



The Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force is the voice of the community on issues related to the quality and responsiveness of mental health and substance abuse disorder services.

Medicaid's Role in Mental Health and Addiction Services

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Medicaid plays a vital role in providing access to treatment, and advancing recovery and independence for Wisconsin children and adults who live with a mental illness or a substance abuse disorder.

- Medicaid funded 25% of all mental health spending and 21% of all addiction spending by any payer in 2014 (Kaiser Family Foundation). Limits on Medicaid coverage would set back efforts to provide individuals with behavioral health conditions with treatment.
- Medicaid coverage and financing provide access to a wide variety of mental health services including psychiatric care, counselling, prescription medications, psycho-social rehabilitation, case management, inpatient treatment, supportive housing, employment supports, and peer support.
- Wisconsin's Medicaid funds programs that provide treatment for mental illness and substance abuse disorders, include Community Support Program, Community Recovery Services, Comprehensive Community Services, and Targeted Case Management.
- 4,594 children and adults with a mental illness and/or substance use disorder enrolled in Wisconsin's Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) which provides vital services that help to promote independence and recovery. (12/2016 data).
- Other Medicaid programs are also vital to Wisconsinites with mental illness including BadgerCare, Family Care and IRIS, and the Children's Long Term Support Medicaid waiver.

The Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force was formed in 2004, in response to a crisis in inpatient psychiatric services that exposed major gaps in Milwaukee's system of mental health care. It includes over 40 organizations, and hundreds of individuals, who work collaboratively to identify issues faced by people affected by mental illness, facilitate improvements in services, give consumers and families a strong voice, reduce stigma, and implement recovery principles.