

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE AD HOC  
MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., notice is hereby given to the public that an Ad Hoc Committee of the County Board of Supervisors met regarding mental health treatment on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, Sophie Beaumont Building, 111 N. Jefferson Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**Present:** Chair Guy Zima, Vice Chair Erik Hoyer, Asst. Corporation Counsel Rebecca Lindner, Retired Security Lieutenant Phil Steffen, Human Services Director Erik Pritzl, Citizen Member Pat La Violette, Chief Deputy Todd Delain, Security Lieutenant Scott Brisbane, Behavioral Health Manager Ian Agar, Green Bay Police Officer Barbara Gerarden, Director of Administration Chad Weininger, Nursing Home and Hospital Administrator Luke Schubert

**Excused:** JOSHUA Member Cheryl Weber

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**I. Call meeting to order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Zima at 12:02 pm.

**II. Approve/modify agenda.**

Motion made by Erik Hoyer, seconded by Pat La Violette to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**III. Approve/Modify Minutes of January 18, 2017.**

Motion made by Erik Hoyer, seconded by Chad Weininger to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**1. Report re: Sequential Intercept Mapping.**

**2. Discussion, review and possible action: Request that Brown County review its past and present mental health services and develop a more comprehensive plan to treat both short and long-term mental health patients including but not limited to 1) alcohol and drug abuse detox and treatment; and 2) children, adolescent and adult mental health treatment.**

**3. Discussion, review and possible action: Request that the Human Services Director and Brown County Sheriff work together to develop a plan to provide a treatment plan for prisoners who presently make up a third of our jail population.**

Human Services Director Erik Pritzl recalled this was discussed at the last meeting. One thing he feels is missing is knowing what Martha Arndt and Mental Health Connections is doing. He said it may be a good idea to invite Arndt to the next meeting to talk about the work she is doing because it fits in with the intercept mapping. Behavioral Health Manager Ian Agar will extend an invitation to Arndt to attend.

Director of Administrator Chad Weininger asked about the federal grant for housing. Pritzl feels it may be good to bring NEWCAP into the next meeting to talk about what is happening with the grant. He explained that there is a program manager working on this. They received a grant of \$500,000 to address chronic homeless people and they are working with 45 people at this time. Green Bay Police Officer Barbara Gerarden indicated that NEWCAP's goal is to have two people housed by the end of February and the remainder placed by June. Weininger said there may be some possibilities for collaboration on this. NEWCAP has pretty strict eligibility guidelines so some of the people we are looking at probably would not be a good fit for their program, but Pritzl feels it would be helpful to have the awareness and an overview of the program. Gerarden added that NEWCAP spoke at the Basic Needs meeting and indicated they have also received money for family housing. The NEWCAP representative will be at Coffee with a Cop on Friday.

Chair Zima asked about progress with the hospitals and crisis staff being allowed into the emergency rooms. Pritzl responded that Human Services is as close as they can possibly be to getting the agreement finalized. Assistant Corporation counsel Rebecca Lindner indicated that she looked at the contract and forwarded it on to Corporation Counsel Dave Hemery, and it sounds like it is a go with St. Mary's and St. Vincent. She said this is as close as we have been in eight years.

Pritzl continued that another piece of good news is that we now have standard medical clearance established with a risk level of low, moderate or high. This will allow people to be tiered into a risk level and not go through a rigorous medical clearance if they are low risk. The emergency departments and receiving facilities have agreed to this and the intended

start date is March 1. Nursing Home and Hospital Administrator Luke Schubert indicated they are already using this, but the goal is for everyone to be educated and trained by March 1. He said what will happen is that when someone presents, they will be triaged to the assessment criteria which will determine the tests that the physician will order and this will start right when the patient comes in. This is a big step forward towards standardized medical clearance. Gerarden said they are hopeful this reduces the amount of time law enforcement spends with people and they will be measuring this. She asked if this will also apply to Bay Haven and Schubert said he will explore this.

Zima asked what the capacity and census is at Nicolet and if it is sufficient to handle the cases that will be coming. Pritzl responded that capacity at Nicolet is 16 and the average daily population on a monthly basis is 12-13. Zima noted there has been some overflow the last few months and Pritzl agreed. He said that when it is appropriate, they do step people down from Nicolet. They are also being more careful about how many out-of-county residents they serve and it was noted that the priority is meeting the needs of Brown County residents. Zima recalled said a year or so ago we talked about increasing capacity and re-licensing some space. Pritzl said at this time it would be difficult to do this because Willow Creek can meet the overflow needs. He also noted that they have been utilizing Bay Haven more as well, not only on crisis stabilization, but also for adult protective services. Zima knows we are not meeting the needs of the community because the community does not even know that help is available. He recalled that we talked about outreach at an earlier meeting. He also said Willow Creek is a big joke and should be taken to task by someone. He has personal knowledge of someone who was taken to Willow Creek, but two hours into the intake process it was determined that the person did not have insurance or money and at that point the intake was stopped and the person was not helped any further at the facility. Zima said there are a lot of people in the community that have problems and the community needs to start addressing this and he feels the way to do it is with some sort of outreach. He has seen billboards for other facilities and feels that the County needs to do something so the people who want and need help know where to get it.

Pritzl said Willow Creek has advised that their goal is to increase voluntary services and admissions to take a load off involuntary services, but they have not explained how they will fund it. The County will be working on a contract with Willow Creek for emergency detentions, similar to the way things work with Bellin. He also noted that Bellin has increased capacity recently with psychiatry and are trying to open up more beds. Zima said the \$300,000 contract with Bellin seems to be under-utilized. Pritzl noted they have done some detoxes, but not \$300,000 worth. He said these things are getting going and noted that there should be more services for voluntary people in the community than there used to be. Zima feels Willow Creek is not an option and Pritzl suggested he contact the facility to discuss his concerns. Zima said Willow Creek originally said they would take all people regardless of ability to pay but once he grilled them a little bit they said that they would only take those people provided there was a bed set aside.

*Chad Weininger was excused at 12:25 pm*

Pritzl continued that he has submitted a request to NEWEye regarding outpatient services. Once a public service announcement is created, it can appear on NEWEye and then they could see if there are other places to air the video. Zima asked if a billboard would be feasible, but before that is done he wants to be sure there is capacity to serve the people. Pritzl said there is capacity available, but it will vary day by day.

Agar talked about outpatient services and noted that if someone is seeking alcohol and drug treatment, they can be seen within five days. If they are seeking a mental health counseling appointment they can be seen within seven days, but if it is an emergency they will be seen the same day or within a few days. If they need to see a psychiatrist but it is non-emergency, they can be seen within a month. Zima did not think a month was an appropriate response, but Pritzl recalled that there used to be a wait list of 226 people and now there is no wait list. Zima said this group has talked about increasing capacity and recertifying our facility and asked if there was any progress on this. Pritzl said nothing has been done to deconstruct what is in place. Zima recalled this as a mission over a year ago but Pritzl did not recall increasing capacity for inpatient. Zima said we specifically talked about recertifying for more space at the mental health center and he would like this on the next agenda. Zima also brought up the people that are sent to Trempealeau County and Winnebago County and whether these people could be handled in Brown County instead and he would like this put on the next agenda as well.

Agar said we are talking about two distinct populations. The people with immediate or short term needs are served at Nicolet or Winnebago. The population that goes to Trempealeau has much greater and long term needs that could not be served here or at Winnebago. Zima said there could be facilities here rather than a long distance away and it is time to get

serious about it. He recalled the County did have a long term facility here until the Kelso administration. There are very small handfuls of facilities in the state that can handle longer term needs.

Chief Deputy Todd Delain said he has heard that Mendota is now all criminal related and deals primarily with the state prison population. He has also heard they have reduced beds available for the jail population.

Pritzl recalled at the last meeting Zima asked Human Services to take a look at what the County is spending sending people to Trempealeau. They have done this and now they can start to look at how Trempealeau is licensed and make an analysis of what could be done similarly in Brown County. Pritzl said this is going to take some time but noted that the County is managing a very challenging population of people in different subgroups overall. These include people with acute psychiatric needs, adult long term care protective service type needs and the long term people that are in Trempealeau. Zima said at some point this group needs to address our missions. Pritzl reiterated he has looked at the numbers. He said Zima raises a great point of what are we doing for long term needs. Zima feels there are people in the community that are getting short term treatment that could use longer term treatment. Pritzl said that that may be true, but it is up to the court system and the person to sort that out. That is something the County can build for if it is found to be an unmet need. He agreed that sending people across the state to Trempealeau is not a great model. In some cases, guardians express an interest to have people get some distance from the area, but in general Pritzl feels it is better to keep people here in our own community.

Zima recalled that in the past we have talked about recertifying ourselves and putting ourselves back into the business of providing long term care to those who need it. There is no reason we cannot construct something and then open up some beds to out-of-county patients to help subsidize it. Zima said in the past there were three attempts to close the Mental Health Center and it was finally closed in 2007. He feels we have to get serious about this. Zima would like to have this put on the agenda for each meeting so it does not get put on the back burner.

Pritzl continued talking about the cost of sending people to Trempealeau and said that over the last three years the average was about \$1.5 million dollars. Zima said the money spent on Trempealeau could have been used to fund jobs here in Brown County to provide the services ourselves. Pritzl can get numbers regarding Winnebago as well, but noted that Trempealeau is the facility that provides long term placements. He would like to get away from using Winnebago as much as possible and noted that the only people they use Winnebago for are people that the County cannot handle in our own facility. Zima brought up the capacity in Brown County again and questioned if it was sufficient to help the people that really need it in the County. Pritzl feels we can meet the needs of Brown County, but that's probably it. The County does not necessarily need to add beds based on the current numbers. Zima is concerned with capacity if some outreach is done. Pritzl said that if Brown County stops being regional in focus and stops serving other counties, the current capacity is probably sufficient. Zima asked if it costs the County more than it brings in to provide the services. Pritzl said he does not feel we are neutral in that service. Zima said that beds that are full, even if it does not meet the cost to fill the bed, is still revenue coming in instead of having an empty bed.

Phil Steffen asked Pritzl if Brown County is competitive when it comes to wages. He asked about the competition in staffing and noted that we cannot add beds without adding staff. Zima feels it is important to meet the market so the appropriate people can be hired. He does not agree with the County Executive's position of not raising taxes when there are needs that need to be addressed. Pritzl said the more specialized a position is, the less competitive Brown County probably is. Zima feels this has always been the case in Brown County and feels this is just another excuse. Pritzl said that to mock anything up to show numbers of what it would cost to provide the services in house, it would be done under the current class and comp system. If there would be changes to the class and comp, there would be changes to the entire cost structure. Steffen said we also have to look at the competitive wages at other facilities. Lindner said Brown County does not come anywhere close to what Bellin pays their psychiatrists and noted that psychiatrists are very high in demand right now. Zima feels that psychiatry is basically experimenting with medications and he talked about nurse practitioners that can prescribe drugs. Both Lindner and Pritzl said the County came in way below market for the compensation for those positions as well. Zima said we have to get real with this and make the changes that need to be made. La Violette feels there is a strong commitment with this committee to do something about this but we have to look at everything, including the wage structure as part of the discussions. Pritzl said that they have had an APNP position open for quite some time and he feels that the compensation is the issue. Schubert said that the County is not taking advantage of the mid-level positions that are more efficient that should be in the class and comp. Pritzl noted that the psychiatrists do not fall in the class and comp structure, but the APNP does. If the APNP position was taken out of the class and comp and treated more like the

psychiatrist position, there would be more flexibility on the wages. Zima said the purpose of this subcommittee is to try to improve mental health services in Brown County and we have to address the things we are talking about instead of just using them as an excuse. He would like to see major things happen in the next several years. Pritzl said they will continue to work on meeting the needs of people long term. Zima said this group needs to be ready when the jail addition is made because he feels money can be slid off the jail bill onto the mental health bill and he feels this is something that will pass at the County Board.

Hoyer said in the past it seemed this group was dealing with more short term issues, but he appreciates that Zima wants to look at this from a long term perspective as well, but that is a longer process. Zima said this committee is a powerhouse of people and the recommendations of this group will mean something. Pritzl said it is important to have a plan when we get to the Board level. Zima said we cannot have the staff who should be the advocates for this being the most hesitant. He feels this subcommittee is full of well intentioned, intelligent people who can make a difference. He does not want more incarceration; he wants good mental health treatment for the community right here so people do not have to go out of the area for treatment. Hoyer said long term care is a good focus and noted that we are already talking about the budget for 2018. He said the important thing is to build a little more consensus among this group. He does not think we necessarily had the consensus of the entire group for moving as fast with last year's requests. Zima is very anxious about this because once the jail is expanded it will suck all of the money out of the budget and he feels that getting money for long-term mental health care has to happen in conjunction with the jail bonding. It was the consensus of the group that they were all on board with this.

Steffen said this group has accomplished some amazing things in a short period of time that helped take care of the short term needs. That process identified needs, which in turn identified longer term needs which are now being brought up. Pritzl is gathering data on these longer term needs so we can go forward. He said that one of the things the County Board will always need is facts; we cannot win on emotion.

Pritzl said he knows what Brown County spends on sending people to Trempealeau and now he needs to find out what other counties are spending on Trempealeau and how much they utilize it. Once he gets those numbers, he can start building around it and determining what it would look like to serve that group of people. Lindner said at this time Trempealeau serves the entire state and they are the only facility we can send long term people to. Both Pritzl and Lindner feel that having a regional center here would be very well received.

*Todd Delain was excused at 12:48 pm.*

Hoyer feels we may be at some risk of doing too much of how things used to be because the overall structure and how things are thought about are different now. Pritzl added that some of the laws have changed as well. Zima said the way we handle things may be different, but the number of people who need the help has not changed. He noted that the population increased by 22,000 in the last census and he does not suspect this is going to change much. He really wants Pritzl to map out what we need to accomplish what we want to accomplish. Schubert will work on getting information in the next month regarding how Trempealeau is staffed, licensed, etc.

Hoyer brought up the class and comp and asked if this is an issue that we should bring to Human Resources. Schubert asked if it would be as simple as recommending the position extenders be pulled out of the class and comp because they are part of the physician group since they are medical professionals. Pritzl said this would also be helpful in that vacation time could also be negotiated. Right now, wherever these people are coming from, they are probably getting at least four weeks' vacation. Hoyer asked if it would be appropriate to have someone from HR attend one of these meetings to show them we are serious about this. Pritzl suggested that steps be taken to change Chapter 4 to allow for flexibility of vacation benefits for exempt employees because he feels vacation is hampering recruitment in leadership positions. Hoyer said people are not even going to look at coming to Brown County if the salaries are not competitive. Zima feels there are a lot of positives in the area and they need to be put out there when looking to hire. Schubert added that he and Ian Agar recently met with two nurse practitioners, neither of whom has graduated yet, and Brown County is paying \$15,000 less than what the classmates of these people have been offered in the area.

Pritzl said he will talk about mobile crisis at the next meeting and provide an update. At this time, he asked Green Bay Police Officer Barb Gerarden if she wished to talk about the EM1 process. Gerarden said that over the last six months they have been working to try to reduce the police custody time during emergency detentions and they have made significant

progress. She provided information to Supervisor Buckley which will be included in the next Public Safety Committee agenda. She continued that in August when they started keeping track of this their average time spent on EM1s was over 11 hours and they were making a lot of runs to Winnebago County. As a team they worked on ways to try to reduce this. Bellin had agreed to try to take more, they tried to reduce the medical clearance time and utilize mobile crisis more often. They are close on a few things and Gerarden feels it will really help out when crisis staff is allowed in the emergency rooms at the HSHS hospitals. Over the course of six months they have reduced the average time from 14.7 hours down to 3.6. She said as a team they have done a good job collaborating and getting people the treatment they need and out of ERs, handcuffs and squad cars. Zima asked how many of those people Gerarden would estimate have been kept out of jail. Gerarden said that sadly they still see too many people getting arrested. The good thing is that they now have the specialty courts that help when people are taken to jail. She is all for decriminalizing and she would rather see these people get treatment than spend time in jail. GBPD is seeing positive things from all of the initiatives. She said that all of the partners who are working on this to improve things are doing a good job in working collaboratively. She also feels the voluntary option is an important element and she has seen this increase over the years. She would like to see data on voluntaries for mental health and alcohol treatment. In an ideal world if the voluntaries are going up, the EM1s should be going down. Pritzl said they track voluntary admissions to the CTC and Gerarden would like to get this information for the last several years. La Violette thanked Gerarden for all she does and coming to the meeting to provide information.

Pritzl said the jail liaison will attend the next meeting to talk about what is going on at the jail and they will also talk about what other counties are spending on sending people to Trempealeau. Pritzl will also provide an update on the day report center and mobile crisis. Zima would also like a report on the number of beds the County had in the past compared to now and also how to bring the licenses back we used to have to serve more people. He feels if we are really going to start treating more people, the 16 beds at Nicolet are not enough. He does not feel we are reaching all of the short term people that need help. Pritzl said that most days there is enough room at Nicolet, but if we start co-mingling long term and short term placements, there would not be enough beds.

Zima brought up the outreach efforts he talked about in the past. Pritzl said he will have more information on the public service announcement he spoke of at the last meeting. Zima feels that more than just a public service announcement is needed. He would like to see some brochures and billboards. Gerarden said that web based is where it is at and noted that an app would also be a great idea. She said that apps are being used in some larger cities that track where people are at and give them directions on their phone right to where they can receive services. Agar added that Mental Health Connections has a whole effort across the entire region. He feels that Martha Arendt can provide more information on this and he has invited her to attend a meeting to talk about this. Pritzl also said that 211 has the database of all community resources. Hoyer added that we have to take a step below and consider that a person in crisis may have some difficulties with some of these contact methods.

**4. Such other matters as authorized by law.**

The next meeting date was discussed and March 15, 2017 at 12:00 pm was selected.

**Motion made by Erik Hoyer, seconded by Phil Steffen to adjourn at 1:16 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Recording Secretary