



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.

State Budget Hearings - Make Your Voice Heard (4/9/2019)

The State Budget process is moving forward. We encourage you to take an active role and share your budget priorities with your legislators and with the Joint Finance Committee which plays a lead role in budget decisions. This is a great opportunity to support funding for Medicaid expansion, special education, mental health services, transportation, support for youth and adults with mental illness in the corrections system or youth justice system, and much more.

Turn out this Wednesday April 10th for the Joint Committee on Finance Budget Hearing in Oak Creek, at the Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 South Howell Avenue, 10 AM – 5 PM. Members of the public are invited to attend and speak about their priorities for the budget.

Budget Advocacy Tips

- If you want to speak at the hearing, **arrive early**. Complete a registration slip and check the option to speak. Bring copies of your comments to turn in for the 16 committee members, and additional copies for other legislators who may attend. I try to bring 25 copies.
- The Committee limits testimony to two minutes per individual or 5 minutes per group.
- You can also email your comments on the budget to the Joint Finance Committee, at budgetcomments@legis.wisconsin.gov. This is a great way to share your budget priorities if you are not able to attend a budget hearing.
- Stay in touch with your own state legislators and share your budget priorities. You can find your state legislators at: <https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/>
- **Share a story that help** explain why a budget proposal is important to you. Your story can help legislators understand the impact of the budget on people with disabilities and their families.
- For those who like to get into the details of the budget, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau has released their analysis of the Governor budget proposal. You can read their budget papers at- http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/budget/2019_21_biennial_budget/
- For disability related accommodations, contact Becky at 608-266-3847.

What's in the Budget That Benefits People with Mental Illness?

- Medicaid expansion would benefit many low income people who live with a mental illness.
- Increased Medicaid rates for physician's & medical clinics providing mental health, behavioral health and psychiatric services
- Creates a grant to fund five regional crisis stabilization centers
- Provides some state funding for Medicaid crisis intervention services delivered by counties for treatment of mental illness, intellectual disability, substance abuse, and dementia.
- Expands Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS) program statewide.
- \$63M for access to mental health services for school age children, additional staff, and training.
- See our highlights document for more information.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Notice of Public Hearings

The Joint Committee on Finance will hold public hearings on the Governor's 2019-21 Biennial Budget (Assembly Bill 56/Senate Bill 59) -- according to the following schedule:

Friday, April 5, 2019 (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)*

Pontiac Convention Center
2809 North Pontiac Drive
Janesville, WI 53545

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)*

Oak Creek Community Center
8580 South Howell Avenue
Oak Creek, WI 53154

Monday, April 15, 2019 (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)*

University of Wisconsin – River Falls
University Center – Riverview Ballroom #260
500 Wild Rose Avenue
River Falls, WI 54022

Free Public Parking Accessible at: PAY 1 LOT, North Second Street, River Falls, WI 54022

Wednesday, April 24, 2019 (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)*

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
University Union - Phoenix Rooms
2430 Campus Court
Green Bay, WI 54311

ALBERTA DARLING
Senate Chair

JOHN NYGREN
Assembly Chair

**The Committee will conclude taking testimony at the time specified. Written comments can be emailed to the Committee at BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov, or sent via U.S. mail to: Joe Malkasian, Room 305 East, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702.*

Individuals needing assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact
Becky Hannah, Legislative Fiscal Bureau, One East Main Street, Suite 301, Madison, WI 53703
(608) 266-3847 • Fax (608) 267-6873 • Email: Fiscal.Bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov



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.

Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force – State Budget Highlights *rev 4/7/2019*

The following proposals are included in Governor Tony Evers proposed budget, and address Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force priorities.

Medicaid Expansion – *Increases access to healthcare and allows state dollars to be used for other Medicaid services that benefit people with mental illness.*

- Allows people making up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level to access health care through BadgerCare. Would allow Wisconsin to receive additional federal dollars through the ACA.
- Would expand eligibility to include additional low-income people with disabilities who may not be eligible for “EBD” Medicaid, family caregivers, and low-income workers providing care services for people with disabilities.

Mental Health and Crisis Services – *improve access to mental health and crisis services*

- Increased Medicaid rates for physician’s & medical clinics providing mental health, behavioral health and psychiatric services
- Creates a grant to fund five regional crisis stabilization centers
- Provides some state funding for Medicaid crisis intervention services delivered by counties for treatment of mental illness, intellectual disability, substance abuse, and dementia.
- Creates a new medical admissions unit at Winnebago Mental Health Institute
- Funding for providers to implement electronic healthcare information exchange.

Dental Care – *Medicaid members currently have great difficulty accessing dental care.*

- \$5M for payments to dental providers that serve Medicaid recipients with physical and intellectual disabilities
- 50% increase in Medicaid reimbursement for non-profit dental providers who serve 50% or more of people who don’t have dental insurance or who use Medicaid
- 30% increase in Medicaid reimbursement for for-profit dental providers who serve at least 5% of persons in Medicaid.
- Increases in Medicaid reimbursement for dentists serving people enrolled in Medicaid managed care.
- Licensure of Dental Therapists in Wisconsin who work under the supervision of a dentist and help to extend access to dental care

K-12 Education *Children with mental health needs and other disabilities have experienced an erosion of quality special education services due to flat funding for special education categorical aid over the last decade while costs have increased by 60%.*

- Increases the reimbursement to local school districts for special education from 24% to 60%
- \$63M for access to mental health services for school age children, additional services staff, and training for staff and parents.
- Changes funding mechanism to fully cover costs for high-cost special education students.

Children’s Long Term Support Program – *Ends waiting lists for kids with significant disabilities.*

- Permanently eliminates waiting list for kids with significant disabilities for the Children’s Long Term Support Medicaid waiver.
- Implements a statewide contract for children’s long-term care intake
- Funds improvements to intake and eligibility screening functions, benefits counseling, support for families navigating the system, and establishes a children’s disability ombudsman

Juvenile Justice – *Wisconsin youth with mental health needs are over-represented in the youth justice system*

- Returns 17-year-olds from adult court to the juvenile court system.
- Increases funding for redesign of the youth justice system, for smaller, more community-based facilities, allowing the closing of Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake.
- Funds a 14-bed expansion at the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center to provide mental health services and treatment to youth in the justice system

Corrections (Adult) – *Support for treatment, diversion, and re-entry support for individuals with mental illness in our criminal justice system*

- Expands Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS) program statewide; increases capacity in southeastern Wisconsin
- Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Program Expansion: \$1 million in each year of the biennium as a one-time increase for TAD.
- Funds a new unit at the Wisconsin Resources Center to serve the mental health and alcohol and drug abuse needs of inmates at DOC.
- Increases staff at Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center to continue to offer treatment to patients with severe mental health challenges who are involved in the forensic system.
- State Public Bar: Increases private bar rate to \$70 an hour from \$40 – the lowest in the country.

Transportation – *Accessible affordable transportation is a key support for recovery and independence.*

- Increases general transit aids by 10%
- Creates a transit capital assistance program to help replace aging buses
- \$6M increase to Specialized Transportation aids
- 10 percent increase for paratransit aids
- Clarifies local governments can work together on transit services that cross county or municipal borders.

Housing – *A high percentage of those experiencing homelessness have significant mental health needs.*

Expands programs to relieve homelessness and promote Housing First, with \$3.75 million to fund recommendations from the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

- Homeless prevention program grants used for eviction prevention & other housing programs
- Funds case management to support diversion from the homeless system to housing
- Increased funding for the state shelter subsidy grant; for homeless case management services program; and for Skills Enhancement Program
- Funds a new Housing Navigation program. Local groups could hire housing navigators who work with private landlords to secure housing for homeless individuals.
- \$500k for runaway and homeless youth shelters. A high percentage who experience housing insecurity or homelessness have significant mental health needs.

2019 Joint Committee on Finance - Members

Senate Members



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Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES: April 3, 2019

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-7443

Media Advisory: Gov. Evers, Lt. Gov. Barnes to Visit Kenosha for Statewide Budget Listening Tour

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers and Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes today announced the second stop of their statewide budget listening tour to hear from people of Wisconsin about what the governor's budget means to Wisconsinites and their families. Gov. Evers and Lt. Gov. Barnes will continue The People's Budget Listening Session Tour on Wednesday, April 10, in Kenosha at the Kenosha Public Museum. Wisconsinites interested in attending the Kenosha budget listening session can register online [here](#).

WHO: Gov. Evers, Lt. Gov. Barnes, and members of the Legislature

WHAT: The People's Budget Listening Session Tour

WHEN: Wed., April 10, 2019; 5:30-7 p.m.; doors open at 4:45 p.m.

WHERE: Kenosha Public Museum
Daimler Chrysler Hall
5500 1st Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53140

NOTE: Press to RSVP to GovPress@wisconsin.gov

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