

Chairperson: Thomas Lutzow
Vice-Chairperson: Maria Perez
Secretary: Michael Davis
Senior Executive Assistant: Jodi Mapp, 257-5202

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
BUDGET MEETING**

Thursday, July 9, 2020 - 8:00 A.M.
Teleconference Meeting

MINUTES

PRESENT: Michael Davis, Kathie Eilers, Rachel Forman, Sheri Johnson, Walter Lanier, Jon Lehrmann, Thomas Lutzow, Mary Neubauer, Maria Perez, Duncan Shrout, James Stevens, and Brenda Wesley

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

1. **Welcome.**

Chairman Lutzow welcomed Board Members, Staff, and everyone listening in to the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board's remote/virtual Budget meeting.

2. **County Executive Presentation.**

County Executive David Crowley

The County Executive began his presentation by stating the vision for Milwaukee County is to become the healthiest county in Wisconsin by achieving racial equity. Milwaukee County continues to recognize structural racism has long contributed to the health seen in communities today. All practices and policies going forward will be viewed through a racial equity lens. The Mental Health Board's commitment to racial equity is clear.

He spoke of the efforts and initiatives the Behavioral Health Division (BHD) has undertaken, which also align with this vision. They include expanding the provider network with an intentional focus on improving diversity and cultural competency, improving the Request for Proposals process and contracting procedures to ensure systematic barriers do not keep providers who reflect this community from being awarded contracts, and establishing a team to enhance the workforce development for diversity and inclusion providing tools in education for managers to make sure the workplace is more inclusive and to recruit local talent.

When looking at mental health, eliminating the stigma associated is key. The County Executive indicated he wants to work directly with BHD to do exactly that and continue to build on these efforts across the organization.

This was an informational item.

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

3. Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division 2021 Recommended Budget Narrative Presentation.

Michael Lappen, Administrator, Behavioral Health Division (BHD)
Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator, Department of Health and Human Services

Mr. Lappen opened by conveying regret to the public for not being able to conduct this hearing in the traditional format. The public's input is truly valued, and all feedback was welcomed. However, an in-person meeting was just not practical due to the circumstances surrounding the pandemic. The Division worked diligently to ensure there were resources provided to accommodate public submissions. Feedback was received, and staff did its best to incorporate that feedback into the decision making but recognizing the desire to have done better.

It has been an extremely challenging year. BHD's Fiscal team was able to balance a budget that started off in a deficit and was able to achieve that balance without cutting any services or ending programs. There were several items where savings were achieved including a Wisconsin Medicaid Cost Reporting (WIMCR) funding increase, an increase in Crisis revenue, and vacant positions were eliminated. All these things helped offset other costs.

There were also some new initiatives and expansions. An increase in funding is expected from the State for the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) program, a grant was received from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to create a High-Fidelity Assertive Community Treatment Team, Crisis Stabilization Houses will be redesigned, and there will be an increase in funding for supported employment.

Risks include the assumption the census will go back to double occupancy rooms in the inpatient hospital at some point by the end of 2020 and a projected slight increase for Wraparound Milwaukee's capitated rate. BHD has not received final word on some of the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) grants used to fund drug and alcohol services. The grants are expected, and the funds are available.

Chairman Lutzow directed staff to track the vulnerabilities, risks, and assumptions as they come due and provide the Finance Committee with regular updates as to the status. The Fiscal Administrator indicated it will be made a standing item for future Finance Committee meetings, along with progress made on other major budget items. He stated if there is an encounter where one of the risk items does not go in BHD's favor, the Board would be updated on a corrective action as well.

Questions and comments ensued.

Board Member Neubauer recommended an update also be provided to the Finance Committee related to the fiscal impact of excessive employee unused vacation time due to furloughs and the pandemic and how it could affect funding streams.

This was an informational item.

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

4. **Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division 2020 Budget Consideration.**

Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator, Department of Health and Human Services

Mr. Fortman reiterated the Finance Committee unanimously recommended approval of the recommended budget with no amendments.

MOTION BY: (Perez) *Approve the Behavioral Health Division's 2021 Recommended Budget. 10-0*

MOTION 2ND BY: (Davis)

AYES: Davis, Eilers, Forman, Lanier, Lutzow, Neubauer, Perez, Shrout, Stevens, and Wesley – 10

NOES: 0

5. **Adjournment.**

MOTION BY: (Neubauer) *Adjourn. 10-0*

MOTION 2ND BY: (Forman)

AYES: Davis, Eilers, Forman, Lanier, Lutzow, Neubauer, Perez, Shrout, Stevens, and Wesley – 10

NOES: 0

ADDENDUM ITEM

6. **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Fund Allocation.**

Matt Fortman, Fiscal Administrator, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Joseph Lamers, Budget Director, Department of Administrative Services

Mr. Fortman explained the CARES funding is a \$77 million relief package going before the County Board next week. The Behavioral Health Division and DHHS staff have advocated heavily for use of these funds for various public health and behavioral health needs in the community. The key item to point out to the Board is the \$1.6 million for mental health services. Most of it will go to support psychiatric services for uninsured individuals particularly, newly uninsured individuals who lost their jobs related to the pandemic. We also have \$15 million to support housing and homeless services and \$7 million for small business grants to go to affected providers in BHD's network. There will be an application process for the small business funds.

Questions and comments ensued.

Mr. Lamers stated the County has received funding from the State and Federal government for the CARES Act with an allocation included for mental health services for individuals who are uninsured. Programming also identified includes housing support, small business grants, and employment jobs programs related to the pandemic. The COVID-19 Relief Fund

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

gives the County the opportunity to launch some new programs to benefit the community, which will cover the County's new costs related to the pandemic.

This was an informational item.

This meeting was recorded. The aforementioned agenda items were not necessarily considered in agenda order. 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.

Length of meeting: 8:03 a.m. to 8:47 a.m.

Adjourned,

Jodi Mapp

Jodi Mapp

Senior Executive Assistant
Milwaukee County Mental Health Board

**The next regular meeting for the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board is
Thursday, August 27, 2020, @ 9:00 a.m. at
a Location to be Determined**

**Visit the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board Web Page at:
<https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/DHHS/About/Governance>**

The July 9, 2020, meeting minutes of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board are hereby submitted for approval at the next scheduled regular meeting of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board.

Michael G. Davis

Michael Davis, Secretary
Milwaukee County Mental Health Board