Chair Patrick Young called the meeting to order at 12:47 PM.

1. **Chair Report:**
   - Patrick gave an update on upcoming projects DAD, Employment First Conference and Circles of Life Conference. SD Conference put out a request for proposals for the conference.

2. **Executive Director Report:**
   - Beth gave an update on BPDD’s team (one of 8 states) that will be going to Cultural Diversity event. Molly Cooney, Delores Sallis, Barbara Beckert and Ann Sievert. Beth also commented on the Board’s federal budget, not much is clear until April 28th.

3. **Executive Committee Report:**
   - Patrick gave an update on planning the March board meeting, rescheduling a People First update (hopefully will happen in May). Keith Jones will be coming in March to discuss planning the July retreat. He will be with us for our Retreat.

4. **Government Affairs Committee Report:**
   - David Pinno gave an update about Lisa Pugh’s presentation and Beth’s presentation on the state budget.

5. **Nominating & Membership Committee Report:**
   - Erica Larsen gave an update on the openings on the board. We have a couple of members who have stepped down from their Exec Comm roles to make room for new members to get some experience. Erica talked about areas we want new board members from.

6. **Ad Hoc Diversity Committee Report:**
   - Jennifer Kuhr gave an update on Keith Jones visit, our cultural connectors, the team going to Santa Fe for training.

7. **Action Items:**
   - Motion to accept the January, 18th, 2017 retreat minutes made by Lynn Carus and seconded by Robert Kuhr. The motion passed unanimously.
8. **Agency Updates:**

**DRW-**

Mitch Hagopian reported on a change DHS has made in the long term care functional screen which has resulted in many people with developmental and intellectual who have been long time recipients of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) under CIP and IRIS being found ineligible. This has impacted hundreds of people. DRW is working with the Department of Health Services to raise concerns about the impact and propose changes. People enrolled in long term care who are found ineligible as a result of the rescreen can call Disability Rights Wisconsin and request assistance from an ombudsman. The ombudsman serve individuals aged 59 and under. Assistance is provided at no charge.

Barbara Beckert provided an update on DRW’s outreach initiative to increase awareness of and access to community based services for Milwaukee African American children with disabilities or special needs and their families. DRW welcomes your help in referring Milwaukee African American families who may need advocacy assistance regarding programs such as Children’s Long Term Support Medicaid Waiver, Children’s COP, Birth to Three, Katie Beckett, Comprehensive Community Services, and Reach. DRW is also seeking families to serve on our Community Advisory Board and is offering stipends for participation. Board members will have an opportunity to review materials, participate in a video to help educate other families, and help with outreach efforts. We also have a survey for families to complete and appreciate your help sharing that survey with families.

**DHS-** See Kevin’s update via attached document

**DPI-** Awaiting Rep

**Waisman-**

1. Down Syndrome Day with the Experts is this Saturday morning (3/18) – it will be available on-line for folks that can’t attend in person. The video link is available on the Waisman Center website.

2. The UCEDD will be conducting a research study on the quality of life for individuals who receive adult long term care supports in Wisconsin. The survey will be taken more than once (annually for the next five years) so we can access changes over time. The DHS Division of Long Term Care, specifically Kevin Coughlin (who is on BPDD with you) and Curtis Cunningham have been very supportive of the project and we appreciate input from our colleagues at BPDD and DRW regarding the survey questions. Waiver recipients will be notified of this opportunity in April by a letter from DHS and may participate through an on-line link on the UCEDD website.

3. Julie Schears (Senior Outreach Specialist) and LaKesha Pettigrew (LEND Milwaukee-Link trainee) were accepted for the Leadership Academy for Cultural Diversity and Linguistic Competence that will be held in June 2017. The goal of the Academy is to enhance leadership capabilities and skills focused on advancing and sustaining cultural and linguistic competence and increasing cultural diversity within the network of programs that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
4. Wisconsin was selected as one of the eight states to participate in the Disparities Leadership Academy this coming June in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Wisconsin team includes representatives from BPDD, DRW and the UCEDD.

5. You might mention that COW and the Communication Development Program (provides augmentative alternative communication and computer access services for individuals living in Dane County) are meeting with MCOs. This is an effort to become providers when Family Care moves to Dane County.

6. April 21st is a huge day for the UCEDD – 30th anniversary of COW-Olin Avenue programs, 11th annual All Abilities Fashion Show, and the spring Badger football game – proceeds from ticket sales will go to WECP – Waisman Early Childhood Program.

**DVR-** Meredith gave an update on Project SEARCH. There will be 27 sites in Wisconsin. WIOA is continuing to roll out. DVR had all staff training on supported employment for their staff to make sure that all employees were on the same page as LTC transitions. Sheltered workshop’s (14c) must have all their employees (7100) meet with DVR (and UW whitewater) to make sure they have the most up to date info on supported employment. This will happen yearly at the workshops. Before an individual can go into a sheltered workshop they must try supported employment. Now has the same performance metrics as other service providers.

9. **Other Agenda Items:**

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Motion to adjourn Jennifer Kuhr at 1:58 PM; seconded by Lynn Carus. Unanimously passed.
DHS Updates – Division of Medicaid Services (DMS)

Bureau of Adult Long Term Support Services - Family Care Expansion Update:

- RFP was completed and DHS determined that 2 MCOs would be moving to certification to serve the following areas:
  - GSR 1: Expansion County: Taylor. Taylor will join Chippewa, Eau Claire, Dunn, St. Croix and Pierce counties. Members will have choice of Care Wisconsin or Community Link (formerly CCCW, WWC and CU). TMG will be the only ICA available in this region.
  - GSR 4: Expansion Counties: Vilas, Oneida, Florence and Forest. These counties will join Lincoln, Langlade, Marathon, Wood and Portage. They will have a choice of Lakeland Care or Community Link. ICA choices include TMG and MidState Independent Living Consultants.
  - GSR 5: Expansion County: Adams. Adams will join Waushara, Marquette, Green Lake, Columbia, Dodge and Jefferson. They will have a choice of Care Wisconsin and Community Link. TMG is the ICA choice in this area.

- Provider Forums in the expansion counties will take place the week of March 6. Community Forums will take place the week of March 27 through April 4th.

- ADRC Enrollment Counseling will begin April 1 and rollover to Family Care/IRIS will begin July 1 and be completed by September 1.

Bureau of Children’s Long Term Support Services

- **Children’s Early Intervention and Long Term Support Enrollment and Wait List.** The Birth to 3 Program has a current statewide enrollment of 5,715 children, with approximately 13,000 children receiving early intervention services at some point during the year. The Care4Kids (C4K) Program currently operates in Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington and Waukesha counties. As of February 2017, 2,986 foster care children were enrolled in the C4K Program. In addition, 6,037 children are currently enrolled statewide in the Children’s Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program, including 4,580 children with intellectual/developmental disabilities, 511 children with physical disabilities, and 946 children with severe emotional disturbance. In addition, 2,426 children statewide are waiting for CLTS funding to be enrolled and receive CLTS waiver services. There are currently 5,754 children are enrolled statewide, receiving Katie Beckett Medicaid services, including 4,097 children with developmental disabilities, 895 children with physical disabilities, and 762 children with severe emotional disturbance.
- **Governor’s 2017-19 Biennial Budget.** The Governor’s proposed 2017-2018 biennial budget bill includes $39.2 million All Funds (15.9 million GPR) over the biennium to eliminate the waiting for CLTS Waiver Program services. This funding puts state programs that support children with disabilities on par with similar programs supporting adults, by committing funds to eliminate the waiting list for children’s long term supports, over 2,200 children statewide waiting for necessary access to community supports can continue to remain in their communities. The bill authorizes DHS to require county waiver agencies to maintain a specified level of contribution for CLTS waiver services. The bill also directs DHS to implement reforms to increase efficiency of service delivery and to develop an equitable funding methodology to ensure funding remains within the program.

- **CLTS Waiver Program Federal Renewal Update.** At the request of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, DHS submitted a 90-day extension request to the current approved Children’s Long Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program, which expired on December 31, 2016. CMS has extended the current CLTS Waiver Program approval for the period of January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017. Updated versions of the CLTS Waiver Program § 1915(c) five year renewal application and the §915(b)(4) application were resubmitted to CMS on January 23, 2017, in response to their formal Request for Additional Information (RAI). Federal approval for the new five-year waiver period is pending at this time.

- **Project SEARCH.** This is a 9-12 month program which provides training and education leading to integrated employment for youth with disabilities. Project SEARCH is based on a collaboration that includes a local business, school district(s), vocational providers, DVR and families. The cornerstone of Project SEARCH is total immersion in a large business. Each day, students report to the host business, learn employability skills in the classroom and job skills while participating in three or four internships during the year. Proposals have been accepted for an additional ten sites for programs starting in fall 2017. The state will have a total of 27 Project SEARCH site under the Governor’s Fast Forward Initiative.

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**DHS Updates – Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS)**

- **DCTS 2016 Annual Report.** The Division of Care and Treatment Services has published its 2016 annual report, highlighting the work performed last year by its major service areas, including units focused on community-based mental health and substance use services. ([https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p00568-16.pdf](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p00568-16.pdf))

- **Opioid Grant.** The Division of Care and Treatment Services has completed a grant application with the Substance Abuse and Health Services Administration to be used to address the growing misuse and abuse of opioids in Wisconsin. Wisconsin is eligible for up to $7,636,938 per year for the next two years, or about $15.7 million over the biennium. The grant funds will be used to enhance community-based prevention, treatment, and recovery activities as recommended by the report issued in January from co-chairs of the Governor’s Task Force on Opioid Abuse ([https://hope.wi.gov/Documents/ReportOnCombatingOpioidAbuse.pdf](https://hope.wi.gov/Documents/ReportOnCombatingOpioidAbuse.pdf)). DHS anticipates receiving the first round of funding this spring.

- **Community Recovery Services.** Walworth, Winnebago, and Unified Services (Grant/Iowa counties) have been invited to apply for approval and certification for Community Recovery Services, a psychosocial rehabilitation program. This action follows the recent transition of CRS into the Wisconsin Medicaid State Plan. These counties expressed interest in joining the CRS program when it was regulated as a Medicaid waiver program. Expansion of CRS was on hold while the transition plan was being reviewed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.
Currently, 25 counties are approved for CRS. CRS helps individuals living with a mental illness reach their full potential.

- **Peer Specialist Integration Advisory Committee.** The Division of Care and Treatment Services has convened a committee to explore what peer support services are available for mental health and substance use, how they are being utilized, and what people with lived experience need and want from these services. This committee will meet once a month February through May. One of the roles of this committee is to advise the Division of Care and Treatment Services on the implementation of holistic peer support.

- **Peer Run Respites.** The three peer run respites supported by the Department served 280 unique guests in need of support for mental health and/or substance use challenges in 2016. Grassroots Wellness, Menomonie, which opened April 5, 2016, served 70 guests. Iris Place, Appleton, which opened in 2015, served 120 guests. Solstice House, Madison, which opened January 4, 2016, served 90 guests.

- **Mental Health Collaborative.** The eighth round of the Wisconsin Mental Health Collaborative began January 24 with a change leadership academy workshop. The goal of the Wisconsin Mental Health Collaborative is to reduce psychiatric hospital readmissions and improve services for consumers in the public mental health system. With support from the Department’s Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery, the process improvement collaborative NIATx helps counties examine and improve the hospital discharge process. Eleven counties (Brown, Dodge, Jefferson, Juneau, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Monroe, Rock, Shawano, Sheboygan, and Wood) are participating in this round, which will culminate in October with a day-long event for the participating counties to share the results of their efforts.