

Chairwoman: Dr. Maria Perez
Vice-Chairperson: Mary Neubauer
Secretary: Kathie Eilers
Research Analyst: Kate Flynn Post, (414) 257-7473
Board Liaison: Jodi Mapp, (414) 257-5202

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 3, 2023 - 1:00 P.M.
Microsoft Teams Meeting

MINUTES

PRESENT: Maria Perez, Mary Neubauer, Kathie Eilers, and Thomas Lutzow

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

1. **Welcome.**

Chairwoman Perez welcomed everyone to the May 3, 2023, Mental Health Board Executive Committee's remote/virtual meeting.

2. **Pending Legislation Considering Deep Cuts to Medicaid Services for Children and Adults with Mental Health Needs and Disabilities.**

Vice-Chairwoman Neubauer stated initially, correspondence was received by the Mental Health Task Force related to signing on to a letter regarding the proposed McCarthy Bill affecting people up to age 65 receiving Medicaid, FoodShare, and a variety of safety net programs, including mental health services. A competing Bill is being proposed. It would not cut service programs or be affiliated with the debt ceiling. Hearings are slated to begin next week. Discussion is needed related to how this will affect those receiving Medicaid in Milwaukee County and Wisconsin as a whole and what appropriate action should be pursued. The Mental Health Task Force intends to hold a press conference at Independence First next week. An invitation has been extended to the County Executive (CEX). Vice-Chairwoman Neubauer inquired as to whether the Mental Health Board should also be included to address the proposed cuts.

Mr. Lappen indicated as Behavioral Health Services is building its budget and in light of this development, a substantial increase in the number of individuals seeking services could be seen over the course of 2024 because there won't be alternatives. If this legislation goes through as proposed, statistics could revert back to pre-Affordable Care Act numbers.


Ms. Flynn Post stated various levels could be considered when determining how to approach this issue, including advocacy at the state/federal levels or engaging Corporation Counsel for policy formation. There are several ways to align efforts with internal stakeholders, other counties, other municipalities, and advocacy coalitions separate from the non-profit piece.

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>Chairwoman Perez stated this meeting is vitally important to decipher the Board's role in all of this and its potential options. She indicated the Board should take some sort of stand or make a public statement in some way, shape, or form because of its charge to make decisions on behalf of vulnerable people. Board Secretary Eilers also agreed this is an opportunity to basically back up the Board charge with action.</p> <p>Discussion ensued at length.</p> <p>The Committee concluded there wasn't any action to be taken immediately at the federal level unless the Board participates in a collaborative effort. There was interest in approaching the CEX to align with the Board in preparation to take some form of action when necessary. Mr. Lappen recommended coordinating the effort with Alec Knutson, who essentially has the role of lobbyist for the CEX's Office and is closely involved with the budget at the state level. The Board's Research Analyst was directed to reach out to Mr. Knutson and provide him with a summary of the Committee's discussion.</p> <p>The general consensus of the Committee was advocacy or some form of representation on behalf of the Mental Health Board, in alignment with the CEX if possible, would be appropriate given there's an understanding where the impact lies related to mental health, schools, and alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA). It was also recommended the CEX's lobbyist, the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA), and the Wisconsin Counties Human Service Association (WCHSA) efforts be tracked, and the Board be kept apprised of what is being done in order to be supportive of those efforts directly related to mental health, schools, and AODA cuts.</p> <p>Mr. Lappen was directed to connect with WCA and WCHSA. For long-term purposes, framing the Board's advocacy will be important.</p> <p>An update on the information requested will be provided to the full Board at its June meeting. No formal action was taken on this Item.</p>
3.	<p>Adjournment.</p> <p>Chairwoman Perez ordered the meeting adjourned.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The next meeting for the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Executive Committee Will be Held at the Call of the Chair</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To View All Associated Meeting Materials, Visit the Milwaukee County Legislative Information Center at: Milwaukee County - Calendar (legistar.com)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Visit the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Web Page at: https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/DHHS/About/Governance</p>	

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

The May 3, 2023, meeting minutes of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Executive Committee have been reviewed and are hereby approved.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria E. Perez, PhD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "P".

Maria Perez, Chairwoman
Milwaukee County Mental Health Board