided to new Board Members as part of their orientation.

As it relates to on-screen requirements, a discussion was had surrounding hybrid meetings and the ability to vote virtually. In-person voting rules were suspended temporarily by the State during the pandemic to allow organizations to continue to conduct business. It is not known whether it

# **SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):**

still applies. That ability would then inform the decision to pursue hybrid meeting options. The Board's Research Analyst will reach out to Corporation Counsel for input.

After further discussion, the Committee decided to lay this Item over to the March meeting pending feedback from Corporation Counsel.

# 5. Review of Board Member Terms and Vacancies.

There was a lengthy discussion surrounding the election of officers at the February Board meeting. A recommendation was made to look at adding a second vice-chair to the Board's cabinet to organically assist with a succession plan, which can be discussed at a future meeting.

The document associated with this item is used for tracking terms and vacancies to support the continual fulfillment of seats. Board staff will be working closely with the County Executive's Office to ensure seamless transitions. Committee Member Neubauer recommended the nominating authorities be informed to tap MC3 for potential candidates.

This Item was informational.

# 6. Adjournment.

Chairman Ginlack ordered the meeting adjourned.

This meeting was recorded. The official copy of these minutes and subject reports, along with the audio recording of this meeting, is available on the Milwaukee County Legislative Information Center.

Length of meeting: 1:31 p.m. to 2:49 p.m.

Adjourned,

# Jodi Mapp Jodi Mapp

**Board Liaison** 

Milwaukee County Mental Health Board

The next meeting of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Governance Committee will be on March 13, 2024

To View All Associated Meeting Materials,
Visit the Milwaukee County Legislative Information Center at:
Milwaukee County - Calendar (legistar.com)

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