



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

# *Milwaukee County*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Kimberly Kane

414.202.5762

[kimberly.kane@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:kimberly.kane@milwaukeecountywi.gov)

## **Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Welcomes Health Care Leader as Newest Member**

**Milwaukee, WI** (Aug. 26, 2016) The Milwaukee County Mental Health Board (MCMHB) announced Rachel Forman as a new member of the board. Forman is the Executive Director of the Grand Avenue Club, a community-based program based on the Clubhouse model of psychiatric rehabilitation. The Grand Avenue Club provides adults in Milwaukee County who have experienced mental illness pre-vocational employment, educational, housing, recreational, and cultural opportunities so that their lives will be more productive and satisfying. Forman led the formation of the Grand Avenue Club in 1991.

“We are honored to have Ms. Forman as a member of our board,” says Duncan ShROUT, Chair of the MCMHB. “As Executive Director of the Grand Avenue Club, she brings tremendous experience to our board. We look forward to working with Ms. Forman to continue the very important work we have underway.”

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors submitted Ms. Forman’s name to Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele for appointment to the MCMHB. She fills the community health care provider position on the board.

“The community health care provider position is a key role on our Mental Health Board. As the Behavioral Health Division works to become a national best practice leader, BHD is engaging our provider community in more ways than ever to help us transform our mental health care system,” says Abele. “Rachel Forman brings an exceptional background and experience to help the board guide this work.”

In addition to her work as Executive Director of the Grand Avenue Club, Ms. Forman currently serves on the Steering Committee of the Milwaukee County MC3 Project and is a member of the Social Services Committee of the Public Policy Forum. Forman has her BA in Sociology and History from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, M.A. in Sociology from Boston University, Ph.D. in Sociology from Boston University, M.A. in Social Policy and Administration from the School of Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago.

Forman has been recognized with numerous awards for her work, including the Community Partner Award from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the Innovative Social Work Program Award from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Greater Milwaukee, the Fieldwork Program of the Year Award from the School of Social Service Administration of the University of Chicago and the Kiwanis Milwaukee Award. Forman is also a published author and lecturer.

### **About the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board**

The Milwaukee County Mental Health Board (MHB) was established in 2014 through Wisconsin Act 203. The board is made up of 13 members and includes mental health professionals, consumers and advocates. The MHB is responsible for setting policy for the Behavioral Health Division.

### **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. Long-term inpatient care is provided through the Division's nursing home programs.

**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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For more information about this topic or to schedule an interview contact Kimberly Kane at (414) 202-5762 or [kimberly.kane@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:kimberly.kane@milwaukeecountywi.gov).