

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**  
**Waukesha County Health and Human Services**  
**Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC)**  
**October 18, 2021**

**Present MHAC Committee:** Susie Austin, TJ Findley (Co-Chair), Shannon Hammer, Maura McMahon, Helen Prozeller

**Absent MHAC Committee:** Cathy Friend, Pauline Glainyk-Buehler, Amanda Huber, Mary Madden (Co-Chair), Amy Machgan, Rachel Sauer, Jena Scherer, Shannon Stydahar

**Absent HHS Board Liaison:** Vicki Dallmann-Papke

**Present HHS Staff Liaison:** Brad Haas, Kirk Yauchler

**Guests:** Eve Altizer (proxy for Huber), Danielle Birdeau, Tristin Bruno, Ryan Clevenger, Jake Ekdahl, Mary Flynn, Jonathan Gildart, Brea Lopez, Janelle McClain, Holly Neubert

**1. Call to Order**

Co-Chair Findley called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

**2. Review and Approval of Minutes**

Motion: Austin moved, second by Hammer, to approve the joint Mental Health and Substance Use Advisory Committees' minutes of September 21, 2021. Prozeller abstained. Motion passed.

**3. Committee Business**

**a. Elections (Term: October 18, 2021 – August 31, 2022)**

**i. Vice Chair**

Motion: Austin moved, second by McMahon, to vote Sauer as the Vice Chairperson of the Mental Health Advisory Committee for the term of October 18, 2021 through August 31, 2022. Motion passed without a negative vote.

**4. Educational Presentation: Oxford House – Ryan Clevenger, Outreach Worker**

Clevenger provided a brief history on Oxford House, a worldwide evidence-based model that has been around since 1975.

There are approximately 24 Oxford Houses around the state. On average, 3-5 homes are opened each year; however, four have been opened in the last 45 days. [Oxfordvacancies.com](http://Oxfordvacancies.com) shows house vacancies around the country.

There are houses for men, women, men with children, and women with children. Members select houses based on the gender they identify with. Anyone aged 18+ can be a member of an Oxford House; however, the average age is 24-55 years old.

Oxford Houses are self-run and self-supporting with 6-9 members. Members pay between \$115 and \$140 per week to pay for the rent, utilities, etc. The houses are 100% democratic. This allows for no one to physically be “in charge” of the house. Members meet and vote on everything.

All members must work and contribute to the house. If a member is on Social Security or Disability and unable to work, they must volunteer for at least 20 hours in the community, so they get out of the house and give back to the community.

When a house is opened, it costs approximately \$110,000. Part of this funding allows for purchasing initial furniture (which the house can use saved funds to update later), computers, Wi-Fi, cable, and a home phone.

There is a nonrefundable \$100 move-in fee.

When an interview is set up with the point-of-contact, the interviewee will also meet with all the members of the house, tour the house, and answer a variety of questions. The current house members will ask the interviewee to step out while they discuss, and they will give the interviewee a decision right away. If the interviewee is accepted, they can move in immediately.

There is no length of time to stay in an Oxford House – from a couple of months to forever. The only requirement is a need or want to stop using drugs and alcohol.

Medication Assisted Treatment is accepted in the houses. Members are also required to have a lockbox for medications for at least the first 30 days.

**5. Community Needs Discussion for Annual 2022 HHS Board Presentation**

There was no discussion on this topic.

**6. Committee and Organizational Updates**

**a. HHS Board Liaison Report**

There was no report from the HHS Board.

**b. HHS Staff Liaison Report**

An extension was granted for the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council (CJCC) Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMCHP). It is a 2-year grant that was set to expire this year, but because of COVID, Waukesha County was granted a 1-year free extension, pushing the expiration to September 30, 2022. The grant is allowing Waukesha County to launch the “Optional Crisis Stabilization” program. The program will provide crisis stabilization services to the community utilizing a clinical therapist and two case managers. The program allows anyone post-crisis or prone to crisis to receive help with finances, housing, medical needs, etc. The program would allow crisis stabilization prior to being assigned to intensive outpatient care. The first admission should be occurring soon.

Waukesha County is also participating in the Rapid Cycle Grant from Wisconsin Department of Health Services. This grant will end on June 30. As a result of the grant, a crisis clinician will be working from within in the Sheriff’s Department. This will allow

for direct knowledge of 9-1-1 calls, as well as being able to easily communicate with deputies and hear their experiences. This program will proactively serve members of the community and allow a crisis clinician to get out to the community quicker. HHS will be placing one of the most experienced current team workers at the Sheriff's Department starting in November.

**c. Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Coordinating Committee**

The new Chair of the committee is Jean Goodsett.

Crisis Services presented at the last meeting.

Altizer is now leading the youth CCS unit and the CST services.

The committee has been discussing hanging client art on the walls at the Mental Health Center (MHC), as well as how to get optimal turn-out for the youth/adult CCS surveys.

**d. Coordinated Services Team (CST)**

In partnership with the Clinical Services and Adolescent and Family division, CST is expanding services to youth in the community. This has included adding numerous staff including onboarding four service facilitators, and a service provider and clinical therapist starting in November.

The CST outreach position will be full time in January.

Youth will be screened through the "Front Door Approach," which allows a streamlined approach for parents. The CLTS waiver staff will act as a centralized call location and screening for parents, dispatching eligible calls accordingly.

CST is partnering with outreach staff to create a youth-friendly event to administer a satisfaction survey.

**e. Peer Specialists of Waukesha County**

Austin and Findley are surveying participants to determine if they want to resume meetings virtually or in-person.

Austin is considering becoming a Parent Peer Specialist Trainer as well.

**f. Community Health Improvement Planning Process (CHIPP) Report**

**i. Heroin Task Force**

The Heroin Task Force (HTF) held a large community gathering on September 29 with approximately 50 people in attendance for the virtual event. The event provided state level and Waukesha County level data, which will drive the initiatives.

Since September 29, all the action teams have identified tri-chairs, who have been offered training on action team facilitation.

Within the next month, each action team should meet and establish a charter by the end of the year. Data analysis should be incorporated into the goals by early January; ideas will be refined by February and the goals solidified; action teams will present the goals to the HTF Steering Committee in April.

The Steering Committee includes representatives from each action team.

The next Steering Committee meeting is October 7. The next large community HTF meeting is November 7.

**ii. Suicide Prevention Initiative**

The last meeting was on September 21, and attendees received updates about Crisis Services so that the community knows how to access the 24/7 services:

- Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., call 262-548-7666
- Any other time, call IMPACT 2-1-1 or 262-547-3388

The focus has been on providing community training – particularly Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training. Approximately 979 people have been trained in QPR since Summer, 2020.

The next meeting will be held on January 18, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. Due to the continued success of virtual meetings, this meeting will likely be virtual as well. They will look at other suicide prevention ideas to present to the community.

**7. Agency Updates / Announcements**

There were no agency updates or announcements.

**8. Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- At Mental Health Center (MHC); Joint meeting with CCS
- Begin discussion on 2022 Community Needs presentation
- Determine meeting topics for 2022

**9. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**10. Adjourn**

Motion: Prozeller moved, second by McMahan, to adjourn the meeting at 2:42 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janelle McClain.

Minutes Were Approved: Mary Madden

Date: 11/15/21