

Chairperson: Maria Perez
Senior Executive Assistant: Jodi Mapp, 257-5202

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET HEARING**

Thursday, June 27, 2019 - 1:30 P.M.
Milwaukee County Mental Health Complex
9455 West Watertown Plank Road
Conference Room 1045

MINUTES

PRESENT: Maria Perez, Michael Davis, and Kathie Eilers
EXCUSED: Jon Lehrmann and Duncan Shrout

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

1. **Welcome.**

Chairwoman Perez welcomed everyone to the June 27, 2019, Mental Health Board Finance Committee Budget Hearing.

2. **Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division 2020 Recommended Budget Presentation.**

The Behavioral Health Division's (BHD) Fiscal staff was acknowledged for all the hard work put into BHD's 2020 Recommended Budget. Testimony and feedback from the Milwaukee County Mental Health Task Force, provider agencies, and private citizens; and BHD Budget Survey results, which were constantly updated to include current submissions; are all ways the County at large as a community was able to contribute to the transparent and participatory process of creating BHD's recommended budget.

There were challenges with meeting the target numbers without cutting any major service programs, which would negatively impact customers. There are some modest increases in services included. BHD will be able to serve more people through Comprehensive Community Services and continues to move further along in the community-based system of care and its future state.

A high level overview of the Behavioral Health Division's (BHD) 2020 Recommended Budget was presented. As has been previously stated by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Milwaukee County, as a whole, has structural deficit issues. For the past approximately two years, departments have been directed to cut their budget by a set amount determined by the DAS Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget. This year,

	<p>BHD's budget cut, in the form of a local property tax levy revenue reduction, was \$2.7 million. With this directive comes the struggle to maintain funding and services at current levels and in some instances, limits the expansion of services.</p> <p>There were no significant or measurable cuts made to services. This was achieved by identifying new revenue opportunities and ways to increase current revenue streams. Expenses include increased funding in the following areas: Comprehensive Community Services, ongoing placements at Community Based Residential Facilities and State institutes, inpatient staffing, and security. Expenses also include expansion of Crisis Resource Center and Federally Qualified Health Center services and Oxford House model funding. Big ticket items the State's budget will consider and would be beneficial in the area of mental health services were not a factor in balancing BHD's budget.</p>
3.	<p>Public Comment on the 2020 Behavioral Health Division Recommended Budget.</p> <p>The meeting opened for public comment on BHD's 2020 Budget Narrative Preliminary Overview. The following individual appeared and provided comments:</p> <p>Maria Nogueron</p>
4.	<p>2020 Budget Amendments.</p> <p>The Board Sponsors for Amendment #1 were not present at the time this Item was announced. The Committee moved on to Amendment #2, presented by Board Member Forman.</p> <p>She referred to Smart Goal #12, which states BHD will provide resources, so individuals who experience mental illness can have access to both paid employment and post-secondary supported education. The excitement, growth, and competence shines through when the opportunity is presented to be productive. The Amendment (#2) addresses the desire to see more resources invested into providing employment opportunities for people who experience mental illness and is written in such a way that a Request for Proposals would be used to select a vendor. The vendor who receives the award will be required to develop both qualitative and quantitative evaluative research to be used by BHD to guide future planning.</p> <p>Questions and comments ensued.</p> <p>Committee Member Eilers provided clarification by stating the Amendment is written to be conceptual. This is not a grant being specifically awarded to the Grand Avenue Club, even though the Grand Avenue Club would be in a position to compete.</p> <p>The Finance Committee unanimously agreed to recommend approval of Amendment #2 to the Board.</p> <p>Amendment #1 was back before the Committee, and the Board Sponsors were not present.</p>

	<p>Discussion surrounding Amendment #1 ensued at length.</p> <p>The Committee was reminded reserve funds would be appropriate for the project described in Amendment #1 because it is one time in nature and because the Board doesn't have access to County bond issuance mechanisms. Reserve funds can be used as a tool for capital projects when absolutely necessary. The budget process is not necessary for accessing reserves. The Board can access reserve funds at any time.</p> <p>The idea of a Living Room model was highly favored. A viable solution would be for the Sponsors of Amendment #1 to present a three-year plan to include start-up and operational costs to the Finance Committee and provide a more detailed strategy. The Committee agreed clarification is needed.</p> <p>The Finance Committee unanimously agreed to recommend DENIAL/REJECTION of Amendment #1 to the Board.</p>
5.	<p>The Finance Committee's 2020 Behavioral Health Division Budget Recommendation.</p> <p>With no further discussion, the Finance Committee unanimously agreed to recommend APPROVAL of the Budget AS AMENEDDED inclusive of Amendment #2.</p>
6.	<p>Adjournment.</p> <p>Chairwoman Perez ordered the meeting adjourned.</p>
<p>This meeting was recorded. The official copy of these minutes and subject reports, along with the audio recording of this meeting, is available on the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division/Mental Health Board web page.</p> <p>Length of meeting: 1:36 p.m. to 3:28 p.m.</p> <p>Adjourned,</p> <p><i>Jodi Mapp</i></p> <p>Jodi Mapp Senior Executive Assistant Milwaukee County Mental Health Board</p>	

The next regular meeting of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board's Finance Committee is Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 8:00 a.m.

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