



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

# *Milwaukee County*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Approves 2017 Budget**

*Public input shapes millions in programs and services, budget now moves to County Executive for review*

**Milwaukee, WI** (June 24, 2016) The Milwaukee County Mental Health Board (MCMHB) today approved a balanced budget of \$209 million for fiscal year 2017 that consists of more than \$6 million in programs and services recommended by members of the public through multiple public input sessions throughout the spring.

“As a public behavioral health system, open feedback and community engagement are extremely important to us,” says mental health board chair Duncan Shrout. “This is a well thought out budget that will expand services, increase access to care and continue to build broad community awareness about support and recovery options.”

The proposed spending plan, which moves to the office of Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele for review, reflects an increase of \$20.5 million over the 2016 fiscal budget.

“The approach to this budget is in line with the vision we laid out five years ago, moving us toward a community based system of care that is person centered, recovery oriented, trauma informed and culturally intelligent,” notes Department of Health and Human Services Director Héctor Colón. “It is also in line with the input we have received from consumers, advocacy groups and the mental health task force.”

Among the priorities funded in the budget:

- \$10.6 million increase for Milwaukee County’s Wraparound program
- \$1.5 million investment for the recruitment and retention of psychiatrists
- \$500,000 to support the community access hub development
- \$367,000 to add 110 Targeted Case Management (TCM) slots
- \$250,000 to support Milwaukee County’s work to end chronic homelessness

Multiple public input sessions throughout the spring shaped additional items in the budget approved by the board. These included:

- \$5.8 million to expand CCS to 800 enrollees
- \$330,000 to expand crisis resources to 24/7 operations
- \$162,000 for two additional CART (Crisis Assessment Response Team) teams for a total of three new CART teams in the budget

- \$100,000 to enhance opioid epidemic strategies
- \$50,000 for Warmline to provide peer to peer support

“We are moving to a national best-practice model that includes exemplary care in our acute hospital and through our community programs and services,” says BHD Administrator Mike Lappen. “This budget reflects that commitment.”

The Milwaukee County Mental Health Board budget process began in February 2016 when the MHB approved its budget calendar, including two public hearings and one written feedback opportunity. The Mental Health Board added two additional opportunities for public feedback in late spring. The County Executive will present the mental health budget to the public in October as part of his overall County budget.

#### **About the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division**

The Behavioral Health Division provides care and treatment to adults, children, and adolescents with mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual disabilities through both County-operated programs and contracts with community agencies. Services include intensive short-term treatment through our crisis services and inpatient services, as well as a full array of supportive community services for persons with serious mental illness and substance use disorders.

#### **About the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services**

The mission of the Milwaukee County Department of Health & Human Services is to enhance the quality of life for individuals who need support living healthy, independent, and safe lives within our community. Our vision is to be recognized as the public model of excellence, leadership, and partnership in human services driving superior outcomes for our community.

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