



*The Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force is committed to being a leader in identifying issues faced by all people affected by mental illness, facilitating improvements in mental health services, giving consumers and families a strong voice, reducing stigma, and implementing recovery principles.*

## **Process for Expressing Interest in Being Recommended for Consideration for Open Mental Health Board Position, updated 8/10/2020**

In 2014, the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board was created by *2013 Wisconsin Act 203* to oversee the provision of mental health functions and services in Milwaukee County. There is currently an open position on the board, as Robert Curry has resigned. We thank Robert for his service. His resignation leaves open the position on the board for **“A representative of the community who is a consumer of mental health services.”** The bill includes a procedure for filling vacant positions – here is the language specific to this open position:

*A representative of the community who is a consumer of mental health services and who is suggested by the Milwaukee County board of supervisors. The Milwaukee County board of supervisors shall solicit suggestions for individuals who have experienced mental illness or substance abuse from organizations including Warmline, the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force, and the Milwaukee Co-occurring Competency Cadre. The Milwaukee County board of supervisors shall suggest to the Milwaukee County executive 4 representatives of the community for this board membership position.*

The Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force (MMHTF) is designated in the bill as one of the organizations that the County Board of Supervisors shall solicit for suggestions for individuals who could serve in this position. Mary Neubauer Co-chair of the Mental Health Task Force has contacted County Board Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson to discuss that the Task Force will suggest up to three individuals to be considered for this position.

The Steering Committee is inviting Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force participants to recommend individuals for the open position, of an individual who has utilized mental health services/ “has experienced mental illness or substance use”, is interested in serving, can commit the time to serve on the board, and who bring a commitment to the values of the board and other criteria noted below, **including involvement with the Mental Health Task Force. You may also self-nominate should you wish to serve.**

If you meet the criteria and are interested in being considered, please email your CV/resume and a one page statement regarding your interest by end of business August 25th to Task Force Coordinator Barbara Beckert at [barbara.beckert@drwi.org](mailto:barbara.beckert@drwi.org).

The statement should explain your interest in serving and address the key criteria for service as defined in this document. You may nominate others or self-nominate.

- If you elect to nominate others, please confirm with the individual(s) their ability to fulfill the criteria for service identified in this document, and work with them to prepare the one page statement regarding their qualifications.
- If a CV/ Resume is not immediately available, please submit the one page statement of interest and indicate the CV/Resume will follow.

All statements submitted will be reviewed by the Steering Committee which will identify up to three candidates who best meet the criteria. *Note: Members of the Steering Committee who are nominated will **not** participate in the process.* The Steering Committee will advance up to three names to the full Task Force, and to the County Board.

Note that the Mental Health Task Force responsibility is limited to identifying names to suggest to the County Board which then has the responsibility to recommend to the County Executive four candidates for the position. The ultimate decision as to whom to appoint will be made by the County Executive, as designated in the bill.

### **Key Criteria for Service Identified by the Mental Health Task Force**

- Demonstrated commitment to values of the Mental Health Board as described in the legislation: “The MCMHB must facilitate delivery of mental health services in an efficient and effective manner by committing to community–based, person–centered, recovery–oriented, mental health systems; maximizing comprehensive community–based services; prioritizing access to community–based services and reducing reliance on institutional and inpatient care; protecting the personal liberty of individuals experiencing mental illness so that they may be treated in the least restrictive environment to the greatest extent possible; providing early intervention to minimize the length and depth of psychotic and other mental health episodes; diverting people experiencing mental illness from the corrections system when appropriate; and maximizing use of mobile crisis units and crisis intervention training.”
- Demonstrated commitment to cultural competence, including to utilizing strategies that respect and honor the cultural norms, behaviors, and habits of the persons receiving services and communities in which they live/work, and to ensure that language and cultural-specific services are readily available.
- Demonstrated commitment to ensuring a strong voice for those with lived experience in policy and service delivery, and to recovery values. The consumer representative from the community must identify as being in recovery.
- Ability to make the time commitment to participate in monthly meetings at a time of day to be determined. The bill says the board will meet at least 6 times a year but may meet more frequently. Note: This is a volunteer position and is not compensated.
- Knowledge of and experience with the Milwaukee County mental health and substance use system.
- Knowledge and experience with county and state policy and budget concerns and/or willingness to dedicate the time needed to learn
- Cannot be a lobbyist.
- Is sensitive to conflict of interest concerns and will focus on the communal interest putting those ahead of any personal or agency interests.
- Effective communicator in a public setting and willing to be a strong voice at Mental Health Board meetings.
- Commitment to seeking input from community members and groups regarding the work of the board and providing updates and information.
- Has been a participant in the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force and espouses the ideals of the Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force. Candidates who have not been involved with the Task Force may be considered, but candidates who are Task Force participants are strongly preferred.
- **Residency in Milwaukee County.** Residency in Milwaukee County is strongly preferred. We believe the experience of living and providing services in Milwaukee County is an important component of the experience this position would bring.

For more information:

- Mental Health Board web site: <http://county.milwaukee.gov/BehavioralHealthDivi7762/Mental-Health-Board.htm>
- Link to Act 203 - <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/related/acts/203.pdf>