



# Milwaukee County Mental Health Board

Overview

# Formation of the Mental Health Board

## **Prior to 2014:**

- County Board of Supervisors held the oversight responsibility for mental health functions, programs and services for the County.
- County Board of Supervisors set the budget for behavioral health and substance use funding as part of the overall County Budget.
- County Board's Health and Human Needs Committee often requested additional information slowing the contracts approval process
- In 2013, County Executive Chris Abele and state-level leaders called for mental health care reforms to address problems with the County-run hospital and involuntary detention services.

- A legislative task force recommended that mental health services be removed from the purview of the County Board and instead administered by a board of mental health experts.
- State legislation drafted to form a new oversight body comprised of mental health professionals, stakeholders, and advocates
- Led by State Representatives Joe Sanfelippo, Sandy Pasch, Leah Vukmir, and others

## **2014:**

- 2013 Act 203 was passed by the state legislature and signed into law by Governor Scott Walker on April 8, 2014 – creation of the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board

# 2013 Act 203 Defines Mental Health Board Functions & Structure

- Board oversees Behavioral Health Services (BHS) of the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services, which is responsible for ensuring the provision of behavioral health services for county residents.
  - Sets policy regarding BHS programs and services
  - Provides effective fiscal stewardship of the BHS budget
  - Reviews the quality of BHS services for the County's diverse population
  - Maintains a community-based, person-centered, recovery-oriented approach
- Thirteen-member board comprised of:
  - mental health professionals, advocates, consumers/family members, and providers representing the continuum of care within Milwaukee County.
- Four-year terms with limit of two terms (or up to ten years if partial term)
- Reference: [More details in State Statutes Chapter 51.41](#)

# Board Seats Represent Constituencies

	<b>Seat</b>
1.	Psychiatrist/Psychologist – Child
2.	Psychiatrist/Psychologist - Adult
3.	Consumer Experience
4.	Psychiatric Mental Health Advanced Practice Nurse
5.	Finance / Administration Expertise
6.	Health Care Provider – Substance Abuse
7.	Legal Expertise
8.	Community-Based Mental Health Service Provider
9.	Consumer/Family Member Representing Community-Based Mental Health Service Providers
10.	County Community Programs Board Chairperson (or designee)
11.	Mental Health Task Force Chairperson (or designee)
12.	Medical College of WI Health Care Provider (non-voting)
13.	UW-Madison Health Care Provider (non-voting)

# Mental Health Board

First Meeting  
July 2014

Governor Scott Walker made the initial member appointments to form the board in 2014 (excluding ex-officio members).

1. Peter Carlson
2. Robert Chayer
3. Ronald Diamond
4. Jon Lehrmann
5. Thomas Lutzow
6. Lyn Malofsky
7. Jeffrey Miller
8. Mary Neubauer (ex-officio)
9. Maria Perez
10. Duncan Shroul (ex-officio)
11. Kimberly Walker -- Chair
12. Brenda Wesley
13. Nathan Zeiger

Transitional Liaison Kathleen Eilers hired to facilitate board launch and develop board governance policies.

# 2024 Mental Health Board

(as of 3/1/24)

	Seat	Nominating Authority	Member Name
1.	Psychiatrist/Psychologist - Children	County Board	Amy Ridley Meyers
2.	Psychiatrist/Psychologist - Adult	County Board	Maria Perez
3.	Consumer Experience	County Board	Shirley Drake -- Secretary
4.	Psychiatric Mental Health Advanced Practice Nurse	County Board	Kathleen Eilers – Vice Chair
5.	Finance / Administration Expertise	County Executive	Richard Canter
6.	Health Care Provider – Substance Abuse	County Executive	Kenneth Ginlack
7.	Legal Expertise	County Executive	Katharine Bottoni
8.	Community-Based Mental Health Service Provider	County Board	Rachel Forman
9.	Consumer/Family Member Representing Community-Based Mental Health Service Providers	County Executive	LaNelle Ramey
10	County Community Programs Board Chairperson (or designee)	Ex-Officio	Dennise Lavrenz
11.	Mental Health Task Force Chairperson (or designee)	Ex-Officio	Mary Neubauer -- Chair
12.	Medical College of WI Health Care Provider (non-voting)	County Executive	Jon Lehrmann
13.	UW-Madison Health Care Provider (non-voting)	County Executive	Vacant

# Board Committees

## Standing Committees

- Executive Committee – meets if board action required
- Finance – meets quarterly plus 6-7 additional meetings for contracts and budget approval
- Governance – meets bi-monthly
- Quality – meets quarterly

## Ad Hoc Committee (meets as needed)

- Community Engagement

# BHS Leadership & Board Staff

## BHS Administrator

- Michael Lappen serves in this role which has shared oversight by the Department of Health and Human Services Director and the Mental Health Board.

## BHS Leadership Team

- provides regular reports to the Mental Health Board and its committees.

## Board Staff

- Research Analyst provides independent research and analysis to support board governance
  - Kate Flynn Post serves in this role which reports to the Board Chairperson.
- BHS Staff provides administrative support including committee coordination
  - Jennifer Miles serves as Interim Board Liaison.



# Connect with the Mental Health Board

- Share questions and comments with the board via email: [MHB@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:MHB@milwaukeecountywi.gov)
- The general public is welcome to attend Mental Health Board and Committee meetings. Board meetings convene in-person. Committee meetings convene virtually. Meeting schedule, links, and agenda can be found here: [Governance \(milwaukee.gov\)](#)
- The Mental Health Board convenes several special **public comment hearings** each year to hear direct input from community members on a regular basis. The Mental Health Board invites community feedback into the budget development process each year.
- **2024 Mental Health Board Public Comment Hearings**
  - Budget Input: March 21, 4:30pm – Washington Park Senior Center
  - General Comments: Sept. 26, 4:30pm – Washington Park Senior Center

# Behavioral Health Services Budget

## 2025 Budget Development Timeline

### Public Comment Opportunities

- March 21, 4:30pm: Mental Health Board Public Comment Meeting – Washington Park Senior Center
- Spring: Departments receive tax levy targets and fringe benefit allocations from County Executive's central budget office
- June 6: Finance Committee preliminary budget proposal presentation
- June 11, 4:30pm: Finance Committee: Formal budget overview and public comment – Washington Park Center
- Late-June: MCMHB members have opportunity to put forth formal budget recommendations that are voted on by Finance Committee
- June 27, 1:30pm: Finance Committee: Budget presentation and public comment – Washington Park Senior Center
- July 11: Mental Health Board budget consideration/approval – Budget sent to County Executive
- Summer: County Executive may adjust BHS budget based on policy recommendations, updated fringe benefit assumptions, etc.
- October 1: County Executive recommends final BHS budget as part of overall County budget. County Board may not reduce amount of BHS budget per state statute.



# Comments/Questions for the Mental Health Board?

[MHB@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:MHB@milwaukeecountywi.gov) (general)

[Mary.Neubauer@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:Mary.Neubauer@milwaukeecountywi.gov) (Board Chair)