



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
DISABILITIES SERVICES DIVISION

Milwaukee County

Héctor Colón • DHHS Director
Geri L. Lyday • DSD Administrator

Combined Community Services Board

John Doherty, Vice Chair

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Ericka Rush
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Cathy Simpson

DATE: March 7, 2012

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

FROM: Combined Community Services Board

RE: **Status Report on the Behavioral Health Division New Facility Options**

At the February 29 meeting of the Combined Community Services Board, the Status Report on the Behavioral Health Division New Facility Options was presented by Mr. Jim Kubicek, Deputy Administrator of the Behavioral Health Division, on behalf of Mr. Héctor Colón, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The report was an information-only item submitted in response to the final resolution of the Committee of the New Behavioral Health Facility Study. The Committee's resolution called for a report that would include "recommendations related to the option of Milwaukee County constructing and opening an inpatient facility on the County Grounds . . . recommendations as to the preferred level of continued inpatient care to be provided at a new facility . . . [and] recommendations regarding future use of the current BHD facility, and potential options for financing the recommended services."

The Status Report provides information on the RFP process initiated by the Architectural, Engineering and Environmental Services (AE&E) Division of Milwaukee County for design services for a potential new BHD facility. It also describes the efforts of the Mental Health Redesign and Implementation Task Force with regards to "solidifying recommendations and making implementation plans . . . and working diligently to provide the best information and recommendations possible to the policy makers of Milwaukee County." The report further suggests, "it is premature to propose actual facility options, recommend levels of care, options for the future use of the BHD facility, or financing options. Until final recommendations are determined by the various stakeholders and reviewed by the policy makers, it is extremely difficult to provide solid fiscal information and options to the Board."

While this item was intended for information only, the CCSB found the issue to be of significant importance. We therefore put the matter to a vote and unanimously agreed that a letter should be drafted in support of the Status Report and forwarded to the parties addressed here. We concur with DHHS administrators that any plans for facility construction or modification should not be hastily imposed upon consumers, providers, and administrators, but they should instead be guided by the Task Force and Action Teams who are leading the ongoing redesign and implementation efforts.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Doherty".

John Doherty Vice Chair
Combined Community Services Board

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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