

Chairwoman: 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
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Thursday, April 3, 2025 – 12:30 P.M.
Microsoft Teams Meeting

MINUTES

PRESENT: *Richard Canter, Shirley Drake, Ken Ginlack, Mary Neubauer*

EXCUSED: *Dennise Lavrenz*

ALSO PRESENT: *Jon Lehrmann*

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

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

1. **Welcome.**

Chairwoman Neubauer welcomed everyone to the April 3, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting and Roll was taken. It was stated that any action taken at this meeting is provisional only and expires next regularly scheduled Board meeting on April 24, 2025.

2. **Review article in Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.**

Vice-Chairman Ginlack spoke about the article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel which highlighted Parachute House and Uplift WI and their difficulties due to the federal government no longer funding the ARPA grant. He also spoke about some impacts to the community if these entities close.

This Item was Informational.

3. **Discussion on Parachute House and Uplift WI Emergency Funding.**

Chairwoman Neubauer began the discussion regarding emergency funding for Parachute House and Uplift WI. Melissa Wisniewski, Parachute House/Our Space Executive Assistant and Peer Support, presented the funding that would be needed to account for the loss of the federal ARPA funds.

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

	<p>Parachute data that was presented included: Monthly Operations costs of \$44,875/month to fully fund, \$40,708.33/month with some reduced staffing, and \$37,486.67/month with reducing staffing to one person per shift. Chairwoman Neubauer indicated that assistance for 6 months would be around \$220,000 at their current operating cost.</p> <p>Martina Gollin-Graves, President/CEO of Mental Health America of Wisconsin presented the funding that would be needed for Uplift WI. Uplift WI data that was presented included: There were 24,000 calls in 2024 and 7500 calls in the 1st quarter of 2025. Operating costs for the warmlines are \$60,000/month and she requested \$150,000 for 6 months which would include reduced costs with alternative staffing hours.</p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding sustainability, community impact, state of the reserve, and potential future changes. Richard Canter, Chair of the MHB Finance Committee requested that BHS Finance / Administration provide the board with a broader analysis of potential impacts of federal funding changes.</p> <p>BHS Fiscal Administrator Matt Fortman updated the committee as to BHS projects that were impacted by the ARPA funds being discontinued. He also indicated BHS is expecting a budget gap for 2026.</p> <p>Secretary Drake agreed that a financial analysis would need to be done and the loss of 20 certified peer specialists' jobs is a significant impact.</p> <p>Board Member Jon Lehrmann suggested the board draft an advocacy letter to send to different government entities and health care facilities.</p> <p>Administrator Lappen indicated that the first draft of the Governor's budget does include funding for warmlines and peer run respites.</p> <p>Vice-Chair Ken Ginlack requested that any current clients at Parachute House be assisted if Parachute House does close. Administrator Lappen indicated he would work with Chairwoman Neubauer to get contact information for Parachute House.</p> <p>This Item was Informational.</p>
4.	<p>Adjournment.</p> <p>Chairwoman Neubauer adjourned the meeting at 1:33 p.m.</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: 12:33 p.m. to 1:33 p.m.</p>	

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

Adjourned,
Jessica Iggens

Jessica Iggens
Board Liaison
Milwaukee County Mental Health Board

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278-3932 (voice) or 711 (TRS), upon receipt of this notice.***