

**Waukesha County Mental Health Center**  
**Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting (MHAC)**  
**June 19, 2017**

**Present Committee:** Danielle Birdeau, Terry Findley, Colleen Gonzalez, Jessica Grzybowski, Brad Haas, Mary Lodes, Karen McCue, Maura McMahon, Katie Miller, Helen Prozeller, Shannon Stydahr, Marybeth VanderMale

**Excused Absence:** Linda Cole, Cathy Friend, John Kettler, Laurie Kohler, Kathy Mack, Mary Madden, Mike O'Brien, Becky Stark

**HHS Staff Liaisons:** Joan Sternweis

**Guests:** Lisa Riggle, Michael Johannes

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Colleen Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. Introductions were exchanged among the committee members.

**2. Review and Approval of Minutes**

Motion: Karen McCue moved, second by Mary Lodes to approve the meeting minutes of May 15, 2017, as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Educational Topic: Veterans' Services Available in Waukesha County**

Michael Johannes of Waukesha County Health and Human Services, Veterans' Services division, presented on the Veterans' services that are available in Waukesha County.

Johannes reminded the committee that while the Veterans' Services division works with the Veteran's Association (VA), it is limited to data sharing, and they are two separate entities.

Every Wisconsin county has a Veterans' Services Officer (VSO), who must also be a veteran.

The veteran population is overwhelming Caucasian male, aged 55 or older. Waukesha has the third highest veteran population in Wisconsin, with approximately 26,000 veterans. This is following Milwaukee and Dane counties.

The Veterans' Services division is often working with surviving spouses and adult children. Johannes finds resources out in the community for whatever the veteran, surviving spouse, or adult children need in terms of health care, education, disability information, financial assistance, employment help, etc.

Every veteran does not automatically get health care. As of 1980, they must have two years of service, as well as no dishonorable discharge.

For mental health services, veterans need to go to the VA in Milwaukee. There is a van that will drop people off and pick them up at the main door, and patient advocates to assist inside the building.

The GI Bill in Wisconsin, giving free tuition at any UW-School or WCTC when the residency requirement is met, is an underutilized benefit offered to veterans.

Johannes stated that it can be very difficult to be awarded with service-connected disability. The most common claim is for PTSD. A civilian doctor could say that the veteran has PTSD, a claim is filed with the VA, and the response is that there no proof showing that it happened while serving. The VA will do their own exams, and their final response stands. There is an appeal process available, however it can take years before the veteran sees the outcome. To be awarded with service-connected disability, the veteran requires the VA determination on the claim and no dishonorable discharge.

Presumptive conditions are for chronic diseases that the VA admits to having caused or placed the veteran in the situation, such as the case with Agent Orange.

If a veteran served during a time of war, the pension benefit extends to the veteran and surviving spouse, provided their assets are under \$80,000.

Lodes commented that the Waukesha Service Club Thrift Shop offers a 25% discount to all vets.

**4. HHS Staff Liaison Report – Joan Sternweis/Danielle Birdeau**

Joan Sternweis announced that Danielle Birdeau is now the supervisor for the Crisis Intervention Services. Laurie Kohler has transferred to Adult Protective Services.

Budget season is here, with the first round of budget presentations being on July 14.

We need to look at children's mental health services. The rule is that if a child is receiving a service through the long-term waiver and is eligible to be covered by CCS but does not enroll in CCS, they could lose waiver services.

We are hopeful that there will be start-up or grant funding made available for a peer run respite.

Naloxone trainings have started with the Prescription Drug Overdose (PDO) Grant program. Contact Joan Sternweis or John Kettler if your organization is interested in hosting a training.

A federal grant for those wanting treatment for opioid treatment has awarded \$7.6 million to Wisconsin, who is then making \$1.8 million of that available to all counties in WI. Additional incentives will be made available as time goes on. Waukesha County has submitted an application.

The Youth Crisis Grant has been re-applied for.

Brad Haas reported that the CSP Network meeting was on Friday. They are looking to create one administrative rule for CRS, CSP, and CCS.

**5. Sub-Committee Reports**

**a. Board Liaison Report – Mary Lodes**

Lodes stated that there was a combined HHS Board and HHS Committee meeting last week.

The MHAC bylaws were approved with two minor changes:

1. Section V.B. should read "All committee agendas shall be submitted by the recorder to the Waukesha County Clerk who is responsible for posting them in accordance with public meeting law."
2. Section VI.A. should have "CCS" spelled out to "Comprehensive Community Services (CCS)."

The Board is looking to have local not-for-profits come to the meetings and present on their organizations. As they look at the budget, they not only want to know what Waukesha County staff

need, but also what the community needs. This past meeting, they had presentations from Addiction Resource Council, Waukesha Food Pantry, and the Waukesha County 24/7 Mobile Crisis program.

At the Board's Community Hearing Day, there were 48 participants, 2 of which were representing mental health needs.

**b. CCS Coordinating Committee – Danielle Birdeau**

Birdeau reported that the committee meets again next month. They are continuing to take on new referrals and admissions. She also recently submitted the 2016 outcomes to the State.

**c. Peer Specialist Committee of Waukesha County – Cathy Friend**

Birdeau reported that while the committee is on hold, the Peer Specialist training has started. There were 300+ applicants, and 18 were accepted – including someone from Friendships.

**d. Community Health Improvement Planning Process (CHIPP) Report – Mary Madden**

No report.

**e. Partnerships for Children's Mental Health – Danielle Birdeau**

Birdeau reported that there has been no formal meeting, but they are working on a multi-system workgroup. Eventually, they hope to turn the workgroup into steering committee that will go back to the Partnerships committee.

**6. Ongoing Business / Community Initiatives**

The youth-based Crisis Intervention Partners training is happening the end of this week. There were still 8 slots remaining. The CIP training is tied through initiatives from the Youth Crisis Grant.

**7. Agency Updates / Announcements**

No report.

**8. New Business**

Birdeau will work with Madden and Gonzalez regarding August's presentation.

Lodes will reach out to Sarah Spaeth to come speak on legislative updates. We would be looking at doing this during the September, 2017 meeting with the AODA Advisory Committee.

**9. Other**

No report.

**10. Adjourn**

Motion: Karen McCue moved, second by Helen Prozeller, to adjourn the meeting at 2:46 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janelle McClain.

Minutes Were Approved: Terry Findley Date: 8-21-17