

Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council

August 16, 2024 Minutes

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The meeting was conducted by Zoom rather than in-person. The Zoom meeting information was made available on the DCF DMCPs Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council webpage on August 8, 2024. (<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/mcps/partnership-council>).

Welcome Interim Chair, Sarah Henery, Administrator, Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services

Sarah Henery welcomed and recognized interim Chairperson Libby Mueller.

Notice of Meeting – Chairperson Mueller reviewed compliance with Open Meetings Law requirements.

First, the notice of the meeting was published on the DCF and DOA websites on August 8, 2024, and in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on August 12, 2024.

Second, the notice was emailed to the newspaper of record for the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin State Journal, on August 8, 2024.

The notice was emailed to the Partnership Council stakeholders including any media who had requested such notice on August 7, 2024.

Finally, the agenda was posted on the front door of the DMCPs building at 635 N. 26th St. on August 12, 2024.

This satisfies the requirements for notice under Wis. Stat. 19.84(1)(b).

Members Present:

Chairperson welcomed and introduced three new Council members: Rochelle Johnson-Bent, Dr. Juan Baez, and Katie Holtz.

At the request of Chairperson Mueller, a roll call was taken to identify the Partnership Council members present for the meeting.

Present at meeting were: Chairperson Libby Mueller, Judge Jane Carroll, Carmen Pitre, Sally Yeldell, Santana Lee, Katie Holtz, Supervisor Patti Logsdon, Kelly Pethke, Bria Grant, Rochelle Johnson-Bent, Dr. Juan Baez, Representative Darrin Madison, and Senator LaTonya Johnson.

A quorum of the Council was present on the Zoom meeting.

Review and Approval of Past Minutes, Libby Mueller, Chair

Chairperson Mueller requested approval of the minutes from the May Partnership Council meeting. Carmen Pitre motioned to approve. Kelly Pethke seconded. Unanimously passed.

View from the Bench, Judge Jane Carroll, Presiding Judge, Milwaukee County Children's Court Center

Judge Carroll shared there has been movement in the judiciary. Judge Marshall Murray retired, and Judge John Remington began his new appointment in July. Recurrent August judicial rotation has begun.

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Milwaukee County Children's Court is working with Department of Children and Families on a project regarding dispositional orders for juvenile justice and child welfare side along with best practices. A secure residential facility for juvenile justice youth is aimed to be built and in service by 2026. There will be a meeting to discuss if there can be approval for a new secure courtroom to be built.

MCWPC Subcommittees Updates

Prevention and Support Subcommittee Carmen Petri, President and CEO of Sojourner Family Peace Center and Chairperson for Prevention and Support Subcommittee:

Carmen Petri shared the primary focus in the first committee meeting was reviewing the scope and charge given to the committee by the Council. She praised the presentation on the internal efforts happening around prevention by Lee Johnson, Access Section Manager at DMCPs. On Lee Johnson's behalf, Bridget Chybowski presented the role of Access/ Initial Assessment and prevention efforts at DMCPs. See PowerPoint Presentation on the DMCPs website:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/mcps/partnership-council>.

Next committee meeting will be in-person September 19th and the location is pending. Any Partnership Council member is invited to attend.

Carmen Pitre requested feedback from Partnership Council members regarding the focus and direction of the Prevention and Support subcommittee. PC members shared need to build in community support. Katie Holtz suggested updating the charge to focus on welfare in community and changing it to state "at risk of being involved with CPS". Chairperson Mueller called for vote to update by laws wording to be "This committee works to identify needs of families who are at risk of being involved with CPS". Carmen Pitre motioned to approve. Dr. Juan Baez seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Mueller shared the last Critical Incident Committee meeting occurred in June and the Citizen Review Panel Annual Report was presented and there was a closed session.

No updated was provided by the Teen Subcommittee.

National Citizen Review Panel Conference Discussion

Partnership Council Members who attended the National Citizen Review Panel Conference shared their experiences. Bridget Chybowski shared in Zoom chat next National CRP will be in 2026 and there is a state conference in October 2024 that will be held through Zoom.

DMCPs Updates/Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Update, Sarah Henery, Administrator, Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services

Sarah Henery reviewed Family First Prevention Services Act was 2018 Federal Legislation to reduce the use of group care and Breaking Barriers efforts are to ensure children and youth in out-of-home care are placed in the most appropriate setting for their specific needs. Last year of initiative. The Goal is 40% reduction of group care by end of year. Sarah Henery shared this was an ambition goal made within the committee. Since December 2021 to July 2024, there has been a 23% reduction in group care in Milwaukee. Children's Wisconsin rates of reduction in

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group care have been significant. Partnership Council members requested more in depth data regarding age groups. Sarah Henery responded more data can be presented next meeting but there is not much for children under the age of 12. Santana Lee asked can the funding that was designated to group care be moved to budget for preventative care. Sarah Henery answered that these are designated funds and can not be reallocated but the Budget office is starting to look into preventative care. Encourage members to talk to legislative representatives about funding.

Sarah Henery shared DCF will be implementing Youth Villages Intercept Program. This program will provide intensive in-home parenting skills to prevent children from entering out-of-home care. Jill Collins shared the website for information and pre-certification process on the Intercept Program:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/doingbusinesswith/anticipatedprocurements/interceptprogram>

Mental Health Redesign Committee Update, Ann Leinfelder Grove, President and CEO of Wellpoint Care Network

Ann Leinfelder Grove presented the efforts to provide acute and long-term mental health treatments for Milwaukee residents and serve community-based care to low income and underserved population. Mental Health Redesign Committee's primary priorities are focusing on need support for systems of care, improve youth access to mobile responses, and Outpatient access to care.

The Redesign Committee is attentive toward group of youth with high acute mental health needs which has had difficulty funding. There are efforts for advocacy for more psychiatric treatments and highlighting strategy teams. Lauren Hubbard, Director of Community Crisis Services, is focusing on access to mental health at the 16th Street Community Center.

Partnership Council members requested data driven programming and suggested using the feedback from youth survey, heat mapping input, and reaction and focus group with parents and youth.

Community Input

No community input.

Concluding Remarks, Libby Mueller, Chair

Chairperson Mueller requested motion to adjourn meeting. Carmen Pitre motioned to approve. Rochelle Johnson- Bent seconded. Unanimously passed.

Adjourn