

# DHS Updates for WCHSA Executive Board Meeting July 7, 2016

## **Personnel Changes**

### ***Secretary's Office***

Following the news of Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary Kitty Rhoades' passing, Governor Scott Walker wrote to DHS Deputy Secretary Tom Engels and named him Interim Secretary pending the appointment of Secretary Rhoades' successor.

### ***Division of Health Care Access and Accountability***

Rebecca McAtee will join the Bureau of Eligibility Policy and Systems (BEPS) as the Bureau Director effective Monday July 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Division of Long Term Care (DLTC)**

#### ***Family Care/IRIS 2.0***

On June 9, 2016, Department of Health Services Secretary Kitty Rhoades sent a letter to the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) formally withdrawing the concept plan approval request for Family Care/IRIS 2.0 reforms.

The [Concept Paper](#) outlining the Department's plan to reform the state's Family Care and IRIS programs was submitted for JFC approval on March 31, 2016.

As stated by Secretary Rhoades in her letter, DHS remains committed to the goal of an integrated outcome-based care model that coordinates all of an individual's care needs. We are currently working through next steps and we will be working with members of the legislature, advocates, and stakeholders to continue to make progress towards this goal and improve the quality, coordination, and cost-effectiveness of Medicaid services.

In her letter to the JFC, Secretary Rhoades writes:

"We have received comments, feedback, and questions from providers, advocates, legislators, and most importantly consumers on our approach for a sustainable solution that provides better care for consumers at a lower cost to taxpayers. Therefore, I am writing to withdraw the concept plan approval request at this time."

The Secretary would like to send a special thank you to everyone who took the time to submit comments and questions in person at public hearings, in writing, and by phone. Your input was invaluable during this process.

***Family Care and IRIS***- launched into Rock County effective July 1 as scheduled.

#### ***Institutes for Mental Disease (IMD) Rebalancing Initiative***

An informational email was sent out on 6/29 by Jason Eberhardy to the impacted counties, followed by an email invitation to a conference call sent on 6/30. That conference call is scheduled for Monday July 11 from 11am – 12 noon.

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## **Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS)**

### ***Peer Run Respite***

The Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is pleased to announce that [peer run respites](#) are now open in Appleton, Madison and Menomonie.

Funded by Governor Scott Walker's 2013 mental health reform initiatives, peer run respites support adults struggling with difficult emotional, psychological or life circumstances in a safe home-like environment.

### ***System Improvement Awards***

Eleven counties and four regions have been awarded 2016 Systems Improvement Awards. Counties and county regions that developed and implemented Comprehensive Community Services from July 1, 2014, through December 31, 2015, were invited to apply for the awards. The grant funds will be used to improve services and supports for individuals living with mental illnesses.

Recipients were notified by letters sent out the week of June 13, 2016.

### ***Grants to Develop Certified Mobile Crisis Team Serving Rural Areas*** [DMHSAS Numbered Memo 2016-07](#)

This memo describes another opportunity for counties to implement mobile crisis teams to serve rural areas. Total statewide funding of \$135,437 is available from July 2015 through June 30, 2017. Funding will be exclusively to create certified mobile crisis intervention teams to serve rural areas of Wisconsin.

**Applications must be received by 4:00 pm on Monday July 11, 2016.**

**DHS –CCS Report-** Submitted to the Joint Committee on Finance on July 1. You can view the report by clicking [here](#).

## **Division of Quality Assurance**

### ***Variance Needed for Use of a Licensed Mental Health Professional to Approve Emergency Mental Health Crisis Plans and Response Plans*** [DQA Memo 16-007](#)

This memo replaces DMHSAS-DQA Memo 2009-08 issued November 2, 2009, and repeals a formerly approved statewide variance of Wis. Admin Code § DHS 34.21(3)(b) to expand the list of qualified mental health professionals that may approve emergency mental health crisis plans and response plans to include individuals listed under (b) 1-7.

If an emergency mental health services program wishes to request a variance of Wis. Admin Code § DHS 34.21(3)(b), please submit the request to: [DHSwebmailDQA@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSwebmailDQA@dhs.wisconsin.gov) or to DHS/DQA/Behavioral Health Certification Section, P.O. Box 2969 Madison Wisconsin 53701-2969.

## **ForwardHealth**

July and August [training opportunities](#) have been posted.