

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Interoffice Memorandum

DATE: July 6, 2011

TO: Peggy West, Chairwoman, Health and Human Needs Committee

FROM: Geri Lyday, Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Jennifer Collins, County Board Research Analyst

SUBJECT: Summary of Mental Health Policy Actions Taken by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors in 2010-2011

Background

Over the last year, mental health planning has been on the forefront in Milwaukee County. Several large-scale studies have attempted to incorporate the multi-faceted challenges facing the current system, and offer possible solutions. The County Board has reviewed numerous proposals to reform the mental health system, and has adopted policy directing funding for emergency capital improvements at the current Behavioral Health Division (BHD) Facility. The Board also created committees to help plan for operating and capital needs, directed BHD to study various proposals through the budget process, and approved various resolutions directing further efforts to redesign the mental health system in Milwaukee County. Additionally, a special committee of Milwaukee County Supervisors has convened to consider plans for a new facility for Milwaukee County mental health programs going forward.


The Chairwoman of the Milwaukee County Board Committee on Health and Human Needs directed the Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services and County Board staff to draft a report summarizing the Board of Supervisors' recent policy actions related to the Behavioral Health Division. DHHS and County Board staff worked together to assemble the attached chart summarizing major BHD initiatives, Board action, as well as the status of the various initiatives in order to provide background information as policymakers continue to deliberate mental health policy.

Recommendations

This report is informational only.



Geri Lyday
Interim Director, Health and Human Services



Jennifer Collins
Research Analyst, County Board