



*The Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force is the voice of the community on issues related to the quality and responsiveness of mental health and substance abuse disorder services.*

June 2020

Dear Mental Health Task Force Member,

This is the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force's 16th year of education, advocacy and collaboration. We thank you for your partnership and participation in the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force.

Our new membership year begins August 1.

- **If you are currently a member**, thank you for your past support. Please renew your membership.
- **If you or your agency are not members**, we warmly invite you to join!

The MMHTF was formed in 2004. It includes participants from over 40 organizations and community members who work collaboratively to identify issues faced by people affected by mental illness, facilitate improvements in services, give consumers and families a strong voice, reduce stigma, and implement recovery principles.

***We need your support to sustain our important work – please join or renew your membership.*** Your membership will support our work as a positive force for systems change, cover a portion of staff costs to coordinate the task force, and ensure our programs are open to all. This includes:

- Educating the community and policy makers about public policy and other issues impacting people with mental illness, such as our January Milwaukee County Executive Candidate Forum, hosting focus groups on crisis services redesign, education on the mental health needs of Wisconsin's diverse communities including the *State of Hmong Mental Health*, and training on voting rights and registration. Our annual ***Briefing on Milwaukee County Budget Requests*** will be held in August (tentative date is August 11).
- The value of the Task Force was recognized by policy makers who included a designated position for the MMHTF Chair on the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board. To support this role, the Task Force conducts surveys on behavioral health priorities, briefings on county and state budgets, sponsors meetings with elected officials and policy makers, candidate forums, and develops position papers and budget analysis. Task Force leadership serve on state councils and committees to bring a Milwaukee perspective.
- Advancing efforts to address mental illness in the criminal justice system, including medical and mental health care for detainees, efforts to train law enforcement and other first responders, and active engagement with the MacArthur Foundation Grant to advance systemic change to divert more people with mental illness from the criminal justice system.
- Task Force administration including updating our *Mental Health Task Force Directory*, maintaining the web site and listserv, coordinating forums and other meetings with elected officials, developing task force position papers and legislative testimony, writing funding proposals, and serving as the MHTF fiscal agent.

We welcome organizational members as well as "community supporters" - individuals who want to support the task force. All members will be recognized and honored in task force materials and at our Annual Karen Avery Forum scheduled for Tuesday September 9<sup>th</sup>, which will focus on housing. *Save the date and stay tuned for details!*

Please support the work of the task force with your membership donation and continue to work with us to facilitate improvements in service, give consumers and families a strong voice, reduce stigma, and implement recovery principles. Please return the enclosed form with your check by July 31, 2020. Questions? Contact MHTF Coordinator Barbara Beckert at [barbara.beckert@drwi.org](mailto:barbara.beckert@drwi.org) or 414-292-2724. Thank you for your partnership.

*Mary Neubauer*

Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force Co-chairs

*Christine Apple*