BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Brown County

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Guy Zima, Chairman
Erik Hoyer, Vice Chairman

MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT COMMITTEE: AD HOC
Wednesday, September 20, 2017
12:00 p.m.
Conference Room E03, 1st Floor
Sophie Beaumont Building
111 N. Jefferson Street
Green Bay, Wisconsin

I. Call to Order.
II. Approve/Modify Agenda.
III. Approve/Modify Minutes of August 16, 2017.

1. Communication from Chair Zima and Judge Zuidmulder re: Have staff provide a breakdown and explanation of the expenditures made from the $1.15 million dollars allocated for mental health services during the County budget process for 2016 and 2017.

2. Update re: Long range mental health needs in Brown County including what could be funded by County Executive Streckenbach's proposed half-percent sales tax.

3. Discussion, review and possible action: Request that Brown County review its past and present mental health services and develop a more comprehensive plan to treat both short and long term mental health patients including but not limited to 1) alcohol and drug abuse detox and treatment; and 2) children, adolescent and adult mental health treatment.

4. Discussion, review and possible action: Request that the Human Services Director and Brown County Sheriff work together to develop a plan to provide a treatment plan for prisoners who presently make up a third of our jail population.

5. Discussion re: Recertifying County operations to return to previous services providing long-term care.

6. Update re: Outreach efforts.

7. Such other matters as authorized by law.

8. Adjourn.

Guy Zima, Chair

Notice is hereby given that action by Committee may be taken on any of the items which are described or listed in this agenda. Please take notice that it is possible additional members of the Board of Supervisors may attend this meeting, resulting in a majority or quorum of the Board of Supervisors. This may constitute a meeting of the Board of Supervisors for purposes of discussion and information gathering relative to this agenda.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE AD HOC
MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., notice is hereby given to the public that an Ad Hoc Committee of the County Board of Supervisors met regarding mental health treatment on Wednesday, August 16, 2017 in the Wellness Room of the Aging and Disability Resource Center, 300 South Adams Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Present: Chair Guy Zima, Vice Chair Erik Hoyer, EXPO Green Bay Representative Christopher Zahn, Green Bay Community Police Officer Paul Van Handel, Citizen Representative Pat La Violette, Supervisor Richard Schadewald, Deputy Executive Jeff Flynt, JOSHUA Representative Chery Weber, Health and Human Services Director Erik Pritzl, Green Bay Police Officer Jason Allen, Security Lieutenant Scott Brisbane, Hospital Administrator Luke Schubert, District Attorney David Lasee, Judge Zuidmulder, Assistant Corporation Counsel Rebecca Lindner, Housing Authority Administrator Robyn Hallett, Connections for Mental Wellness Representative Bree Decker, Wellspring Representative Kathy Gage, Interested Citizen Dave Dunlop, UWGB Safe and Stable Housing Study Principle Investigators and Report Authors Dr. Lora Warner, Dr. David Helpap and Ryan Sievert

Excused: Sheriff John Gossage

I. Call meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Erik Hoyer at 12:02 pm.

II. Approve/modify agenda.

Motion made by Pat La Violette, seconded by Erik Pritzl to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Approve/Modify Minutes of July 19, 2017.

Motion made by Cheryl Weber, seconded by Erik Pritzl to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Communication from Chair Zima and Judge Zuidmulder re: Have staff provide a breakdown and explanation of the expenditures made from the $1.15 million dollars allocated for mental health services during the County budget process for 2016 and 2017.

Health and Human Services Director Erik Pritzl provided a summary of expenditures, a copy of which is attached, and indicated that he will do this on a monthly basis as long as requested.

Pritzl informed that residential treatment has increased and they are seeing better utilization in that area. There has been an additional 4 – 5% in terms of what has been spent year-to-date since the last meeting and they are starting to gain ground in terms of expenditures. He noted though, that it is not just about spending the money so much as if the appropriate services are getting to the people who need them. In terms of residential treatment, Pritzl noted they are seeing people going through detox on either incapacitation or involuntary situations and then proceeding to further treatment in residential settings either in Green Bay or in the northeast Wisconsin region. This is encouraging to see, and although the numbers are not yet at the level of the budgeted amount, there is better utilization as well as treatment retention which is key.

Hoyer noted that last year the majority of the differential of the $1.15 million dollars that was not spent was used towards plugging a hole in the budget. He feels with $300,000 prorated up to date, we can be proactive. Pritzl said some of the items on today's agenda address this and he recalled that he had provided other options last month for consideration such as coordination of the initiative and looking at expanding clinical intake and re-entry services.

Pat La Violette asked what residential facilities the County uses. Pritzl said they use Pathways in Kiel, Mooring Program in Appleton, NOVA in Oshkosh and Nitschke Center in Green Bay. By having a network of providers, they are able to match the specific needs of a client to the provider. Length of stay at a facility can range from a month to something more transitional which could extend to 60 – 90 days. These are voluntary programs and the length of stay depends on the program and the person's willingness to stay. La Violette asked if the County pays for these programs and Pritzl said that because of the mental health initiative funding, the County is able to pay. The County has not assessed the ability to pay of people for residential programs.

1a. Preliminary safe and stable housing study outcome – UWGB.

UWGB Safe and Stable Housing Study Principle Investigators and Report Authors Dr. Lora Warner, Dr. David Helpap and Graduate Student Ryan Sievert were introduced to the group. Dr. Helpap informed that they were contracted by Brown County to conduct an assessment and analysis on both the needs and what potentially could be done with regard to safe and stable housing in the County. The group presented a Power Point presentation, a copy of which is attached.

Chair Guy Zima arrived at 12:20 pm

Judge Zuidmulder arrived at 12:25 pm

Following the presentation, questions were taken from those in attendance.

Cheryl Weber thanked the presenters for their very comprehensive report and asked if they had any input from anyone who is actually homeless or an ex-offender or something like that. Dr. Warner responded that they did not talk directly to consumers because they ran into confidentiality issues, but they got a lot of input from case managers and staff. Christopher Zahn, lead organizer of EXPO Green Bay (Ex-Prisoners Organizing) said he was not contacted during the study even though he works with the subject population on a daily basis. Dr. Warner noted that homelessness in this community is a huge issue touching many different populations and their study was very directed and focused on consumers in Brown County. She feels the community needs a larger study encompassing all of these different groups with important voices. Pritzl added the study was just to look at the people the County works with to try to figure out what the County can do with that subset of a much larger group and a much larger problem.

La Violette feels there is a public relations issue with regard to homelessness. Many people in the community do not believe there is a homeless problem. There is also a feeling that homeless people in Brown County are coming from out of the area to take advantage of the benefits offered to Brown County residents. There is also the thought that if someone does something wrong, they need to be punished for a long time. In addition, there is a belief that if someone wants a job, they would be able to get one, so if someone is homeless, they are viewed as lazy. It does not occur to most people that homeless people can be mentally ill which contributes to their problems. La Violette feels a campaign to address these issues would be beneficial.

Judge Zuidmulder said the first thing that needs to be addressed is awareness and education. There is a population that needs an enormous amount of resources, but there are others who have similar needs that could be addressed in a much less expensive way as a pilot to demonstrate that the use of public funds makes a difference in safe housing. He would like to see a summit on this as he feels it would be healthy for the community to revisit these issues. He feels the Santa Clara model explained in the presentation would be the best model for Brown County because it is fiscally conservative and also has a pay for success component which he finds attractive. Judge Zuidmulder said that in the four treatment courts there are at least 10 – 15 people every week who are in unsafe housing, in dysfunctional families, and other settings in which their ability to be successful is directly impacted by the failure to have safe and stable housing. He feels this can be solved with an investment of less than $100,000 a year. In addition to a summit, he would like to fracture out the people we can do something about and look at the cost and then go to the public officials with a reasonable expectation that they would endorse the efforts. Dr. Helpap added that there is an exceptional body of research that shows that putting people in safe and stable housing is a much, much more cost effective option than having to provide law enforcement, emergency room visits, etc.

GBPD Officer Paul Van Handel said there has been a lot of reference to partnerships and collaboration and indicated that that is already being done, but even doing that does not create more units. He referenced the scattered site model where the County would be another partner looking for facilities to put people in. He meets with NEWCAP monthly and also works closely with Family Services and their biggest challenge is units. Having Brown County being another entity looking for housing is not going to be the best solution. The partnerships and collaborations are good, but they do not provide the units that are needed. The basic needs study from 2013 showed that homelessness cost the community $750,000 in emergency room visits, emergency medical services, law enforcement, etc. The estimate in 2016 was over $1 million dollars for medical clearance and medical stabilization. This is a cyclical problem that needs to be solved because people tend to return to the environment they came from.

Pritzl acknowledged that the County is competing for the same housing units the other entities are and everyone is struggling with finding units. This ties into what Chair Zima has talked about in the past of the County becoming the unit holder, whether we develop them ourselves or purchase something that is already available and then the County could start to take control of this. This would have to be blended with other partners because the County is not the only entity that is contributing resources or going to gain from it. Money that would be saved by the emergency departments, for example, would not be coming back to the County, but Pritzl feels options in this regard could be explored so the County is not the only party at risk for the financial piece. Ultimately the problem is the properties themselves and how to get access to the properties.

Dave Dunlop said the "not in my backyard" mentality comes into play along with the lack of properties. Pritzl feels the treatment courts could be a big partner in letting the community know that if something is not working right, there is accountability. Judge Zuidmulder would like to see a group of apartments for people in the treatment courts who need it. These would be transitional housing units and the people living there would be monitored by a case manager. The landlords would know that if there is a problem, all they have to do is call the court; an eviction action would not be necessary. If the people placed in these units do not meet expectations and use the benefit appropriately, they lose the privilege. He feels people could be persuaded that this would work because there is very little risk of public safety and irritation to the community. He has been advocating for this for the last two years. Weber feels what Judge Zuidmulder is talking about would be a great pilot program. She also feels we need a facility such as Zima has been talking about.

Pritzl referenced the Thurgood Marshall model talked about in the presentation and questioned if something similar could be built at the CTC campus which is County land and in a place where people already know resources exist and treatment is available on the grounds. Dr. Warner feels the CTC land would be a perfect sport. The Thurgood Marshall facility is a 24 unit new construction building. She feels this is the type of facility that would face the "not in my backyard" issue so doing it on County land would be an ideal location. Housing a number of chronically homeless people in a facility like this may also open up other funding sources such as HUD money. Judge Zuidmulder feels there would still be somewhat of a "not in my backyard" issue with this, and this is where he feels a summit would be beneficial to educate the community.

La Violette informed she had heard from Terri Refsguard, Executive Director of NEW Community Shelter that a private developer was interested in putting up a permanent transitional housing facility across the street from the homeless shelter where residents would be able to live independently in apartments while still receiving services through the shelter. She feels this is something that should be followed up on. Dr. Warner said that is something that would be eligible for the WHEDA low income tax credit program. Robyn Hallet from the Brown County Housing Authority said they have been approached by the developer who is pursuing tax credits to put the project together.

Speaking to the "not in my backyard" issue, Dr. Helpap informed they spoke to a number of individuals about this specifically if housing would be concentrated in the City of Green Bay or if other neighboring communities would also share this. The response was not positive and he feels this is something that is going to be hard and there were not many suggestions to overcome this, other than community awareness. Dr. Warner added that the County brings a lot of credibility to a project. If the County is involved, it makes it legitimate and more respected and she feels this is going to be a key part of this. She noted there is a lot of collaborating going on and it is felt that the County becoming a little more involved with collaborating on projects would bring additional credibility and possible leadership and partnering.

Dr. Warner continued that she had spoken with the program manager at Greater Green Bay Community Foundation and was advised they have a planning grant program that is done by the Basic Needs Giving Partnership which aligns perfectly with the goal of the big pot of money. The Mental Health Coalition got started in this area through a planning grant, followed by the possibly of applying for $300,000 over three years. The Foundation said they have talked for a long time about the problem of housing and homelessness in the community and they would be interested in working on this, especially if the County was involved.

Zima asked if the County has an individual dedicated to work on grant writing. He feels there should be a position that works on getting available resources from the local, state and federal levels. He agreed with Judge Zuidmulder in that we have to get something started. He does not want to see something too grandiose because if the County Board views this as a homeless task force and not a mental health task force, big steps will be taken backwards. Zima feels a lot of the homeless population is coming to Brown County from other places to take advantage of the services here. He is interested in helping our own residents without becoming a magnet to attract people from all

sorts of other locations by having grandiose facilities. As a lifelong resident of Green Bay, Zima can say there were not homeless people in the community 20 – 25 years ago. There were people who needed someplace to live, but they managed to find options and most of these people were alcoholics. Zima feels most people want to solve our own problems and he would like to concentrate on getting some broader mental health programs in place and working on getting some transitional housing in place as quickly as possible. He would be in favor of a location near the CTC and feels it would be so innocuous that people would not really even realize it is there. There needs to be a place for people who have accomplished longer treatment but still need a supportive place to live while they find their way back into the community. Zima said we need to get committed to this so we have some stable transitional place to send people who are participating in the treatment courts and others who need it. He reiterated that getting too grandiose will likely scare of the County Board. He feels we have the opportunity to get something done right now, especially in light of the additional ½% sales tax going into effect. He feels it would be successful and with success comes further success. He wants the most efficient model to get the job done; he does not want people going back to the same environments they came from so we can end the revolving door. He wants to be sure that homelessness is not the focus of this group; the focus needs to be on expanding mental health services and transitional housing.

Dr. Warner informed that Chippewa County has a position called a housing navigator which is funded by private dollars from donors in the community. She said there is a lot of funding out there that Brown County is not accessing in many cases. That is why Zima feels the County should have a position that does nothing other than look for available funds and opportunities. He said everyone seems to agree that the County should have staff whose total focus is locating and obtaining resources that might be available. Van Handel added that a treatment navigator would also be useful. He said there are people who go through the continuum of care, but are not tracked as well as they could be. These people are engaged in services at one point, but then fall off the treatment schedule which results in a huge recidivism rate and having to repeat contact over and over with the chronic population. Van Handel feels a housing navigator and a treatment navigator should be two separate positions that work side by side and work on safe and stable housing and treatment at the same time.

Judge Zuidmulder was excused at 1:17 pm

Zima said as we head into the budget season we need to make a determination as to what we want to promote and bring forward. Weber said the crisis coordinator position which was discussed at the last meeting was something this group talked about bringing forward. The crisis coordinator position would be at the supervisory level pulling in the jail liaison and some other pieces with an annual cost of $93,000. That person could track the treatment of the individuals that go into treatment and determine what works and what does not and where people are falling through the cracks. Van Handel said safe and stable housing is related to any form of mental health and AODA treatment. If someone is sent back on the street without a safe place to go, the recidivism rate is huge. He feels we need treatment navigation in the continuum of care and a housing navigator that would do placement and housing in the right type of format and analyze the system and find out what works and what is failing and advise us.

Pritzl said he would like to keep the crisis coordinator position separate because he wants it to focus on the crisis system as a whole as there are a lot of gaps and breakdowns in the crisis system and a position at that level would do really well.

Van Handel reiterated that he feels a treatment navigator would be very, very beneficial. He said that when someone moves on through the continuum of care there should be a way to track them when they drop off. Unfortunately, the reengagement has been law enforcement because these people are ending up on the streets or in emergency rooms or other places they should not be. In order to keep better track of what is going on and where these people need to go, we need that type of a position. Pritzl said a lot of these people are also ending up at the Crisis Center which overloads those services and feeds into the emergency detention process. Van Handel feels not identifying a sustainable system and a continuum of care that people go through the whole time is creating a crisis. By not reengaging them when they fall out of the continuum of care for treatment or housing, the crisis is reinitiated every single time and is never alleviated. This has been a gap that has been known for a long time.

Pritzl said he will try to bring information back at the September meeting regarding a treatment navigator including the job description and cost. He can also work with Facilities to get a cost to build a 24 unit facility.

Zima asked the status of expanding the beds at the mental health center. Pritzl responded that they are always going to butt up against people's right to not be on the campus. Until there is a reason to restrict someone and control where they live, there will be those issues. They continue to look at long term care because that is something that is not available in the county. That is related to a capital project related to the sales tax. Pritzl did not think this is something that would be supported by the Board outside of the sales tax. He said this has already been given to the County Executive and is contained in the jail and mental health bucket for the sales tax plan. Deputy Executive Jeff Flynt said the mental health and jail funding is one combined bucket.

Supervisor Schadewald said what he got out of this meeting is that more housing is needed. He said it sounds like there is coordination and awareness and everyone knows the problem, but there is no housing. If anything, he feels the County should have a summit on how to solve the lack of housing. He agrees with Zima in that people do not know who the homeless are and where they are coming from. He feels that people need to be educated on this. If the housing is the problem, that should be the priority.

Zima feels the County needs to tap into the resources that are available. He has heard over and over again from the presenters that there are all sorts of resources. When asking the County Board for money, it is much easier if there are already some funding mechanisms. At one time the County had a full time grant writer but it was cut and Zima feels that one of the things the County should do is reinstate that position. Schadewald said the County is very conservative when it comes to looking for money and this should change so we are taking advantage of what is available. He gives Zima great credit for bringing the issue of lack of safe and stable housing forward to the County Board and he feels the current Board would support this. Pritzl said the County is doing what it is supposed to do and provides good services, but we are not maximizing it by looking for the additional money that is available.

Dr. Warner said the non-profits have good grants writers and the Brown County Housing and Homeless coalition is a group of non-profits together. People can write grants, but each is writing their own grants and applying competitively with other non-profits for the funding that is out there and she feels what is really needed is a coordinated approach to getting these dollars. It is more than grant writing; it is more of a housing coordinator who knows the housing system. Right now it seems like a puzzle with different groups working on different things and the system needs to be coordinated. Van Handel agreed that some coordination would be useful. A housing navigator would be different than a grant writer. A grant writer would get buried very quickly in all of the things it takes to write qualifications for grants which would not allow them time to do anything else. He feels two navigation positions would be very beneficial. There needs to be a system in place to make sure that the housing works like it needs to work. Pritzl asked if there was someone on the Housing and Homeless Coalition that is coordinating the system and trying to ensure that different entities are not competing for funding sources and duplicating efforts. Van Handel said there is a system committee and a service provider committee, but there are so many grants out there. It is a complex scenario to navigate.

Bree Decker from Connections for Mental Wellness said she has been on the front lines in talking about housing and mental health, especially with the at risk population in Brown County. She agrees that the efforts are very fragmented. In talking about grants, she said there are sometimes limitations as to who can be served and who cannot be served. In turn, a lot of housing programs stepped back and said they would go for local funds rather than State and Federal funding due to the limitations. She said the Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition is working together, but they are in over their heads as far as need and are just trying to keep up and keep getting people through the system and into stable housing. She feels there needs to be a lot more coordination with the County and noted there used to be coordination with people sitting on different groups where there was communication, but now based on peoples' work schedules, this is not possible on a regular basis. It is difficult to stay on top of the issues as a community and County if there is no coordination of care.

Decker continued that with regard to permanent supportive housing, one of the guidelines is that there needs to be a documented disability. That could mean a plethora of different things. As of now they are bringing in permanent supportive housing through NEWCAP, but the population that would qualify for the housing is a very small piece of the pie. There needs to be bricks and mortar. The scattered site model works well because people do not have the stigma of being in a homeless shelter. Services can come to these people within the community and do the services in the home where the people are comfortable. She feels we need to know what the baseline for housing is right now that has the emphasis for mental health care and then build upon what works.

Zima asked when a plan will be brought forward about increasing beds. Pritzl asked what beds Zima is referring to. Zima said there used to be more beds at the mental health center until former County Executive Kelso decreased

the number. Pritzl said Nicolet averages between 12 – 13 people per day at the 16 bed unit. There is capacity available at the other facilities the County uses and he noted that it has been several months since Brown County has shipped someone out of the County for emergency mental health care. Pritzl does not think the beds need to be increased on the inpatient side. With regard to outpatient, there is no psychiatrist waiting list and they are recruiting for some AODA positions, but they are currently able to get people from orientation to assessment to treatment within five days.

Zima feels the main focus at this time needs to be on housing. Pritzl agreed and said we can do all sorts of treatment, but if the basic needs are not resolved, we will be case managing and providing mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment to people who will end up in a crisis because their housing needs are not met or they are in an environment that is not supportive.

Dunlop said the problem seems to be generated when the police are called when something is going wrong. Years ago it seemed that the mental health center was the policeman's friend. People would be brought there and stay a few days for an assessment but this was an expensive disposition. Now, even with the Crisis Center, the disposition seems to be to take the person to jail. There is no short term fast disposition for the police officers and the immediate disposition is that bringing them to jail is at least a place to put them and then then can go into the mental health treatment court. He feels there needs to be somewhere else to go, but noted that statutory requirements need to be met before some can be hospitalized. There needs to be housing, but there also needs to be fast disposition, otherwise, there will need to be a big investment in jail expansion. He would like to see all of the legal dispositions looked at. The people who use these services is a revolving door population and the question is what is the most appropriate quick disposition that can be made for a population we know a lot about. He said the work this group does is wonderful, but it has to come to something and have budgetary disposition so that when resources are needed there is an action plan in place.

Van Handel said the treatment courts are a great thing, but that is after the point of arrest. If there was an effective continuum of care of treatment and housing, there would be a reduction in the treatment courts because there would be a reduction in arrests. This could take some time, but it would eventually get there. Van Handel feels this would be a good goal and said there are options for law enforcement when they are working with someone who is in between situations. There is voluntary detoxification and they are also looking at a hotel voucher plan for after-hours care. Captain Le Pine has written a $1,000 grant for the Shopko Foundation for hotel vouchers and there are people on the Homeless Coalition who are looking to create more dollars for something like this. The hotel stay could be a day or several days, just long enough to get someone out of the crisis situation. Jail is not the option that law enforcement wants to look at because all it does is open up a lot more problems. Bringing someone to jail means that their needs have not been met previously. Had more been done on the front end, there would be less on the other end.

Schadewald asked how many people there are in Brown County that make up the chronic population law enforcement comes in contact with. Van Handel responded that Brown County has a top 40 list of chronic homeless. Those 40 people cost $750,000 in 2013 and over $1 million dollars in 2016. In 2016, 479 hours of law enforcement time went into those 40 people.

Pritzl said we have to talk about Chapter 51 and Chapter 55 and a person's right to the least restrictive treatment and the Crisis Center obligation to divert whenever possible the people who can be safely diverted. He does not want to design or build something that legally does not work or practically will not be utilized because we do not have that population. Voluntary options have been expanded and is a place we need to continue to look at. Assistant Corporation Counsel Rebecca Lindner added that the top 40 that Van Handel spoke about earlier have already been disqualified from being appropriate for Chapter 51 or 55, so they would not fall under the crisis system. Permanent long term housing options is what is going to be necessary to get them off the street. Pritzl said the County continues to serve these people, but there is no place for them to live. What we need are places to put people to provide a stable place to live that is safe and provide them with treatment sources.

Officer Van Handel and Officer Allen were excused at 1:55 pm

2. **Update re: Long range mental health needs in Brown County including what could be funded by County Executive Streckenbach's proposed half-percent sales tax.**

Discussion on this item was incorporated in the discussion above.

3. **Discussion, review and possible action: Request that Brown County review its past and present mental health services and develop a more comprehensive plan to treat both short and long term mental health patients including but not limited to 1) alcohol and drug abuse detox and treatment; and 2) children, adolescent and adult mental health treatment.**

   Discussion on this item was incorporated in the discussion above.

4. **Discussion, review and possible action: Request that the Human Services Director and Brown County Sheriff work together to develop a plan to provide a treatment plan for prisoners who presently make up a third of our jail population.**

   Discussion on this item was incorporated in the discussion above.

5. **Discussion re: Recertifying County operations to return to previous services providing long-term care.**

   Discussion on this item was incorporated in the discussion above.

6. **Update re: Outreach efforts.**

   This item was not discussed.

7. **Such other matters as authorized by law.**

   The next meeting will be held on September 20, 2017 at 12:00 pm. Location will be determined.

8. **Adjourn.**

   Motion made by Erik Hoyer, seconded by Cheryl Weber to adjourn at 1:59 pm. Vote carried. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary

BROWN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
111 N. Jefferson Street
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Phone (920) 448-6000 Fax (920) 448-6166

To: ad-hoc Mental Health Treatment Committee
Human Services Committee

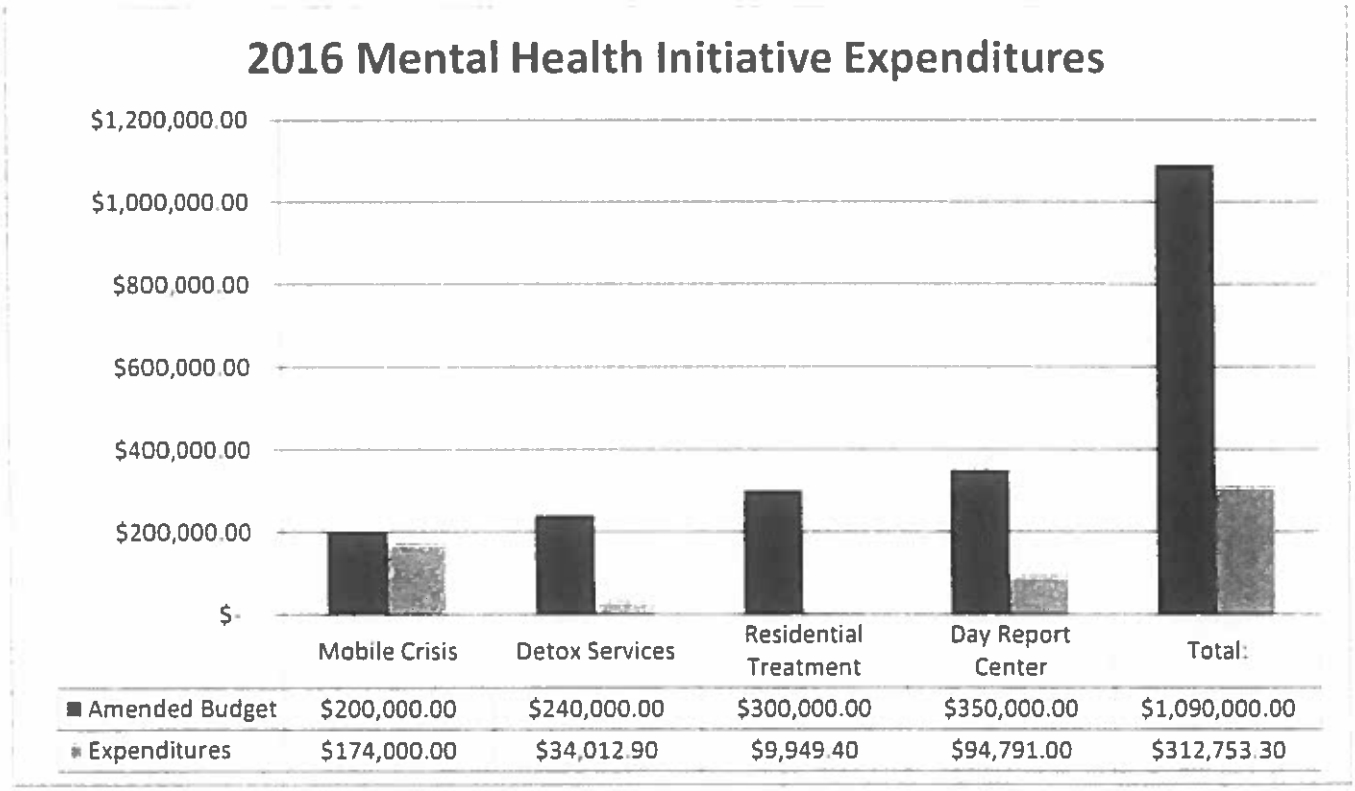
From: Erik Pritzl, Executive Director

Date: August 16, 2017

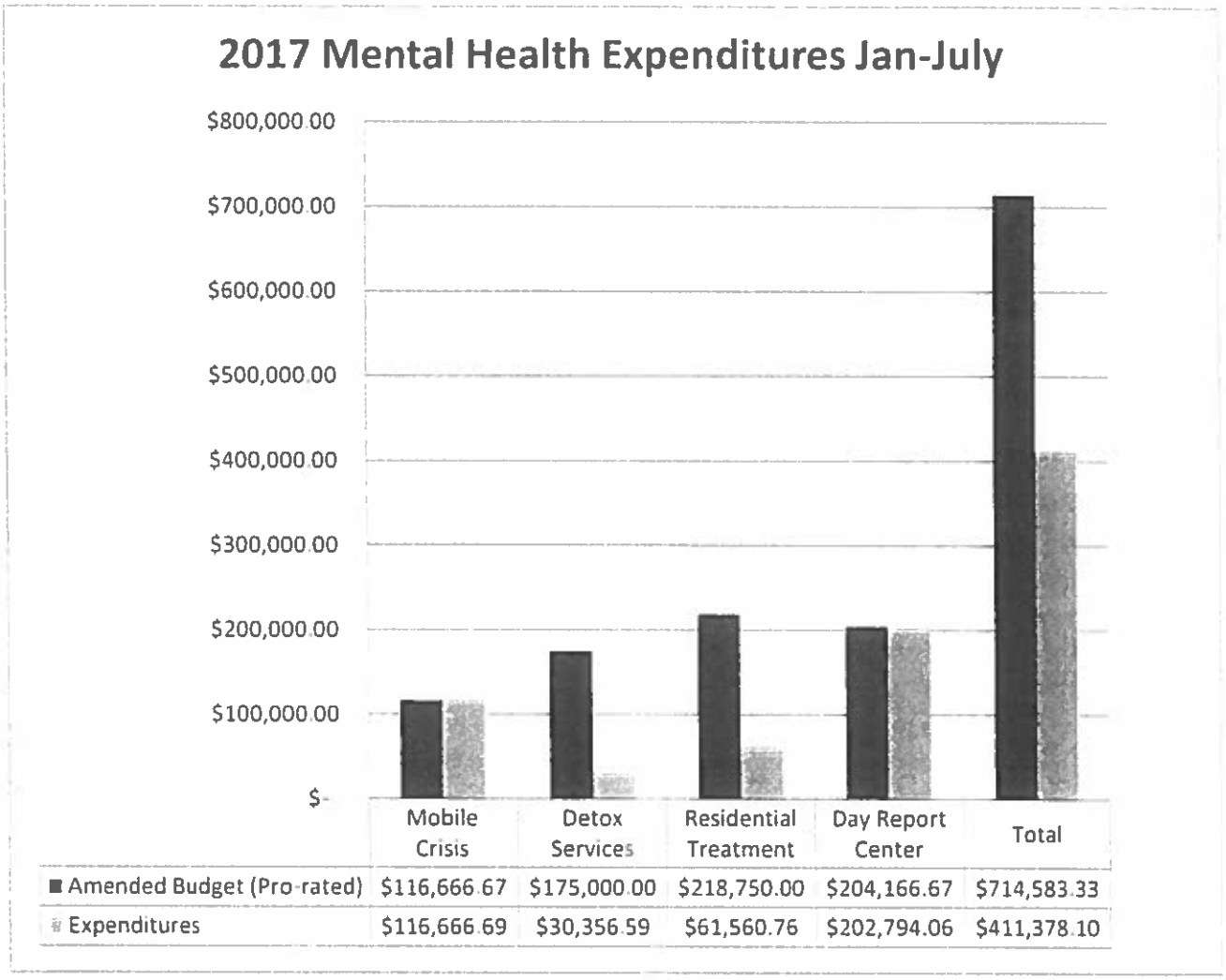
Re: Mental Health Initiative Expenditures 2016-2017

The following updated summary of expenditures related to the Mental Health Initiatives in 2016 and the first six months of 2017 are submitted in response to a request from members of the ad-hoc Mental Health Treatment Committee.

The chart below represents the 2016 expenditures on the various initiative components. The total available budget for the initiatives was $1,090,000.



The second chart below represents the 2017 expenditures for January-June. The total available budget for the initiatives is $1,225,000.



Brown County
Safe and Stable Housing Study

Prepared by
Center for Public Affairs
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
August 2017

Principle Investigators and Report Authors
Dr. Lisa Warner
Dr. David Hetzel
Ryan Seivert

Purpose

- Assess the needs of Brown County consumers with unsafe or unstable housing and provide recommendations on strategies the County might use to improve housing options for these individuals
- Increase the likelihood of successful recovery for these consumers and to reduce the risk that they return to homelessness and cycle back into intensive, restrictive, and costly services or jail

Scope of the Analysis

- Several specific populations were identified as unlikely to have access to safe and stable housing
  - Adults involved with treatment courts with mental health and substance abuse issues
  - Adults receiving outpatient case management services from Community Treatment Center under commitment orders
  - Adults under supervision of probation and parole with mental health and substance use issues
  - Adults exiting Brown County Jail with mental health substance abuse issues

Sources and Methods

- Multiple methods were used to identify the needs of County consumers and the obstacles that prevent them from acquiring safe and stable housing
  - Interviews
  - Surveys
  - Secondary data
  - Existing research and policy assessments

Background and Context

- At a minimum 1,512 individuals experienced homelessness in Brown County at some point in 2016
- Brown County has one of the highest rates of chronic homelessness in Wisconsin
- The median length of time an individual in Brown County remains homeless before achieving housing is 52 days (mean=107.6 days)
- Conservatively over 200 Brown County consumers currently experience unsafe or unstable housing

Needs of Consumers: Common Themes

- General lack of affordable housing in the area
- Personal barriers such as health concerns or addictions.
- Lack of availability of landlords willing to rent to those with high barriers to housing
- Insufficient access to support services.
  - Examples include case management, job coaching, medication requirements, or therapy

Needs of Consumers with Mental Illness

- Medication supervision
- Ongoing treatment of some kind
- Assistance applying for Supplemental Security Income, if eligible
- A one-size-fits-all approach is not conducive to this population
  - Variability of housing options needed to accommodate the wide spectrum of diagnoses

Needs of Consumers with Substance Abuse

- Structured lifestyle that includes accountability in the form of supervision or occasional check-ins
- A clean, sober living environment that does not isolate this population

Needs of Consumers of Treatment Courts or Exiting Jail

- Treatment Courts
  - Front-end safe and stable housing during and potentially after treatment
  - Housing located near employment opportunities, public transportation, and supportive services
- Reentry from jail
  - Immediate "front end" housing with no barriers for at least 60-90 days
  - Support for job-seeking, planning, budgeting

Policy Alternatives and Recommendations

- Potential policy alternatives were divided into three categories
  - Additional Housing Units
  - Public and Private Funding Strategies
  - Supplementary Alternatives

Additional Housing Units: Permanent Supportive Housing

- Especially needed for individuals with severe mental illness
- Affordable housing with a significant level of treatment, including possible options
  - Contracted treatment
  - County provided staffing for treatment
- Expected to be long-term
- Scattered site or single-site

Examples/Models

- Single site model: Thurgood Marshall
- Scattered site model: Fox Cities Housing Partnership

Additional Housing Units: Transitional Housing

- "Temporary" Supportive Housing
- "No barrier" housing for consumers exiting jail and in treatment courts
- Options: Single-site, smaller group settings, or scattered site
- Variety of options needed for variety of consumers

Examples/Models

- Newcap and NeighborWorks partnership
- Ecumenical Partnership for Housing
- Oxford House, Sandy Fabry House

Public and Private Funding Strategies

- Pay for Success Model
  - Santa Clara County, CA (Project Welcome Home)
- Leverage Funding Through Partnerships
  - Milwaukee County, WI
- Expanded Use of WHEDA Programs
- Additional Grants and Funding Opportunities

Table 5. Recent WHEDA Low Income Tax Credit Program Activity, 2012-2016

	Brown	Outagamie	Winnebago
Population	257,897	182,365	169,032
Units developed	239	319	339
Units per 10,000	9.27	17.49	20.06
Dollar value	$1,956,047	$2,899,473	$2,336,805

Supplementary Options

- Government and Community Support
  - San Bernardino County, CA
- Public Information and Website Improvements
  - Wake County, NC (Centralized Resources)
  - Franklin County, OH (Reentry Resources)
- Comprehensive Homelessness Plan
  - Arlington County, VA
- Increase Coordination with Community Stakeholders
  - Chippewa County, WI (WestCAP CoC)

The Opportunity for Brown County

- The root causes of homelessness and unsafe and unstable living conditions, while complex, are not insurmountable
- A variety of potential solutions are needed
- Brown County is in a unique position to stimulate local action
- Brown County is in a position to leverage more dollars
- The County has an opportunity to raise its profile and collaborate with other public and private funders, partners, and advocates

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